

## BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr B Carson (in the chair) Cllrs: G Rosevear, R Owen, C Case, B Huntley and Clerk R Matthews. Eighteen residents were present and the meeting was also attended by C.Cllr Brazil

### 1.0 Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr S Smith, Footpath Warden J Simes and C.Cllr R Hosking

### 2.0 Minutes of previous meetings held on January 11<sup>th</sup> and January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017:

The minutes of the meeting held on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 were approved - proposer Cllr Huntley and seconded by Cllr Owen. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 were approved - proposer Cllr Owen and seconded by Cllr Huntley. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

### 3.0 Matters arising (actions) from last meeting and not covered in this month's agenda:

Bay Café - Cllr Carson stated he had spoken to the agent who confirmed the proposal was actively being pursued with the SHDC planning team. The agent expressed no desire to engage further discussion about the design as he stated this was already approved by the Planners.

Playground – Clerk confirmed there was still an unresolved issue with playground equipment and that this was being dealt with. **Action Clerk**

### 4.0 Mr Steve Radford (Parkdean Caravan complex)

Mr Radford kindly agreed to attend the meeting to discuss resident's concerns relating to the transportation of caravans to and from the site; more specifically the road congestion issues this caused.

He confirmed the general objective was to accept new caravans on site late in the evening, allowing the drivers to rest overnight and leave the next morning. Whenever possible he tried to ensure outgoing caravans were managed as a return load. However, he could not guarantee this timing would always be possible as road conditions and traffic volume between Hull and Chalfont-on-Avon affected the driver's available time to work and this was clearly outside of his control. He had however taken a number of additional steps to manage this process – a) take advice from the Highways Agency, b) allow drivers to stay on site overnight, c) accept the goodwill of the local farmers to store caravans overnight to minimise the disruption caused by removal very early in the morning.

He added that historically he had provided the community with a schedule of movements but for the reasons stated above, the schedule could not always be adhered to.

Mr Radford then went on to share the following information about the site itself and its significance to the local community.

- Twelve permanent and sixty seasonal staff are employed at the site.
- Annual caravan movements (inbound – new accommodation) were around sixty.
- Parkdean had agreed to keep open the SHDC public toilets during the winter period at a cost of £2,500 pa.
- SHDC had decided no longer to fund the Lifeguard service and Parkdean were considering taking on this cost.
- £20,000 had been invested to upgrade the lights on the site and address the issue of light pollution.
- The site took responsibility for cleaning the beach daily.

- The site organised a number of events and Mr Radford supplied a full list, which will be displayed on Parish notice boards and on the Bigbury Community website. He urged local residents to become more involved.
- Mr Radford was happy to support the local community and offered to have one of his team members paint the bus shelter – although there was some concern about the request to advertise the site on the bus shelter structure.
- In response to a question, Mr Radford confirmed the site licence was for four hundred and thirty caravans and that the current occupation was around three hundred and ninety five.

Finally, and coming back to the transportation topic, Mr Radford stated the drivers were expected to be courteous and asked residents to contact him directly if they encounter incidents of rudeness.

The Chairman thanked Mr Radford for attending the meeting and sharing the information.

#### 5.0 Vacancy – District Councillor

Following the resignation of Lindsay Ward, a by-election was scheduled for Thursday February 23<sup>rd</sup> for constituents to vote for successor. Two prospective candidates attended this meeting and gave a brief overview of their background and experience. The individuals were:

- Beth Huntley – Parish Councillor for Bigbury – Liberal Democrat
- Jonathan Bell – Parish Councillor for North Huish - Conservative

#### 6.0 Open session: The following topics were raised:

Resident A asked if there was any further progress in respect of the proposed housing development in/around the Memorial Hall as nothing had been heard on this topic for some considerable period of time. The Chairman commented that this was one of four options originally considered but no further communication on the matter had been received. Resident B added that the housing need survey would help determine the need and the publication of the Neighbourhood plan was awaited.

Resident C commented that in respect of the St Ann's Chapel development (4097/16/OPA), Highways were taking the lead. Resident C added that planning a road development without any housing seemed a pointless exercise.

Resident D raised concerns over the condition of the road between Easton and Ashford, which was full of potholes. C.Cllr Brazil was also in attendance and commented that DCC needed £60 million annually to maintain the roads, adding that only £40 million was being made available and the gap was widening each year. C.Cllr Brazil added that Devon has the largest network of roads of any UK County and more roads than Belgium. He further suggested that the Parish Council lobby C.Cllr Hosking for improvements to be made urgently.

