

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 12th July 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. B Carson (in the chair), D.Cllr B Huntley, Cllrs: G Rosevear, C Case, S Smith, H Getley and Clerk R Matthews. Nine residents were present.

Declaration of Interest

The Chairman read out a statement in respect of Declaration of Interest.

1.0 Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from John Simes – Footpath Warden

2.0 Minutes of previous meetings held on June 14th 2017:

The minutes of the meeting held on June 14th 2017 were approved – proposed by Cllr. Rosevear, seconded by Cllr. Smith and unanimously agreed by all Councillors. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

Playground – Clerk advised that a recent inspection of equipment had been undertaken by SHDC without issues being raised and that no other company had wanted to provide a quote for minor repairs. They were only interested in major projects.

Playground project – Cllr. Rosevear indicated that funding could be available to support this project and the list of potential suppliers had been narrowed down to ten. There may be 106 funding available and a sum of £7,500 previously set aside from a recent local housing project may be available for such a project.. This project is in process. **Action Cllr. Rosevear**

Bigbury on Sea Lay-By – Further consideration will be delayed until Autumn.

Action Cllrs. Carson, Rosevear Case and Getley

The future of Bigbury news – Louise Wainwright has submitted her name as a potential Editor for Bigbury News and the Council agreed that a plan should be created by herself, the current Editor and the Treasurer to make the transition at the end of December. The plan is to be discussed at a Council meeting in either October or November. **Action All Councillors**

Cllr. Rosevear confirmed the skip placement would be in November.

4.0 Casual vacancy for Parish Councillor

Clerk confirmed that no application had been received to date but the deadline had not yet expired.

5.0 Devon Air Ambulance – options for a night landing site

Toby Russell – Community Landing Sites Development Officer, Devon Air Ambulance Trust attended the meeting to discuss options for a night landing site within the Parish boundary.

Mr Russell explained that the community would be served by the Air Ambulance based at Exeter airport and the Trust was hoping to eventually provide a twenty four hour service option. There are currently forty night landing sites used by the Trust and all needed to be registered, be a minimum of fifty metres square, flat (or no more than a six degree slope), have good road access and be close to the areas of 'higher' population. He added that the closest operational site to the Parish was currently in Kingsbridge, although he was having a similar discussion about a new site with Ringmore Parish Council.

Mr Russell stated he knew the area well and had recently visited, identifying both the Golf Club and a field (farm land) close to Ringmore Drive as potential night landing sites, although the Farmer concerned may need to make changes to the use of land in order for this particular site to be considered further. Resident A asked if the site at the rear of the Memorial Hall had been considered as St Ann's Chapel actually had the greatest number of permanent residents as well as being the community identified for development. Mr Russell agreed to look at this site in more detail adding there was nothing to stop Bigbury having more than one site. Mr Russell further added that each site would need a system of remote controlled flood lighting, mounted on a ten metre high column. The pre-requisite for this was an available source of electricity and a ballpark figure of £2,700 was given for the lighting installation

Mr Russell added that such a site would require planning approval from the District Council and should be considered as a Community Asset. Local (Community) funding would be required but grants may well be available to help fund the project.

The Councillors considered such a landing site would be of great value to the community and it suggested this should be given further consideration and a public meeting organized for the community to be fully involved in all aspects from fund raising to site location.

6.0 Open session

Resident A commented that the grass in the playing field was once again in need of a cut and it was agreed the Clerk would contact SHDC to request this and at the same time provide SHDC with the dates that public events were scheduled to take place in order to ensure the grass was cut in advance.

Action Clerk

Resident B referred to comments made in the minutes of the previous meeting relating to bus (coach) parking and it was agreed he could defer his comments and questions until the arrival of the County Councillor.

Resident B referred to comments made in the minutes of the previous meeting in respect of dog control (segregation) and asked which beach this referred to, adding it seemed illogical to consider scrapping the segregation if bigger and more visible signs could not be installed. Cllr. Carson commented that this was matter under the direct control of the District Council and the very best the Parish Council could do was to request adequate signage, which would be done.

