

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Bigbury Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr S Watts (Chairman), Cllrs T Boys, B Carson, P. Cook, A. Klidjian, R. Owen; 36 residents also present. C.Cllr W.Mumford attended for part of the meeting together with D.Sgt. Dave Green (Kingsbridge Police Station). Also attending was Hugh Ridgway, part owner of the Royal Oak.

- 1.0 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR. The vacancy still exists and continues to be advertised.
- 2.0 POLICE REPORT. DS. GREEN reported that he is in charge of the Kingsbridge Police Station and is therefore ultimately responsible for Bigbury Parish, along with 24 other parishes. At present, WPC Rachel Ward is temporarily away covering Ivybridge. PCSO Stacey Thorn and PCSO Sophie Hack have both joined the full-time force. PC Paul O'Dwyer is now our main contact at Kingsbridge. DS Green is hoping for more staff to be based at Kingsbridge but has other officers he can call upon in an emergency. Crimes reported included: petrol siphoned from a vehicle; 2 assaults; 2 burglaries; 2 thefts from motor vehicles; 2 marine thefts; and 2 mobile phone thefts. He stated that despite the thousands of visitors his area has every year, he is very reassured at the crime figures. DS Green answered questions from councillors and residents and was thanked by the Chairman prior to leaving the meeting.
- 3.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. CLLR W.MUMFORD reported that the County Council had saved over £120m during the last 4 years but must make more savings over the next 4 years. Tough decisions have to be made to achieve this target. The Locality Budget can be used in each of his parishes which means our parish may apply for up to £500. He stated that Nick Colton (DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer) had found a way to obtain funding for a Traffic Regulation Order which might include Folly Hill parking restrictions. The Chairman reported that in his own and a neighbour's experience, the DCC website had proved an effective way of reporting road potholes to get them filled in very promptly. The Chairman thanked C Cllr Mumford who then left the meeting.
- 4.0 MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING were signed as a correct record.
- 5.0 MATTERS ARISING Minute references in parenthesis relate to November unless otherwise stated.
 - 5.1 (4.1) De Bykeberi crest: ongoing. **Action: Cllr Klidjian**
 - 5.2 (4.2) Affordable Housing: contact is being continued with Debbie Holloway (SHDC)
 - 5.3 (4.4) Millennium Steps: Clerk had informed SHDC R.Harkness that his quotation for repairs has been accepted.
 - 5.4 (4.5) Folly Hill parking field: The Chairman reported he had contacted SHDC and

had been informed that two Certificates of Lawful Development had been issued to allow mixed use, as car parks and agricultural land, of two fields at Folly Hill Farm - based on the previous 10-years unchallenged usage. However, no prior consultation had taken place with the parish; an oversight for which the Head of Development Management at SHDC had apologised subsequently.

- 5.5 (5.3) The Chairman had written to the parishioner who had complained about BT's service asking for more detail. No reply had yet been received.
- 5.6 (5.4) A dog bin had been ordered from SHDC for placing at the top of the Sedgwell FP to main car park entrance.
- 5.7 (5.6) DCC Neighbourhood Highways Officer, N. Colton, had responded to the complaint of a resident at St Ann's Chapel regarding mud from the road entering her front garden. A précis of Mr Colton's response had been forwarded to the complainant.
- 5.8 (6.0) Dogs on beach signage – request for better signage had been made to SHDC
- 5.9 (7.0) Clematon Hill: Discussions are still ongoing between National Trust and residents with Parish Council representation.
- 5.10 (9.4) Salt store tarpaulin had been ordered (invoice in Financial).
- 5.11 (June 3.9) Luscombe Maye's Commemorative Tree would be planted near the Playing Field on Monday 16th December.

6.0 OPEN SESSION

- 6.1 A resident reported the fingerpost indicating Challaborough is missing at Bowling Green Cross.

- 7.0 CLOSURE OF ROYAL OAK: D. Cllr Carson declared an interest and did not take part during this item on the agenda. Part-owner Mr Hugh Ridgway provided an account of the recent history of the pub. He reported that the business had gone into receivership in January 2012. Having been shut for 4 months, the pub was reopened by the bank until it was sold to the Ridgway Brothers in August 2012. The new owners predicted a 50/50 chance of success on the purchase. In addition to the purchase price of £325,000, they had spent £120,000 on refurbishing to get the pub open and more on a marketing programme, including a Loyalty Card scheme. Mr Ridgway felt the population was not sufficient to support the 4 pubs in the area. The owners had been subsidising the pub considerably each month.

