

## BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Bigbury Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllr S Watts in the chair and Cllrs M Baker, T Boys, B Carson, P Cook and R Owen. Also present were 5 residents.

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: C. Cllr R.Hosking and Cllr A Klidjian.
- 2 MINUTES OF JULY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING were approved for signature.
- 3 MATTERS ARISING *Minute nos. in parenthesis relate to July's minutes*
- 3.1 (3.2) The Clerk has been unable to carry out further research, by use of the electoral roles, on variation in resident numbers with time in Bigbury-on-Sea
- 3.2 (3.3) Millennium Steps: SHDC's Mr R Harkness had indicated that he would complete the work in the autumn
- 3.3 (3.6) Swan Man – see 6.5, below. Two advisory notices about not feeding waterfowl in the Avon estuary have been posted at the Bigbury end of the Tidal Road and an explanation has been published in Bigbury News. D. Cllr Carson reported on a second incident involving harassment of a horse-rider which had also been reported to the police. Residents are requested to report to the police on 101 any harassment they receive from the 'swan man'.
- 3.4 (3.7) Seagull nuisance: Agreed: D. Cllr Carson to request a SHDC by-law to prohibit feeding of these seagulls. **Action: Cllr Carson**
- 3.5 (3.8) Royal Oak update: Mr Hugh Ridgway (owner) had submitted copies of a set of plans for development of 6 properties in the upper end of the Royal Oak car park for scrutiny by the STROP Steering Group prior to formal application to SHDC. With the owners' permission, one set has been deposited at Holywell Stores and another in Bigbury Village Stores for inspection and comment by parishioners. Reference is made in the plans to the re-opening of the Oak, albeit on a smaller scale than previously. Cllr Watts had suggested to Mr Ridgway that he should also submit the plans to SHDC's Design Review Panel.
- 3.6 (10.1) BoS notice board: The Clerk reported that Mr Bob Carter had removed the board from BoS Post Office Stores and re-sited it in the bus shelter. Appreciation was expressed for the work he had done.
- 3.7 (10.2) Bus lay-by: Mr S Beasley (Park Dean) had provided a boat that had been sited by Mr John Tucker in the bus lay-by at Bigbury-on-Sea as a potential flower planter. Mr Carter had drilled holes in the bottom for drainage and Mr Tucker had filled the boat with earth. Appreciation was expressed to all involved for their work.
- 3.8 (10.3) C. Cllr attendance at parish council meetings: The Chairman had contacted C. Cllr Hosking who was still hoping that the parish council would change the times of the Bigbury meetings to facilitate his attendance by avoiding a clash with Ugborough parish's meeting on the same evening. However, a change would cause general inconvenience. Councillors felt that C.Cllr Hosking now has a much wider constituency than Ugborough parish. Therefore, he should attend for the first part of the Bigbury agenda which would give him an opportunity to return to Ugborough in time for a part of their meeting. It was agreed a letter be sent to C. Cllr Hosking to this effect. **Action: Clerk**
- 3.9 (10.4) Mrs R Davis (DCC's Environment Dept) had sent the footpath maps for issue to parish councillors.
- 4.0 OPEN SESSION
- 4.1 A resident enquired about the current situation concerning Certificates of Lawfulness relating to planning matters in an area of Bigbury-on-Sea. The Chairman explained that the parish council is not routinely consulted about these certificates. The same resident also enquired about mobile phone masts in the area. The Chairman reiterated the consensus that the parish council should do whatever it can, within

