

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Bigbury Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 13th FEBRUARY 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr S. Watts (Chairman), Cllrs T. Boys, B. Carson, A. Klidjian, R. Owen and J. Simes. 2 residents were present and were joined for relevant periods by PC Rachel Ward and C.Cllr William Mumford.

- 1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE; Cllr J. Grace
- 2.0 MINUTES of the December meeting were signed as a correct record.
- 3.0 MATTERS ARISING (Minute numbers from December meeting in parentheses)
 - 3.1 (3.1) Notice boards –It was agreed to fit cork lining to all 3 boards. **Action: Clerk**
 - 3.2 It was agreed to accept the quotation of £200 for 'BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL' designations above all notice boards. **Action: Cllr Watts**
 - 3.3 (3.2) Response to letter sent to M.Elliott has now been received, signed by Dean Kinsella. Generally, he referred to SHDC's policy of reducing reliance on motor vehicles which led to smaller size allocations for parking.
 - 3.4 (3.3) Village Only sign – awaited from DCC.
 - 3.5 (3.4) Affordable Homes: At a site meeting with Dean Kinsella (SHDC Planning), it had been agreed that the previously outlined site area was appropriate. Subsequently, an archaeological survey of this site had been conducted; the report is awaited. Any further site investigation would have to wait until the crop had been cleared in July.
 - 3.6 (3.5) Folly Hill parking: agreed by a majority vote to confirm for DCC Highways that the Parish Council would be willing to pay the bill for the Traffic Order, estimated to be £1,700 - £1,800. Cllr Carson asked for his objection to be recorded. **Action:Clerk**
 - 3.7 Comments had been made to the Clerk about the parking of a vehicle at night time on Folly Hill in contravention of Highway Code guidelines.
 - 3.8 (3.7) Avon Quillet: the light bulb wattage had been reduced; no further action is needed.
 - 3.9 (3.9) Viewing platform, BoS car park: the repairs and planting of shrubs had been completed to a high standard and Mr Edcombe was thanked for his work. Further weed clearance and painting will be needed around the Millenium steps to complete the repairs once the weather has improved.
- 4.0 POLICE REPORT There had been 14 incidents in Bigbury during the past 12 months compared with 867 for the whole Kingsbridge patch. WPC Ward itemised the crimes and also referred to two murders which had taken place over the past month – one at Modbury and the other at Malborough. She asked residents to beware of rogue traders who have been targeting building sites and residential dwellings. Trading Standards are carrying out a public campaign on door to door callers; such callers may have ID cards which prove to be a sham. Residents should notify the Kingsbridge police of anything suspicious. WPC Ward then left the meeting.
- 5.0 OPEN SESSION
 - 5.1 A resident reported that no documents were available on the SHDC website for the Folly Farm planning application. No application had yet been received by the Parish Council. The resident reported that her household suffered badly from the noise of social events held at the farm and these continued until very late at night. Cllr Carson declared a non-pecuniary interest.
- 6.0 C.CLLR'S REPORT

The Rural Broadband contract had now been signed with BT and an improved service should be available to 90% of the county by 2016.

DCC had been lobbying for Devon Transition Zone status which would have benefits when applying for EU grants e.g. there would only have to be 40% match funding instead of the current 50%.

No increase in council tax is expected for the forthcoming year; the 3rd such year in succession.

A grant of £1902 has been paid to the parish council towards the cost of the archaeological survey related to affordable housing.

There are plans for some additional maintenance to the Tidal Road and there are now two teams of lengthsman covering the South Hams.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to DCC with a copy to C Cllr Mumford relating to the frequent flood on the dog-leg bend on the BoS side of Little Court, Bigbury.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Mumford left the meeting.

7.0 FINANCIAL

7.1 It was proposed by Cllr Simes, seconded by Cllr Klidjian and agreed by all to pay the following:-

Bigbury Memorial Hall - £20 for hall hire November and December;
Staples (S Watts) - £41 for filing cabinet for the Clerk;
D. Ass.Local Councils - £60 for 2 Councillors attending course;
J.Gilbert - £50 for electricity for Christmas lights at Village Green;
Grasshopper Garden Services - £90 for annual grass-cutting Village Green;
Ivybridge C.College Inter Parish Quiz - £10 towards running costs;
Hedge Nursery (S Watts) – £66.59 shrubs for BoS viewing gallery;
Holywell Stores - £72 for supply of Christmas tree;
T Edgcombe - £1022 for repairs to viewing gallery BoS car park;
N Stone - £1302.72 for provision of notice boards.

7.2 Letters of appreciation had been received from S Hams CVS, S Hams CAB and WRVS for donations made to them.

7.3 SHDC had remitted £75.28 for recycling credits.

8.0 PLANNING Applications received:-

8.1 Mr & Mrs Ensell, Sea Bright, Parker Rd, BoS: amended plans . GRANTED

8.2 Mr & Mrs T Vaughan, Sea Loft, Ringmore Drive, BoS: amended plans relating to rear window. Application GRANTED

8.3 Mr S Chapman: Fryer Tuck's Takeaway; application for retention of cover for all year round. GRANTED.

Cllr Simes referred to his attendance at SHDC's Development Management Committee meeting and reported that, unexpectedly, the Chairman had allowed him to speak for 2 minutes. He felt that the decision-making process had made his position as a Challaborough resident and as a parish councillor difficult. Cllr Simes expressed disappointment in Cllr Carson's stance at the committee meeting. All Parish Councillors had felt that if the applicant had wanted the structure up all the year round, he should have applied for that in the initial application. It was reported that D. Kinsella (SHDC, Planning) had stated that Planning Officers treat all structures in planning application as permanent. It was agreed that Cllr Simes would draft a letter of complaint to SHDC, for prior approval by all parish councillors .

