

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 13th April 2016 at 8:15pm

PRESENT: Cllr B Carson (in the chair) Cllrs. B Huntley, G Rosevear, S Smith and C Case. D.Cllr L Ward and C.Cllr R Hosking also attended. Parish Clerk R Matthews and retiring Parish Clerk P Trundle and eight residents were also present.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

2.0 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING April 2015. These had been reviewed and approved at the Parish Council meeting in May 2015.

3.0 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT. PCSO Warren Palmer introduced himself as now being responsible for policing of the Parish and gave a brief overview of this police experience. He stated nine crimes had been reported in the year ended 1st April 2016, a reduction from ten the previous year. The nine were: seven for theft, one for fraud and one for assault. He added there were no plans to reduce the neighbourhood team at Kingsbridge – PS Dave Green, PG Jane Gerrard and himself. If assistance was needed from the local team, they could be contacted on phone number 101. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution to the meeting.

4.0 ANNUAL COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. Councillor Richard Hosking provided the following update:

Devon County Council Central Support Grant final cut of about £28 million for 2016/17. We anticipated a reduction of £35 million but successful lobbying by South West MPs secured additional funding in recognition of additional cost of providing rural services. Thank you to Gary Streeter MP.

Further cuts to Central Support Grant of about £22m in 2017/18 and about £21m in 2018/19 anticipated (subject to further rebates for cost of providing rural services). Government have stated intention that Local Government will be financed by Uniform Business Rates by 2020.

Devolution (devolved powers). Heart of the South West (HoTS) comprising Devon & Somerset Counties, 17 District Authorities, Plymouth and Torbay Unitary Authorities, 2 National Parks, the Local Enterprise Partnership and 3 Clinical Commissioning Groups have made a formal proposal to discuss the devolution of powers and budgets to produce a growth programme for the South West by 2030 with 163,000 new jobs and 179,000 new houses.

The HoTS bid is based on Infrastructure, Business Growth, Skills and Productivity with six Golden Opportunities identified to enable us to build on our industrial strengths. Our ask is a significant Infrastructure Investment Fund to stimulate these growth areas. We may be required to elect a Mayor as part of this bid.

The Boundary Commission has presented its final proposal (rarely changed) for the reduction of County Council Divisions from 62 to 60 for the 2017 election. This will have a significant effect on the Yealmpton Division with the parishes of Bigbury, Kingston, Ringmore, Aveton Gifford and Modbury being included in a revised Salcombe Division. The remainder of the Division is amalgamated with Parishes to the East to form a new South Brent and Yealmpton Division. It was too early to say who will be selected as Candidates for the changed Divisions in 2017.

Devon County are pleased to advise that the Children's Minister Edward Timpson has lifted his Formal Improvement Notice on the County with regard to our children's services. The County moved from Inadequate to Needing Improvement Status earlier this year, which is we hope the first step on the way to the next category which is Good.

Broadband phase I is now approaching completion with Phase II is due to go to tender in June 2016 to include alternative Wifi and Satellite options.

A voucher scheme is proposed to assist those not in Phase I & II roll out to acquire services in the market place.

2016 sees the introduction of the provisions of the Care Act 2012 which provides for the integration of Health and Social Services to provide an integrated Care Plan and Budget based on Personal Care Plans.

With thanks to Graham Phillips for his persistent lobbying we were successful in restoring the F17 Fare Car Service from Charterlands to Kingsbridge once a week. I am also pleased to report that efforts to provide a replacement for this service have resulted in securing a Community Car Driver based in Kingston who is in the process of enrolling and will soon be providing this additional service to the area.

Additional points relative to the Parish include;

The launch of Devon County Council Carer Awareness programme to assist the County in recognising carers to provide support where necessary.

Road Warden Scheme. Third Party Insurance from Devon County Council is only available to volunteers who are signed up to the Road Warden Scheme. All other contractors, lengthsman or helpers must carry their own third party insurance to a minimum cover of £5 million.

The directional sign removed at Seven Stones Cross was deemed not critical for road safety by Devon County Highways and was therefore unlikely to be replaced until July 2016 (I agreed that this was a busy caravan route and there was an urgent requirement for a directional sign - I am pleased to report that a sign is now expected in May before the main summer tourist season). For reference, this point is documented in the minutes of the March 2016 Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hosking for this contribution.

5.0 ANNUAL DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT. District Councillor Lindsay Ward provided the following update.

Lindsay stated she really enjoyed working with us in this my first year of representing Bigbury.

The new financial year means that I have my sustainable community locality fund available again – minimum of a £100 and maximum of £400.

SHDC continues to embed the changes of the transformation programme T18 developed to deliver them including changes to the Chief Executive model replace with two Executive directors which is a saving but allows focus on two different sides of the council. The changes are aimed at meeting the financial challenges whilst protecting front line services. SHDC is one of only 10% of councils who have been able to protect front line services and has won ISES Council of the Year and is up for another prestigious MJ award.