- reason, to improve the generally poor telecommunications in the parish in the interests of sustainability.
- 4.2 A resident enquired whether it would be possible for a dog bin to be sited on the village green as she empties the existing waste bin into her own but encounters a problem with dog waste. AGREED: a letter to be sent to SHDC requesting that they ensure that the waste bin is emptied as part of the routine fortnightly collection.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 4.3 Mr John Simes (Parish Footpath Warden) reported that he was surprised no work had yet commenced on the Burgh Island footpaths. AGREED: a letter to be sent to DCC's Mrs Davis for an update on the situation.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 5.0 PLANNING decision notices received (all with 05 prefix):-
- 5.1 592/14: Mr & Mrs Shorrocks: replacement dwelling and garage - Highdown, Warren Rd, BoS: GRANTED
- 5.2 814/14: Mr & Mrs T Willis: replacement dwelling - The Cedars, Marine Drive, BoS: GRANTED
- 5.3 1180/14: Mrs Bebbington: external terrace - Hillcrest, Warren Rd, Bos: GRANTED but a condition of planning is that the front part of the garage roof must not be used as a balcony and can be used for maintenance only. The Chairman stated that he had been concerned to discover that the Officer's Report on this application stated that no response had been received from the parish council. This statement is patently untrue as can be seen from scrutiny of documents on the SHDC website and he had complained via e-mail. AGREED: Clerk to write a formal letter of complaint to SHDC, asking for an explanation.  
**Action: Clerk**
- 5.4 Mrs C Hunt: change of use from mixed retail/residential to single dwelling - BoS Post office: GRANTED
- 5.5 Mr & Mrs T Wilson: external alterations to existing sun room - Westerlea, Cott Lane, Bigbury: GRANTED
- 5.6 1414/14: Burgh Island Causeway Freeholder Committee: replacement of roof covering, soffits, fascias and suppressed gable cladding to existing building: GRANTED
- 5.7 1470/14: Mr D Miles: alterations and addition of dormers - Sedgewell, Ringmore Drive, BoS: GRANTED
- 5.8 1489/14: Mr & Mrs Cullen: single-storey extension - Hingston Farm, Bigbury: GRANTED
- 5.9 1559/15: Mr & Mrs R Middleton: amendment to planning approval 0899/12 - 3 Folly Hill, BoS: GRANTED
- 5.10 1579/14: Mr D Halford: window to replace door and construction of stone steps to garden - 2 Bigbury Court, Bigbury: GRANTED
- 5.11 Cllrs Cook and Owen had attended a Design Review Panel meeting at Follaton House for Westridge, Warren Rd, BoS application. Councillors again expressed concern about light pollution from the many new, glass-fronted house designs which are submitted in planning applications in Bigbury-on-Sea, in particular, and the significant nuisance caused of lights shining into neighbouring properties.
- 6.0 CORRESPONDENCE
- 6.1 SHDC's Stuart Jellings had confirmed there will be a 20p entry charge for use of the toilets in BoS car park but no seasonal closure. The disabled toilet would remain free but would be installed with a RADAR lock to ensure it is not subjected to abuse. The system should be fully operational by the week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014.
- 6.2 DCC: Highway Safety Awareness Training document - forwarded to councillors
- 6.3 SHDC new members' Code of Conduct - forwarded to councillors
- 6.4 Progress update: Connecting Devon & Somerset - high speed broadband programme.
- 6.5 Police report: complaints have continued to accrue via the 101 non-emergency number about Mr Crafer's (aka Swan Man) offensive behaviour towards other people around the river. He has received an official warning from WPC Rachel Ward.
- 7.0 FINANCIAL
- 7.1 It was proposed by Cllr Boys, seconded by Cllr. Carson and agreed that the following cheques be drawn:- £11.78 to Cllr Watts for computer ink; £92.10 to I Cube Solutions