Action: Cllr Simes

8.4 High View, Warren Rd, BoS: many residents had questioned how this historical application had been passed. Separately, it was suggested the Clerk would draft a letter to SHDC pointing out some conditions which might be imposed when granting planning consent to minimise nuisance to neighbours.

Action:Clerk

8.5 Pickwick Inn: retrospective application covering Listed Building Consent in relation to ceiling heights needing to be altered in one area. No objection.

8.6 Tarifa, Cleveland Drive, Bos: application for a wood burning stove and associated flue. No Objection.

8.7 Whiddons, Bantham: this may affect residents of Folly Hill but is outside Bigbury parish.

8.8 Cllr Owen asked whether Bigbury should set up a planning sub-committee. However, it has always been felt that as the parish is so spread out, with only 7 councillors, it was best not to have a sub-committee. No change.

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 SWW Water Future – comments invited about future policy. No action.

9.2 CPRE Best Kept Village 2013 – agreed to submit an entry.

Action: Clerk

9.3 Jan Birch – Active Villages – it was agreed to invite her as a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

Action: Clerk

- 9.4 Electoral Review – posters were on display on the notice boards and correspondence had been in circulation, inviting comment from parishioners.
- 9.5 Energy Initiative – email forwarded to councillors. No action.
- 9.6 Tim Pollard – re. compliance on playground notices. It was agreed to order the necessary sign for the play area at a cost of £30. **Action: Cllr Watts**
- 9.7 DCC Martin Rich – Sportivate. No interest in this Plymouth-based initiative to encourage sporting participation.
- 9.8 SHDC: street and house naming and numbering policy. No immediate relevance.
- 9.9 SHDC: Register of Interests on SHDC Website – forwarded to councillors. No further action required.
- 9.10 BoS car park: figures had been obtained from SHDC relating to income from BoS car park. DCllr Carson observed that some SHDC coastal car parks levied 50% lower charges during the winter months. It was agreed to write to SHDC asking for this reduction in future. **Action: Clerk**
- 9.11 A survey questionnaire had been received from SHDC concerning a minor change in affordable housing allocation policy. Bigbury would not be affected; agreed - to complete and return the survey form on behalf of the parish. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Watts**

10.0 EMERGENCY PLAN

Contact phone numbers for emergency situations have been listed on the parish's community website. Agreed: no further action.

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS

- 11.0 Cllr Simes, as Footpath Warden, reported that Cathy Tucker had been very helpful in relation to footpaths on land belonging to Mount Folly Farm. The coastal footpath from Challaborough to BoS is deeply rutted; with a number of other projects needing more urgent attention, Cllr Simes had been reassured by Peter Guy (Devon CC, PROW) that this will be attended to at a later date. Cllr Simes also referred to problems with the footpath through Doctor's Wood and footpaths on Burgh Island where land at the side of the steps near the helipad has eroded badly. The parish footpath report to DCC for 2013 had been submitted.

12.0 BEACH CLEAN AT CHALLABOROUGH

Cllr Watts stated he had recently found the beach at Challaborough to be full of plastic waste and discarded net fragments that had been washed up on the tides. The impression created was one of extreme neglect. However, it was reported that during the season, the beach is cleaned regularly by Park Dean and councillors expressed no interest in organising quarterly beach cleans. Agreed: no action.

13.0 PUBLIC TOILETS

SHDC is considering a 4-month seasonal closure of some under-used public toilets, the Bigbury-on-Sea car park toilet amongst them. DCllr Carson reported that parish and town councils would be consulted where relevant before any closure.

14.0 ROAD REPAIRS

The Clerk had sent a list of pothole locations to DCC and the Chairman reminded the meeting that there is a facility on the DCC website for reporting potholes and other matters of concern – www.devon.gov.uk.

15.0 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

SHDC will be making a 3.5 % increase in Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. On top of that there will be a 5% rise in the Police budget.

Under the current Electoral Boundary Review there is a proposal to reduce the number of District Councillors in SHDC from 40 to 30. No saving in costs is envisaged as a result.

Blue Flag for BoS initiative: as there had been sub-standard sea water quality on one part of the beach last year, no Blue Flag could have been awarded. Also, it was felt that the Parish Council did not have the resources to manage a Blue Flag application (see 16.0)

16.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Blue flag status for Bigbury beaches. Cllr Simes enquired about progress and Cllr Watts referred him to Minute 12.2 of the September 2012 PC meeting in which the Parish Council

had agreed to take no further action. The Chairman had subsequently received an enquiry from Mrs J Tucker who had volunteered to try and raise the necessary £650 per year from local businesses. If successful, Cllr Carson agreed to ask whether SHDC would be prepared to take on the control and management duties associated with this beach classification scheme which are beyond the resources of the parish.

17.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 13th MARCH 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.