Action Clerk

Resident B stated his disappointment that a letter written to the four Councillors who approved the recent planning application on Burgh Island had only been responded to by the Clerk. Resident B further expressed his views that the Parish Council had disregarded all aspects relating to AONB and had failed to act in a correct manner in respect of Account 106 funding. Cllr. Rosevear vehemently refuted the latter adding that both he and Cllr. Carson fully understood the process, having both been District Councillors in the past. Cllr. Carson added the Parish Council had little 'real' power in such planning matters and it is SHDC planning who make all decisions, however the view of the Parish Councillors when this matter was discussed, some months ago, was that they would support the application. Resident B stated that a large number of people had now signed a petition against this proposed development and that the actions of the Parish Council had seriously damaged the impact such a petition was designed to achieve. In response to a request from Cllr. Carson, the Clerk commented that at the time this planning application was being discussed by the Parish Council, only two (2) objections from local residents had been registered on the SHDC planning portal.

Resident C raised concerns about the current lack of marker buoys in Bigbury Bay, adding that Jet Ski riders were driving their machines in a dangerous manner. The appropriate authorities are to be contacted to address issue. There were also concerns about boats speeding in the Avon estuary.

Action Clerk

Resident C also raised the issue of coaches parking in the car park and taking up large numbers of parking bays. It was unclear as to whether the coaches were paying to park. Resident C would provide evidence for the Clerk to take up with SHDC. **Action Clerk**

7.0 Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan – discussion and update

Jean Wright gave a status update on behalf of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

A Neighbourhood Plan event was held at the Memorial Hall on 17 June 2017. The purpose of this event was to inform the community of the results of the Housing Needs Survey following the publication of a report from South Hams District Council and to discuss how these housing needs could best be met.

The Housing Needs Survey Report states that as part of our Neighbourhood Plan the parish should be making provision for a development of 10-12 dwellings, primarily to meet local affordable housing needs.

St Ann's Chapel is the only 'sustainable village' and from the results of the questionnaire it was considered that this was the best place for this new development. This is also the view of South Hams Council.

Six sites around St Ann's Chapel were considered and those present were asked to vote via a secret ballot box on which site they preferred. The votes were as follows:

Site 1 (Site behind The Petit Pain, The Old Bakery and Old Chapel) = 0

Site 2 (to the rear of the Memorial Hall) = 4

Site 3 (adjacent to Hilltop) = 2

Site 4 (to the rear of The Holywell Stores) = 41

Site 5 (close to Holwell Farmhouse) = 0

Site 6 (to the rear of The Pickwick Inn) = 0

We will now progress further discussions with the local farmer, the District Council, a housing association or Community Trust with regard to this development and the site will be put forward as a site allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Steering Group together with other volunteers have also been carrying out studies of the villages of St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury Village, Bigbury on Sea and Challaborough and we would like the community's comments on these studies. I have copies of these studies with me today and we will also leave some in the Holywell Stores. They can also be accessed via the community website.

We will be leaving a comments box in the Holywell Stores or you can email your comments to our Chairman, Valerie Scott on valeriescott@bigbury.net.

The Clerk confirmed that in addition to this information being made available on the Bigbury Community website, the map showing the six sites referred to above would be included in the Parish meeting presentation that would also be uploaded to the website. The upload of the presentation from each meeting was both a new and permanent act.

8.0 Planning Applications

1820/17/FUL – Chapel Combe Farm, TQ7 4HQ, Construction of new agricultural building to house livestock and hard standing for bale storage.

This application was discussed and the Parish Council has no objection. It was noted the building was to be sited at the far side of the boundary which was suggested may help reduce tractor traffic through the village. Proposed – Cllr. Rosevear, Seconded Cllr. Smith and unanimously agreed.

2057/17/HHO – Villa Crusoe, Lane to Hexdown Farm, Bigbury, TQ7 4BD, demolition of existing garage block /ancillary building and replacement with two story extension. Additional building work as per notice.

Cllr. Case declared a personal interest in this item and abstained from voting.

The application was discussed and the Council had no objection. Proposed by Cllr. Rosevear, seconded by Cllr. Smith Resident, Cllrs. Huntley and Getley abstained and the application was passed by all other Councillors

2088/17/HHO 1 Coastguards, Marine Drive – application for extension to raise and extend existing front balcony and associated internal layout alterations.
Discussion on this application was deferred and a site visit was requested. The Councillors would make a decision, which would be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

Action Clerk

9.0 Planning related topics

Proposed development at St Ann's Chapel – it was confirmed that SHDC had refused this application and it was in the interest of the community to push forward with the recommendations of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Resident A thanked the Council and the Neighbourhood Plan Committee for their input and hard work which helped SHDC reach this conclusion.

