

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 13th July 2016 at 7.30pm

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

- 1.0 Apologies for absence: C.Cllr R Hosking and Cllr I Couper
- 2.0 Minutes of June 8th meeting: Cllr Carson proposed the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and the committee unanimously agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 3.0 Minutes of June 27th extraordinary meeting: Cllr Carson proposed the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and the committee unanimously agreed. These were duly signed by the Chairman.
- 4.0 Matters arising (actions) from last meeting and not covered in this month's agenda:
Parking Bay lines (Sedgewell Slipway) – Parish Clerk – in process
Royal Oak site – unsightly because of weeds – Parish Clerk
Removal of Post Box – Parish Clerk – in process
Suite of E mail addresses for all Councillors – Parish Clerk – in process
- 5.0 Vacancy for Parish Councillor: Mrs Rosemary Owen had applied for the Parish Councillor vacancy and Cllr Carson proposed she be accepted to the position. This was unanimously agreed by the members. Mrs Owen read and signed the declaration of acceptance and was given a copy of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish. Mrs Owen then joined the other council members for the duration of the meeting.
- 6.0 Open session: The following topics were raised:

Resident A raised concern over the unmanaged vegetation on the corner of Bigbury Green as this was forcing traffic to drive further towards the centre of the road. **Action Cllr Carson**

Resident A asked whether the Chapter 8 courses had been organized. This is to be followed up. **Action Cllr Carson**

Resident A also asked whether the recently installed RNLI station needed planning permission. Cllr Carson explained the background and assured everyone it was a) temporary, b) in place to improve safety for residents and visitors, c) to be removed in September and d) would not be re-installed next year without prior discussion and agreement with the Parish Council.

Resident B wished to thank the person who purchased and installed the Bigbury sign, repaired the trough and added flowers in Bigbury Court.

Resident C raised the ongoing concern of dog mess and general waste material. DCllr Ward replied that this had been reported, the Locality Officer had visited, a new and larger bin was being installed for the summer period, a toilet attendant would be put in place for the summer period and finally that Cllr Gilbert had agreed to attend the October parish council meeting to discuss these concerns.

Resident C also raised the issue of unmanaged undergrowth in Marine Drive. DCllr Ward agreed to pass this information back to Cllr Gillbert but residents were encouraged to put such concerns in writing to SHDC.

Further concern was raised in respect of the un-completed ice cream parlour at the top of the slipway. This was to be referred back to the Planning Dept. **Action Parish Clerk**

Many residents raised concerns in respect of the growing sea gull population and the effect it was having on the area. The concerns ranged from a) the spread of disease and the serious health issues this could bring, b) the mess the birds created, c) the noise they made, d) the risk to all (especially children) from swooping to scavenge food and d) the detrimental effect it was having on the tourist trade which was vital to the village economy.

Dr Chris Pawson, a visitor to Bigbury, is working with BANES Council to address a similar issue in Bath. He shared his knowledge on this matter and it was concluded that the root causes of the problem were a) individuals who were prepared to feed the gulls, b) the significant number of empty properties in the area, c) the declining fish stocks in the immediate coastal area, d) a reduction of natural predators and e) changes to the environment.

Dr Pawson recommended a strategic approach and urged the residents to consider a site to which the gulls would relocate, as without such a new haven to migrate to, the problem will remain and potentially grow. Cllr Carson confirmed the council had no power to ask/tell residents to stop feeding the gulls but DCllr Ward added that it was possible to obtain a court injunction to stop named individuals feeding the seagulls.

The following actions were agreed:

Raise this matter in general with SHDC Environmental Health Dept.

Action DCllr Ward

Contact SHDC Environmental Health Dept. both verbally and in writing

Action Parish Clerk

The availability and sourcing of 'gull proof' sacks is to be confirmed.

Action DCllr Ward

A public awareness campaign is to be considered:

Prepare notices for display on the three notice boards.

Action Parish Clerk

Write an article for inclusion in Bigbury News

Action Cllr Owen

Investigate the 'legal' installation of signs and notices.

Action Parish Clerk

Investigate the opportunity to spread the message by printing on the back of the car park tickets.

Action Parish Clerk

Is there a 'licensed gull removal service? – check with SHDC.

Action Parish Clerk

Access to areas of the beach for owners with dogs and lack of signs was discussed and DCllr Ward confirmed she had already raised this matter with SHDC Environmental Health Dept. and the Dog Warden.

Resident D raised a concern in respect the soak away in the Lower Folly Farm fields, asking if the council had any knowledge of this. The Councillors confirmed they had no information on this matter.

7.0 County Councillor's report: C.CLLR Hosking was absent.

8.0 District Councillor's report: D.Cllr Ward reported:

B o S car park issues. Arranged meeting with Cllr Carson and Dan Taylor engagement officer included a tour of car park area focusing on grass cutting and poor sign visibility.

Followed up also on dog fouling – reported to warden and the issues of litter around the B o S car park. There will be a new larger bin added and seagull proof sacks used. The toilet attendant will collect the litter from the bins each evening and first thing in the morning during the summer season.