**Action – Cllr Carson (Chair)**

Resident E raised further concern about the condition of the Warren as erosion was making the area unsafe, adding that SHDC take all the income from parking charges but make no investment in maintaining the area. Cllr Case suggested we submit a remedial plan from the community to SHDC for consideration and that perhaps grants were available to help fund the work.

**Action – Clerk**

C.Cllr Brazil agreed to discuss the matter with Chris Brooks at SHDC. **Action C.Cllr Brazil**

Resident F asked if it was acceptable and useful to maintain details of holiday accommodation in the bus shelter. It was agreed this should happen.

Resident F raised concerns about the flooding caused by inadequate drain clearance around parts of Folly Hill. C.Cllr Brazil stated that perhaps the 'Communities Highways Enhancement Fund' would be a way of financing the work. This was to be investigated. **Action Clerk**

C.Cllr Brazil suggested the use of contractors for this purpose would be a better solution than the lenglhtsman option as they were better equipped to undertake the task. He added this solution, in his opinion, was also applicable to filling pot-holes in and around the community.

7.0 County Councillor's report:

C.Cllr Hosking was absent from the meeting and submitted his apologies. However comment was made by C.Cllr Brazil that the Council tax was expected to rise by 5% in the next financial year – 2% in respect of the general increase plus 3% in respect of increased funding for social care.

8.0 Planning applications: The following were discussed:

- a. 4097/16/OPA Proposal – St Ann's Chapel proposed development circa 8 dwellings and revised access / road plan. Councillor Carson confirmed the Council had sent a strong letter of objection to SHDC in respect of this proposal. This decision was unanimous.
- b. 3921/16/FUL Land adjacent to Turtle Farm – new single story log cabin. The council had no objection to this proposal and the Clerk commented that he had received notification form SHDC earlier this afternoon that conditional approval had been granted.
- c. Although not an agenda item, Clerk advised the Parish Council that a new application had been received this afternoon in respect of Venus Café, The lower car park, Bigbury on Sea. The application number was 0265/17/FUL and outline drawings were shared via the audio/visual system. The due date for comments was before the next scheduled monthly meeting at it was agreed to arrange a site visit.

**Action Clerk**

9.0 Statement of finances:

Cllr case proposed the following payments be approved and cheques prepared. Cllr Rosevear seconded this proposal. The payments are:

£378.00 – SHDC - printing of Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires

£96.00 – Allwood of Totnes – War Memorial Maintenance

£300.00 – Freedom Garden services – work in playground and Warren

£117.96 – J Gubbins - costs related to Neighbourhood Plan

£38.28 – BT group – rental cost line and broadband Memorial Hall Paid by direct debit

A bank statement to cash book reconciliation had been completed as of February 1<sup>st</sup> and the balance in hand was £15226.58 of which £2340.06 was held as restricted funds for specific projects, with a further £1,000.00 allocated to remedial work on the Warren.

An overview of expenditure and usage of the broadband was also given by the Clerk. Resident C asked if there was an opportunity for the equipment to be used by those residents not having access to Broadband – this was referred back to the Memorial Hall Committee.

The historic storage and condition of road salt was discussed and it was unanimously agreed to spend £180 +/- 10% on bringing the salt back into a usable condition, through re-bagging, and moving to a new secure and dry environment –thanks to farmer Tucker. **Action Clerk**

10.0 Casual vacancy for the office of Councilor:

It was confirmed this vacancy still existed and had NOT been filled.

11.0 Adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations:

Clerk had prepared Standing Orders for the Council and a Financial Regulations document, which had been reviewed by Councillors. Cllr Rosevear proposed his be adopted by the Council and this was seconded by Councillor Carson. The document was distributed to all Council members and should be formally reviewed on an annual basis. **Action Clerk**

12.0 Broadband next steps:

MazingTree and Gigalclear are to be invited to speak at a future council meeting.

**Action Clerk**

13.0 Correspondence:

The following correspondence had been received:

- a) Devon Air Ambulance – identification of night landing site – request to talk to the owner of the golf course and the owner of the fields at the top of Warren Road / Parker Road.  
Ongoing discussion

Meeting closed 09:25 pm

DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY MEETING; WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – starting at 7.30 pm.

Signed.....

Bryan Carson, Chairman, Bigbury Parish Council