Royal Oak site – Cllr. Carson declared a personal interest but commented that developer's aim was to build four houses and in addition consider any options that arose in respect of the Royal Oak building itself.

Bay Café – no further update

Placement of planning notices – a view was expressed that planning notices should be placed on the three parish notice boards – a practice that the current Clerk had stopped. After discussion Cllr. Case proposed the practice be re-instated with further review in January 2018. This was unanimously agreed by the Council.

Action Clerk

10.0 County Councillor's report

C.Cllr Gilbert was unable to attend the meeting and no report was given.

11.0 District Councillors report

D.Cllr Huntley thanked the Parish Councillors and all concerned for their work in respect of the proposed road development at St Ann's Chapel.

D.Cllr also referred to the issues and concerns in and around Bigbury Bay previously raised.

D.Cllr advised the meeting of the possibility that South Hams District Council and South West Devon Council could merge as a cost saving exercise.

D.Cllr raised the profile of ragwort growing on The Warren. Although residents could remove the weed, it was toxic and should be disposed of in the correct manner and was a notifiable weed. **It is important to wear gloves at all times when handling ragwort.**

12.0 AONB – Parish representation

The importance of AONB to the community is acknowledged and after discussion it was agreed that Cllr. Case would use her existing contacts and talk to AONB about opening up improved channels through which information could be better shared with the Council.

13.0 Footpath Warden's report

John Simes sent his apologies and was unable to attend this meeting and there was no further information available.

Cllr Carson reminded everyone of John's intention to resign from this position later in the year and the Council hoped that someone else would be interested in taking on this role.

14.0 Finance: Approval of payments to be made and presentation of finance statement.

Clerk presented the following for payment. Cllr. Rosevear proposed this be accepted which was seconded by Cllr. Smith and all councillors agreed. Clerk was to raise cheques.

£486.00 – R Matthews (Clerk) Salary for 3 months ended 30th June

£287.48 – R Matthews – Expenses for Bigbury Parish Council for 3 months ended 30th June

£60.00 – Kingsbridge websites – 1 year hosting package

£30.00 – Bigbury Memorial Hall – hire of hall

£200.00 – Hope Cove Lifeboat – annual donation

£156.00 – SHDC – insurance and inspection of St Ann's Chapel play area

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

Clerk showed a slide of the current cash book and bank reconciliation statement showing a balance of £19817.29 as at June 30th 2017.

Clerk showed a statement of restricted and reserved funding with a balance of £3090.06.

Clerk confirmed the statutory period for inspection of last year's account ended on July 17th.

15.0 Health and Safety policy – annual review and adoption

Cllr. Rosevear proposed this be adopted for another year. This was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously by all Councillors.

16.0 Clerk's salary annual review

Cllr. Carson proposed this be increased to £10 per hour. Cllr. Rosevear seconded this proposal and the Councillors voted unanimously to approve.

It was agreed to set a formal performance review process

Action Clerk

17.0 Correspondence received

A letter was received from Mrs Trundle (see minute 9 – placement of planning notices).

A letter was received relating to Dementia friendly parishes around the Yealm.

A letter was received from Historic England in respect of the Bigbury War Memorial Cross. This was to be forwarded to the History Society.

Action Clerk

A letter was received from Thurlestone Parish Council relating a project for community wi-fi. Councillors discussed this and felt it had merit and could be of potential benefit to Bigbury on Sea specifically. Clerk to contact Thurlestone to obtain the date, time and venue for a community meeting – this is to be published on the Bigbury Community website.

Action Clerk

A letter was received from Emma Widdicombe, SHDC advising of a swim organized by Ashfords and scheduled for July 20th.

Another letter was received from Emma Widdicombe relating to the review of litter bins.

AOB Clerk confirmed that for purposes of compliance and transparency, in future the slide presentation used at Parish Council meetings would be uploaded to the Bigbury Community website. Correspondence listed above can be reviewed there in full.

Meeting closed 09:30 pm

DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13th at 7:30 p.m.

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