- for 2 plastic signs for Tidal Road; £4 to Ivybridge & District Asscn. of Local Councils for subscription; £386.20 to the clerk for fee and expenses; £671.90 to S.Hams Skips for provision at St Ann's Chapel; £20 to Cllr Cook for travelling expenses to meeting at Follaton House.
- 7.2 The Treasurer of St Lawrence's Church apologised for not being able to attend this meeting to discuss a grant towards the costs of the maintenance of the Burial Ground. *D Cllr Carson declared an interest and left the meeting during this discussion.*  
Cllr Cook, speaking on the Treasurer's behalf, stated that these costs are largely borne by the churchgoers although the burial ground is open to all parishioners. Therefore, the Parochial Church Council (PCC) has asked if the Parish Council would pay for all the grass-cutting costs of the burial ground instead of the current grant of £450/annum. The total figure for these costs for the last financial year was £951. It was proposed by Cllr Cook, seconded by Cllr Baker and agreed unanimously that the Parish Council would increase its contribution to a maximum of £1,000/annum, reviewable on an annual basis.
- 7.3 It was reported that the entrance gates and the roadside wall of the burial ground are in need of repair. It was suggested that financial help may be available from SHDC's TAP or Sustainability Funds and, if acceptable to the PCC, the parish council would willingly help with an application. **AGREED: To inform the PCC. Action: Clerk**
- 7.4 A letter of appreciation had been received from the Hope Cove Lifeboat Committee for the donation sent to them in July and also from Bigbury Golf Club for the donation towards the cost of purchasing a defibrillator for general use.
- 8.0 'OUR PLAN'. A workshop on the SHDC initiative will be held in September. Cllrs Baker and Owen volunteered to attend and report back.
- 9.0 LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR BIGBURY PARISH. SHDC had circulated a document indicating which sites might be considered for development at some time in the future. Although sites are named, it does not mean that any application would necessarily receive planning permission. Cllr Watts had responded stating that additional sites are known to the parish council from the Village Housing Initiative (VHI) invitation to landowners for affordable housing plots and he was concerned that the Land Availability Assessment was inaccurate because some landowners were unaware of the assessment process, which now has been extended to October. **AGREED: D.Cllr Carson will ensure that these other plots are added to the document and that SHDC is made aware of the possible communication gap. Action: Cllr Carson**  
Cllr Baker asked if there is still a demand for housing in the parish. Cllr Watts replied that the parish council was proceeding on the basis of a survey conducted by the Community Council of Devon several years ago but that the housing shortage situation was unlikely to have changed since then even if some of the individuals have.
- 10.0 BIGBURY ON SEA TOILETS - see 6.1
- 11.0 AFFORDABLE HOUSING. A stumbling block has arisen about pedestrian access to the preferred VHI site, beyond the playing field in StAnn's Chapel. Cllr Watts had contacted the C J Rogers Estate, which owns the playing field, about resolving the matter but has not received a reply. Furthermore, the Memorial Hall Committee is concerned about the proposed footpath that would lead directly to its car park and possible consequential parking infringements. Cllr Watts has asked the relevant SHDC Planning Officer, Kati Owen, if the footpath is essential to the application and is awaiting a response.
- 12.0 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. D Cllr Carson reported on the K5 housing site at Kingsbridge/West Alvington that was turned down by SHDC. The applicants took it to a successful appeal but costs were awarded against the District Council. Elsewhere, there is a survey being conducted on green spaces, cycle tracks, public spaces etc.

13.0 TRANSPORTATION OF CARAVANS. The Clerk reported that there had been frequent, considerable delays of 45-60 min. and traffic congestion (upwards of 100 vehicles behind one caravan in August) during the peak tourist season in summer caused by caravans being transported to Park Dean in contravention of a previous agreement that peak travel times and periods would be avoided. Apart from the general inconvenience, such delays are a danger because emergency vehicles would not be able to access properties *en route*. AGREED: a letter to be sent to Park Dean Head Office, copied to Challaborough, to ask them to observe the agreement. **Action: Clerk**

14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Broadband survey: Cllr Watts had conducted a snapshot survey of broadband speeds around the parish which had revealed how much slower most speeds are than the maximum speeds stated by providers. A major concern is that Bigbury will remain in the 10% of areas not served by the 'Connecting Devon and Somerset' highspeed Broadband project. An anonymous table of survey responses will be published in Bigbury News in due course. **Action: Cllr Watts**

14.2 Grit bin: The DCC green grit bin sited on the verge at Hingston Farm had been upturned in the road. Cllr Watts had been unable to right it and reported it as a traffic hazard to both DCC, who replaced it in the correct position, and the police. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time within a few days that DCC had had to attend to the bin.

14.3 Cllr Owen asked if the Parish Council would consider purchase of a laser meter which would give accurate measurements of completed buildings to check against submitted plans. AGREED: This is the job of professional surveyors not the council - no action.

15.1 DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 9.45 pm