Local Plan - The district council is currently consulting on the new Joint Local Plan. The consultation ends on 12th August. The JKP when finally adopted will show where housing growth will take place in the region of West Devon, Plymouth and South Hams for the plan period of 2017 -24.. Once all the consultation comments have been considered there will be a statutory consultation on formally proposed sites for housing and the numbers. The consultation is seeking views on this approach as well as on the suggestions in the plan document.

Note that individual villages have not been given suggested sites or housing numbers. However there is an expectation that villages will have new housing during this period but meanwhile this is being left up to the villages to bring forward through neighbourhood plans. Villages are encouraged to be proactive to help shape their own futures.

9.0 Richard Boyt shared the background behind the proposed housing development in Ringmore, outlining the potential benefits this may provide for the population of Bigbury.

10.0 Planning applications: The following was discussed:

- a. 1826/16/FUL The Bay Café, Marine Drive, Bigbury on Sea. Demolition of existing buildings and proposed development of 4 detached four-bedroom houses and new landscaping. Resubmission of 2701/15/FUL)

Councillor Carson opened the meeting to the public, asking them to provide their views in respect of the proposed development.

Having considered all views the council discussed the matter and voted unanimously to object to the proposed development and the Clerk is to prepare a letter to the Planning Dept. outlining the reasons. The detail in the letter is to be circulated to and agreed by the Councillors prior to being submitted. The deadline is 23rd July 2016. **Action Parish Clerk**

11.0 Finance: The following payments were approved by the Council
SHDC £120 Insurance and inspection fee for playing field
Judith Hart £50 - Audit fee for 2015/2016 accounts
Kingsbridge websites £60 - Annual hosting fee
TGO web services £50 - IT work on behalf of Parish Clerk
R Matthews £854.40 - Salary and expenses Mar-Jul
D C Gay £20.50 - Plants for bus shelter
Bigbury Memorial Hall £30 - Hire of hall
Hope Cove Lifeboat £200 - Donation
J Tucker £200 - Pig roast

The Clerk confirmed a balance of £16305.50 was being carried forward but it was not possible to complete the bank balance reconciliation as statements were not available. The Clerk also confirmed that bank mandates had now been signed and these would be lodged with the bank on Thursday 14th July.

12.0 Health and Safety policy: The Councillors voted unanimously to adopt this policy.

13.0 CPRE. Councillor Rosevear requested this be carried forward to a future meeting.

Action Cllr Rosevear

14.0 Tree Warden: Councillor Carson confirmed that Trish Bagley had been appointed as Tree Warden. A meeting was to be arranged with the appropriate person at SHDC.

Action Cllr Carson

15.0 Bigbury on sea lay by: Councillor Carson requested this be carried forward to a future meeting.

Action Cllr Carson

16.0 Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. The Council wish to record their thanks to all who helped with this event, from organizing to making donations. The final cost was £200.

17.0 Broadband installation – Memorial Hall. The Clerk confirmed the BT installation had been delayed until July 27th 2016.

Councillor Case commented the installation of audio/visual equipment would be of benefit to the community and it was agreed to approach the Memorial Hall committee to ask for shared funding on the audio/visual equipment. This was proposed by Councillor Rosevear and seconded by Councillor Owen. The Council agreed unanimously. **Action Cllr Rosevear**

- 18.0 Bench – Warren Point: The Council agreed to replace the damaged bench and quotes would be obtained. **Action Cllr Rosevear**
The damaged bench was to be removed. **Action Cllr Carson**
The memorial plaque on the existing bench is to be kept and repositioned on the new bench. **Action Cllr Carson**

- 19.0 Japanese knot weed: Councillor Huntley raised the issue of Japanese knot wood and it was agreed that SHDC Environmental Dept would be contacted. **Action Parish Clerk**

- 20.0 Correspondence:

SHDC had issued a news release in respect of 'hate crimes' and details could be found on the SHDC website.

John Simes had submitted a footpath report as follows:

Firstly, a big thank you to the many landowners, volunteers and residents who do so much – often unnoticed – to keep our footpath network operating. This involves strimming, clearing weeds or making impromptu repairs. A word of particular thanks to the owners of Glen Cottage (John & Jane Scott) who have made the approach to Footpath 8 and Stoggy Lane such a pleasure for walkers. This also applies to footpath 1 where the owners of Milburn Orchard have composed a garden of Wordsworthian delight.

Our Devon Country officers Ros Davies and Peter Guy continue to provide a great service to us. At Hexdown, where footpath 17 runs past Villa Cruso and across a slope, Ros is getting the very tricky footpath levelled and dug out. This will make a real difference. Peter is in the process of organising the replacement of many 'finger-post' signs up on Folly Farm – over the next few years a great many will need replacing. John Tucker also ensures that where a sign falls over, it is promptly placed upright and held in position until a replacement can be organised, for which grateful thanks indeed.

A reminder to dog owners once again about clearing up after their pooches. Most are brilliant and do it willingly. Some holidaymakers and a small minority of locals are less diligent. The worst areas are from St. Ann's Chapel to Ringmore. My perception of Sedgewell is that things have improved – many thanks to our dog warden who makes this area a priority.

- 21.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING; WEDNESDAY 14th September 2016 – starting at 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed 09:50 pm

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