As part of our new ways of working SHDC has introduced My Account . Residents should have had a leaflet about it in their council tax bill but you can also find out about it on the website. My Account brings everything SHDC does for you in to on line account. Although in is in its early stages it should allow easier and quicker access. Residents don't have to use this system but it is there to increase customer choice of access and meet a demand to engage with the council 24/7.

We continue to work on our new local plan which will be joint with Plymouth local plan. This should enable a really good strategic growth plan for the area and I hope harness the potential in Plymouth – 16th fastest growing urban economy. Devolution should help us harness this too if the detail of the deal is right.

Looking ahead we are considering placing our commercial and delivery services under the framework of a wholly owned company which would allow us to trade. This is so the council can earn an income and cover costs but reinvest any profits in plugging the predicted budget gap and developing capacity. A good example of a small scale company is Street Wise – at Rushcliffe Borough Council. This is under consideration and we await a full business case.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Ward for her contribution.

6.0 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND PLANNING APPEAL PROCESS. Valerie Scott provided the meeting with the following update:

Valerie confirmed that there were regular updates on this topic published in the Bigbury News every month. She appreciated the interaction with SHDC and thanked District Councillor Ward for the help with £500 funding, confirming that a similar application would be made in the next financial year. A Steering Group was in place and progress was being monitored on a gantt chart.

In respect of the Seafront planning application, Valerie confirmed the SHDC Case Officer had recommended approval but the Parish Council had voted against the plan on the grounds of size and mass. As this application was now at the appeal stage, Valerie shared the following as to how residents could challenge the appeal. Write to SHDC planning dept. restating the original objections such as design, scale, mass, appearance, contrary to design and landscape guidelines, needs to be considered in the context of its surroundings, failure of developer to come back with an alternative scheme despite this request being made. Valerie confirmed responses could be given via the Planning Depts. Web portal, through e mail or letter.

The Chairman thanked Valerie for the information

7.0 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT. Chairman Bryan Carson provided the following update:

It has been an interesting year for Bigbury PC. At this time last year, all members of the Parish Council had decided not to stand for re- election. As a District Councillor I knew that the result of this would have been that the Parish would be administered by the District Council who would have had to find candidates and organize an election. As paid officers would be involved, it would have been an expensive process which would have to be paid for from Bigbury Parish Funds.

I thought this was unacceptable so stood again, and with the help of Pam, managed to find three more candidates, making a quorum, and we were able to build on this. Sadly Nina Stanesby, who was such a promising councilor, felt she had to resign because of pressure of work. This means that we do now have a vacancy on the Council.

As you know, a big change for the council this year is the retirement of our clerk, Pam Trundle who has been Bigbury's parish clerk since 1986. I would like to re-iterate my thanks on behalf of BPC for all she has done for Bigbury. I am also very pleased to welcome Richard Matthews, who lives in Ivybridge as our new parish clerk. Although new to the role he has excellent qualifications, and is very enthusiastic, and I am sure will prove to be a great asset to our team.

As you all know, in the last year or so we have lost some significant businesses in the parish – the shop at Bigbury on Sea, the shop at Bigbury Village, and the Bay Café. It remains to be seen whether or not the Royal Oak will open again. Unfortunately this seems to be a sign of the times but on the bright side, Louise Pitt's little Beauty Salon in Bigbury Village is doing well, and we are very lucky to have Dane and Hilary's excellent store here at St Ann's Chapel. The beach shop at Bigbury on Sea has been taken over recently by the former Hannah Biggs and her husband. Hannah spent much of her childhood living at Folly Hill, and we wish them every success.

We have had a few contentious planning applications during the year, particularly on Marine Drive, which have not yet been resolved, and there is an ongoing appeal on the property at Seafront.

This year we have increased the precept as we feel that we going to have to spend money on minor repairs and maintenance on our roads, especially the buddle holes in areas where there are frequent incidents of flooding.

We are looking forward to the new year, and hope to establish a computer club in the memorial hall which will enable people to improve their computer skills if this is something that they wish to do.

In this context we thank Stuart Watts who continues to run the Bigbury Community Website. We hope to expand the usage of the website which is a Valuable community asset.

We have also started to work on a Neighbourhood Plan, which I am very pleased to say is led by Mrs Valerie Scott who has formed a committee to begin the process. These plans, done correctly and agreed by a majority of residents, then passed by an Inspector will form a big part of future Planning decisions. Valerie will say a few words about it later.

In conclusion I would like to thank the councilors, George, Sharon, Iain, Beth and Cathy for their support and commitment to the parish. I would also like to thank John Simes, our footpath Warden for all his work. You will know that we lost Ginny McCabe, our tree warden last year, and she will be very sadly missed. We are also grateful for the support of C. Cllr Richard Hoskin, and D. Cllr Lindsay Ward.