The Chairman invited comments from those present who pointed out that in their opinion the menus were inappropriate and too expensive. Furthermore, the sterile decor and the lack of ownership presence were factors contributing to the failure of what had previously been a highly popular pub. Customers reported that the pub was very overstaffed. Another resident expressed great disappointment and disgust at the way the pub has been boarded up and the car park caged off. Mr Ridgway stated this was an insurance requirement. A previous owner considered that the Ridgways had not really given the pub long enough to re-establish itself. It was a general assumption in the trade that, under such circumstances, there would not be a satisfactory return on investment for at least 18 months.

The Chairman stated that it was obvious that residents felt strongly about the decision to close the pub which had been in existence for over 150 years and that it would be possible to nominate the pub as a 'Community Asset of Value' under the Localism Act (2011) to provide more time to try and find a way to keep the pub open.

Action: Cllr Watts

8.0 PLANNING: Pending :-

8.1 High View, Warren Rd; Folly Farm; Atlantic House, Marine Drive; Bigbury Golf Club; Land adj. Holywell Stores; Park Dean.

Decision notices received:-

8.2 Mr & Mrs Howell: Thornbury, Parker Rd, BoS: GRANTED

8.3 Mr & Mrs Stone: extensions incl.dormer windows, Crosswick, St Ann's Chapel GRANTED

8.4 Mr & Mrs Jackson: conversion to dwelling, The Water Tank, St. Ann's Chapel; GRANTED

8.5 Mr & Mrs Bostock: loft conversion Combe Barton Cottage. GRANTED

8.6 Mr S Wills, C Hemingway: rebuild Bali Hai, Marine Drive, BoS: GRANTED

8.7 Mr S Goddard: certificate of lawfulness The Huts, Rockhaven, Folly Hill, BoS: REFUSED

Plans had been received for:

8.8 Mr & Mrs Spencer – alterations at Willows, Parker Rd, BoS

8.9 Mrs Lister – extensions at Sea Loft, Marine Drive, BoS

8.10 Bigbury Court: work to Horse Chestnut trees.

9.0 TAP FUND APPLICATION

Further projects would be considered by councilors following C. Cllr Mumford's report about probable alternative funding for the Folly Hill parking TRO.

Action: Cllr Watts

10.0 FINANCIAL

10.1 It was proposed by Cllr Klidjian, seconded by Cllr Boys and agreed that the following cheques be drawn:

£382.72 to Mrs P Trundle for fee and expenses; £ 557.43 to S Hams Containers for skip at Bigbury Village and Challaborough; £11.99 to Cllr S Watts for tarpaulin for salt store; £100 to S Hams CAB as donation; £26 to S Hams CVS as donation; £12.54 to Cllr Watts for ink cartridge.

10.2 A donation had been made in previous years to WRVS but as such gifts only go into the central fund and not the county fund councillors agreed not to make a donation this year and it was also agreed not to make a donation following a request from Victim Support

10.3 Precept: It was proposed by Cllr Watts, seconded by Cllr Cook and agreed that the precept should be maintained at the 2013/2014 financial year level of £7,600.

11.0 CORRESPONDENCE

11.1 Community Council of Devon had reported on support for a national Energy Best Deal Campaign.

12.0 D.CLLR CARSON reported that following new computerisation of systems, savings will be made by staff reductions at SHDC. Richard Sheard (Chief Executive) is retiring and a replacement will be appointed to cover both South Hams and West Devon. Under the boundary review, there will be 31 councillors instead of 40 and our current ward of Charterlands will no longer exist as most of its parishes, including Bigbury, will be linked with Modbury. Aveton Gifford will be linked with Loddiswell, Churchstow, Thurlestone, etc. SHDC is spending more money on affordable homes at Dartmouth and Totnes.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 Cllr Cook reported that, on his own behalf, he had emailed Gary Streeter MP on matters relating to second homes in Bigbury-on-Sea. He feels strongly that second home owners should pay more council tax. It was agreed for the matter to be included on the February PC agenda. **Action: Clerk**

14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 12th FEBRUARY 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed 9.15 p.m.