

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Bigbury Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 8th June 2016 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr B Carson (in the chair) Cllrs. B Huntley, G Rosevear, S Smith and Clerk R Matthews. D.Cllr L Ward also attended. Five residents were present.

- 1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: C.Cllr R Hosking and Cllr C Case
- 2.0 MINUTES OF MAY MEETING: Cllr Smith proposed the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and Cllr Huntley seconded the proposal. These were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 3.0 MINUTES OF THE APRIL ANNUAL MEETING: These were presented as complete but review and approval was deferred.
- 4.0 MATTERS ARISING (ACTIONS) FROM LAST MEETING AND NOT COVERED IN THIS MONTH'S **AGENDA. The following actions were not closed and will be carried forward to the next meeting.** Some other points are covered later in these minutes:
Write to Mr Simes (Hexdown topic) – Parish Clerk
Parking Bay lines (Sedgewell Slipway) – Parish Clerk – in process
Historic Society Archives – Cllr Carson
- 5.0 OPEN SESSION. The following topics were raised:

Broadband provision within the community. This was not an agenda item but its importance meant it was discussed. However to allow the topic sufficient time for discussion it was agreed to organize a separate 'broadband' meeting at which a DCC specialist, Mr Matt Barrow, would be in attendance, giving a presentation followed by discussion. To ensure the highest level of attendance at this event and therefore put forward the strongest case from the community as a whole, the meeting will be scheduled in three or four weeks and will be widely publicised – Bigbury Community website, Bigbury News, Parish Notice Boards, Memorial Hall, Holywell Stores and at the celebratory events scheduled over the coming weekend.

Action Cllr Carson

Broadband availability within the Memorial Hall. Cllr Carson confirmed the decision that the Parish Council wished to install and pay for broadband capability to be installed in the Memorial Hall. This would be a minimum 24 month contract.

Action Parish Clerk

A legal document would be prepared to allow this to be installed in the Memorial Hall.

Action Cllr Rosevear

D.Cllr Ward added that this type of digital inclusion project would strengthen the case for general improvements to the broadband provision in the wider community.

Declaration of Interest. Cllr Carson read out a statement in respect of Members declaring a personal or pecuniary interest in any topic to be discussed. Cllr Rosevear confirmed an interest in agenda item 8a and confirmed he would not take part in the discussion.

Mr Watts, wished to thank C.Cllr Hosking for his assistance in securing the installation of the Seven Stones Cross sign ahead of the recent Bank Holiday weekend. As C.Cllr Hosking was absent, it was agreed to write a note of thanks.

Action Parish Clerk

Mr Watts also asked that the Parish Council contact Devon Highways in respect of the 'missing' St Ann's Chapel sign.

Action Parish Clerk

Mr Peet stated that the area around the sea front and car park was not in a good state of upkeep, with litter, dogs mess and the half completed Ice Cream Parlour on the Causeway. He added that speeding was becoming a more significant safety issue to the community. Cllr Carson thanked Mr Peet for his public spirited approach of picking up the litter and asked that photos be taken, so that a stronger case could be made to SHDC for some cleaning service.

A resident made the observation that the new Seven Stones Cross sign had directions to Modbury, which were not on the original sign. This could be a traffic hazard as this road is not marked in the same direction as other signs on the same cross roads. Could this please be discussed with DCC Highways.

Action Parish Clerk

A resident expressed concerns at the unsightly condition of the Royal Oak site, specifically referring to the general levels of rubbish that were building up and weeds being untreated. Cllr Carson declared an interest in this topic and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would write to the owners to express the concern.

Action Parish Clerk

A resident who was baking cakes for next weekend's events asked if a charity box could be used on the day. This was agreed.

Mrs Trundle expressed concerns that Royal Mail had removed another post box from Bigbury-on-Sea and that the remaining box was in an unsafe location. It was agreed to take this matter up with Royal Mail.

Action Parish Clerk

- 6.0 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: C.Cllr Hosking was absent from the meeting but had advised the Parish Clerk that Yealmpton Division has a £23k share of the pothole action fund to distribute, so if there is a particularly bad stretch of road that requires urgent attention, please let him know.
The Tidal Road and Dukes Mill were highlighted as such an opportunities and it was agreed to contact C.Cllr Hosking to discuss.

Action Parish Clerk

- 7.0 DISTRICT COUNCILOR'S REPORT: D.Cllr Ward reported:
Waste team are aware of issues around beach car park – surveyed myself and reported on litter in verge. Emails to be sent on to clerk regarding action – litter hit squads to be operating shortly. Will be reporting dog fouling to warden.

Summary of the background to the South Hams economy will be given to the NP group and copied to parish council but note key facts highlighted:

- *SH has the lowest level of economic inactivity in Devon. Residents are economically engaged but this is not translating in to high productivity or competitiveness as most workers are commuters and local business is not high value

- *SH is dependent on the fortunes of neighbouring economies – need to reduce dependency by creating a greater range of 'local' jobs – in higher value sectors – could a more proactive approach help?

- *High levels of employment (second highest in Devon) BUT majority of economically active residents are commuters to surrounding economies – where we and our partners have limited control – need to influence to ensure maximum benefits for our economies trickle down and are captured (City Deal negotiations). Local workers tend to be in lower wage employment.

- *Strong skills base amongst those employed.