As a community we are very lucky to have a number of people who run activities and organize events for the benefit and enjoyment of all of us. These include Rose Owen and her team of helpers for the Bigbury News; Dane and the team for Carols on the Green and all its Trimmings; Gill Gubbins for her exercise classes; the Memorial Hall committee for the maintenance of the hall and organization of the many social entertainments held here; And I would like to thank you all for attending the parish meeting today.

- 8.0 FINANCIAL REPORT. The Parish Clerk confirmed the opening bank balance in its accounts was consistent with bank statements and that the annual audit report to Grant Thornton would be submitted in the coming weeks.

9.0 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS.

St. Lawrence Church. Mrs Helen Smith provided the following update: The church of St Lawrence continues to have weekly services on Sundays at 11:00 and it is hoped that many local residents will attend and enjoy the convivial refreshments and get together after the services.

Much work has been done to the church and more is in hand. The tower and spire are suffering from weather ingress and the bells will need rehanging due to the poor condition of the bell frame.

The church is at present busy fund raising and hopes to get grants from Devon Historic Churches, the Heritage Lottery Fund etc. There will be a bazaar on May 30th and the Annual Church Fete on August 10th to all help raise funds.

As has been discussed at the Parish Council Meetings there is a need to improve the church wall and the entrance pillars. The church architect considers the pillar on the north side could be dangerous due to subsidence and cracks. WE are hoping that with the help of the Parish Council this will soon be rectified.

We look forward to the continued support of the Parish and in particular those who have joined the Friends of St. Lawrence. The Friends will be holding a Victorian Tea Party at the Old Rectory on Wednesday July 13th (£10.00 per head or £8.00 per head for members of the Friends). Tickets will be available from Alice Taylor, Gill Cook and me.

Bigbury News. Rose Owen provided the following update; On the whole 2015 was productive and successful for Bigbury News. In May, Margaret Hawes kindly agreed to take on the role of Treasurer following the sudden death of Keith Pink. Keith was a dedicated man who had run the accounts for Bigbury News for sixteen years. Margaret has taken up the role admirably and efficiently and I thank her for taking on this time consuming role.

During the summer we launched our bi-annual donation appeal which was very successful and helped the bank balance look healthy for another year or so. The income from our regular advertisers is consistent and we have not seen the need to increase the rates which we feel are very reasonable. Bigbury News is also supported by the Parish Council who give us an annual grant. We would like to thank the Council for their continued support.

We are very grateful for our network of dedicated distributors who deliver the magazines in all weathers and we are appreciative of their help and support.

Bigbury News would like to thank the community as a whole for their donations and positive comments about the magazine, and feel we have a good content of articles from groups and individuals but would always be happy to consider fresh ideas.

Bigbury Memorial Hall. Mr Charles Harrington provided the following update: During the last twelve months we have continued to try our best to contribute to the community life of Bigbury Parish and to increase the cohesion between the various centres of population.

This is done, mainly, in two ways. Firstly, we provide a venue for regular group activities such as fitness classes, yoga, the history society, Parish Council meetings and the South Hams Shrimps. It is good to report that the Youth Club has recently recommenced and is attracting decent numbers.

Secondly, we stage regular social events during the year. Events have included two wine tasting evenings, a quiz evening, the Bigbury Garden and Produce show, the church bank holiday bazaar, film fish and chip nights and Village In Action events.

In addition the hall has been well used for private functions and this has increased markedly as a result of building improvements made over the last few years.

Footpath Warden's report. Mr John Simes provided the following update: The main issues with the footpath network at present are signs at Mount Folly Farm – several signs and way markers need replacement and major repairs to the footpath at Hexdown, rear of Villa Crusoe.

I am very grateful to the landowner at Dukes Mill and Milburn Orchard for their prompt action to deal with fallen trees and the footpath is fully accessible.

If there are other issues that need dealing with, parishioners are encouraged to contact me by e mail: jsimes@hotmail.com or by phone (81069)

10.0 CELEBRATIONS TO MARK H.M. THE QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs Smith advised there would be a book for parishioners to sign as a mark of this occasion.

It was agreed that two events would be held in the village:

A cream tea in the Memorial Village Hall on Saturday June 11th

Mr John Tucker was to host a Pig Roast at Folly Farm on Sunday June 12th starting at 4pm. Further details will be posted in the Bigbury News

11.0 OPEN SESSION

Concerns were raised in respect of the poor Broadband service in St Ann's Chapel and the lack of mobile phone signal on the west side of Bigbury-on-Sea

Meeting closed 10:15 pm

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 12th APRIL 2017

Signed.....
Bryan Carson, Chairman, Bigbury Parish Council