- *High levels of self-employment and working from home

- *Work place earnings are amongst the lowest in the UK – higher paid local employment opportunities could reduce commuting and dependency and improve house buying/rental potential

- *Low level of start-ups compared to Devon and UK – Need to understand why – but lots of microbusiness and home grown entrepreneurial support.

- *High percentage of business three year survivals BUT....

- *More business deaths than births (due to low level of births)

- *Low UK competitiveness Index but improving

- *Potential for over-reliance on construction in the future

- *Note - WD has even higher start up survival rate and a very strong entrepreneurial culture – lots of microbusiness. Agri-tech is a key industry and is a focus for the LEP.

- *Majority of businesses were predicting growth over the last couple of years and through to next year. Indications from local business are that this is the case.

Sector Comments

Clear overlap between some of the top employment growth and productivity growth sectors (see list below) – would be a double win with targeted support - need to ensure there are no barriers to this potential take –off. Are the right premises available? Or planned for? Do we know their needs?

BUT NOTE WELL – only one of these double growth areas – construction - is planned for as a priority by DCC – Information and communications and finance are not priorities of DCC. How can we plug this gap?

Top employment sectors for SH and WD – retailing, public sector, tourism, construction and manufacturing. Note that tourism growth remains static BUT there are an increasing number of overseas visitors who tend to spend more. Globally food tourism is on the increase and nationally wellness tourism is on the increase – food is one of our key sectors and there are many microbusiness which are specialising in wellness in the mid part of the South Hams. Need good quality places to stay.

Top employment growth sectors for SH and WD– construction, information and communications, accommodation and food services, transport and storage, business and finance and other services.

Top productivity growth sectors for SH and WD – construction, information and communications, business and finance (all higher value), accommodation and food services, transport (all lower value).

8.0 PLANNING APPLICATIONS. The following were discussed:

- a. 1212/16/HHO Mr & Mrs Byrne, Fairwinds, 1 Devonshire Court, Bigbury-on-Sea. Alteration to dwelling and external terrace/patio area.
Parish Council Decision – Unanimous - Support unconditionally.
- b. 1352/16/FUL Mr & Mrs Hutchinson, Knighton Combe, Combe Cross to Boarshead and Beyond, Aveton Gifford. Agricultural livestock building.
Parish Council Decision – Unanimous – Support unconditionally.
- c. 1433/16/VAR. Mrs Chioccola, Westridge, Warren Road, Bigbury-on-Sea. Removal of condition previously applied.
1435/16/VAR. Amend landscaping and hardstanding areas.
Parish Council decision – Unanimous – Support unconditionally.

The Parish Clerk also advised Members that a resubmission of the Seascape redevelopment was shortly to be published. The agent had provided drawings of the revised plans and these had been shared with the Councillors.

9.0 FINANCE: One invoice was presented and approved for payment – Mr Grant Peek £94.98 for the purchase of presentation boards to display Neighbourhood Plan information. Bank balances were not available as statements were awaited – change of Parish Clerk. The Parish Clerk also advised that an internal audit had been undertaken ahead of publishing the Parish accounts – this showed full compliance for the past year in respect of governance and accounting practice.

10.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

The policy document had been updated and was circulated to the Councillors to review. It is expected this will be approved and adopted as a 'live' Parish document in July 2016.

Action ALL Councillors

11.0 BROADBAND SERVICE – MEMORIAL HALL. Already documented earlier in these minutes.

12.0 CPRE. Councillor Rosevear requested this be carried forward to the next meeting.

Action Cllr Rosevear

13.0 TREE WARDEN: Councillor Carson proposed that Trish Bagley be appointed as Tree Warden. This was seconded by Councillor Huntley. A meeting was to be arranged with the appropriate person at SHDC.
Action Cllr Carson

14.0 BIGBURY-on-SEA LAY BY: The Council acknowledged the need to make better use of this facility and having discounted any option that related to traffic, it was agreed to fully explore the option of fencing off the area and positioning seating where members of the public could enjoy the views over the bay and out to sea.
Action Cllr Rosevear

15.0 HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S 90th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS. Cllr Huntley updated the meeting on the events that would take place over the following weekend. This had been well publicised in the Bigbury News. Cllr Carson confirmed that the Parish Council had allocated funds up to £500 to support the event, including meeting the cost of the pig (Pig Roast).

16.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

RNLI have submitted a proposal to relocate their operations hut during the forthcoming summer season. The Parish Council supported this but requested this be temporary and its success be reviewed at the end of the season. RNLI would be asked to discuss with Council before the start of the 2017 summer season.
Action Parish Clerk

The Armed Forces recruitment office had requested permission to place an Army recruitment trailer in the main car park on Weds 15th June and 5th July 2016. The Council agreed to this request.
Action Parish Clerk

Graham Cridland, Partner Ashfords LLP asked permission for the Burgh Island swim on 21st July 2016. The Council agreed subject to all other agencies being contacted.
Action Parish Clerk

17.0 The Parish Clerk had recently circulated to Councillors a proposal in respect of a new suite of e mail addresses to be used solely for Council matters. This would remove any link to Councillor's personal e mail accounts. It was agreed to implement this at the earliest opportunity.
Action Parish Clerk

18.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING; WEDNESDAY 13th July 2016 – starting at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed 09:45 pm

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