

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 11th October 7.30pm.

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

Declaration of Interest

The Chairman read out a statement in respect of Declaration of Interest and Cllr. Rosevear duly declared an interest (see paragraph 4).

1.0 Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Getley.

2.0 Minutes of previous meetings held on September 20th 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on September 20th 2017 were approved – proposed by Cllr. Rosevear, seconded by Cllr. Carson 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 project – Cllr. Rosevear and Clerk met with Rob Sekula from SHDC and established Section 106 funds totaling circa £27,000 were held in reserve for OSSR projects (Outside Spaces, Sports and Recreation). It was established these funds could be released if a suitable playground project were submitted for consideration.

Cllr. Case stated the park was last updated thirteen years ago and parts of it were now unserviceable and it seems significant damage had also been caused from grass strimming. This was to be discussed with SHDC

Action Cllr. Huntley

Repairs were urgently needed and one quote for just over £1000 had been received. Cllr. Case met with a second company and is awaiting a quotation.

Cllr. Case will work with representatives of the Youth Club and Shrimps and will report back to the Council in December in respect of a proposal for a major upgrade. **Action Cllr. Case**

4.0 Planning application 1667 Merrylees

This application was moved towards the start of the meeting as the owner was present but needed to travel to London that evening.

Cllr. Rosevear confirmed a site visit had taken place earlier in the evening and it was noted that most of the objections made in respect of the original application had been addressed by the architect.

Resident A expressed concerns about the quantity of glass used in construction and the possibility the bungalow sited below would be in clear view of the new build – especially a bedroom. Resident A also commented that demolition of such a traditional building was taking away the history and character of Bigbury-on-Sea.

Finally Resident A made reference to the disruption caused by such major building works, suggesting that a clause should be added to the planning recommendation that restricted demolition and construction work to the period between November and Easter. This was agreed by the Parish Council.

Cllr. Huntley made reference to the process of selecting of a suitable builder, commenting that a particular builder currently working in the area showed apparent disregard for road access, forcing traffic to divert through the car park, with at least one resultant accident. Cllr. Rosevear left the meeting room declaring a pecuniary interest as the builder is a client of his and he had not been forewarned this item was to be discussed.

Cllr. Rosevear proposed the application be supported and this was seconded by Cllr. Smith. Four Councillors voted in favour and Cllr. Case abstained on the basis she was unable to make the site visit.

Conditions and recommendations were to be made to SHDC Planning Office relating to removal of the glass in the top windows, increasing the frame size around the four large windows, a request for SHDC to look into the aspects of AONB new rules / recommendations on light pollution and a clause relating to the time window that demolition and construction could take place.

5.0 Open session

Resident A asked if the development previously approved for Venus Café would compete with Bay Café. Cllr. Rosevear commented that the development would still be an open area and that about a dozen extra covers were created by the plan. Venus Café was much more a beach based establishment and would not compete with Bay Café, if it were to reopen.

6.0 County Councillor's report

C.Cllr. Gilbert reported the potholes in the Easton to Ashford road had been filled and the stretch in the parish of Aveton Gifford was in hand. The clearing of gulleys was becoming an issue and contributing to the pothole numbers adding there was a satisfactory system to report such defects and this had been publicised in Bigbury News and on the Community website.

C.Cllr. Gilbert reminded the Councillors that the Highways Annual conference was to be held and the local venue was Rattery on November 16th.

From a County Council financial perspective, unused and derelict council property to the value of £4million had been sold this year but there was a further £7million to be disposed of.

A further £30million had to be found from the 2018 budget but on a positive note, every school pupil in Devon was to receive an extra £80 of funding – which would be allocated to the schools themselves.

Devolution was back on the Count agenda but this time without the requirement for a Mayor. More would be shared on this in coming months.

To conclude, C.Cllr Gilbert shared the following facts:

- 19.5% of Devon residents have some form of disability
- 11.5% of Devon residents are classed as Carers
- 61.5% of Devon residents are Christian
- 2.5% of Devon residents are classified as being in an ethnic minority
- 6% / 10% of Devon residents have no heterosexual orientation

7.0 District Councillor's report

D.Cllr. Huntley offered the following statistics from the recent 'One Council' consultation;

- 3% of the population of South Hams responded
- 2.5% of the population of West Devon responded

Results from ALL consultation channels gave the following results:

- South Hams – 14.02% said YES and 85.98% said NO
- West Devon – 44.54% said YES and 55.46% said NO
- Combined – 23.61% said YES and 76.39% said NO

D.Cllr. Huntley advised the appeal process in respect of the Bay Café closed for comments on Friday 13th October, adding it was hoped to move the formal meeting on December 19th from Totnes to St Ann's Chapel.

D.Cllr. Huntley advised Mr. Tom Jones from SHDC (Joint Local Plan) would be in the parish next week.

D.Cllr. Huntley advised the edges of the Warren had been cut back.

D.Cllr. Huntley advised a Charterlands Chatter Website had been set up and all residents of Charterlands were eligible to sign up and contribute.

8.0 Improving your technology skill – Phil Shea

Cllr. Carson expressed a desire to see more use made of the broadband equipment installed at the Memorial hall and paid for by the Parish Council.

Phil Shea kindly agreed to attend the meeting and share his thoughts on what could be done, indicating courses would start again in November – week commencing November 9th.

The overall goal was to align computer terms and language into sensible words and the topic he would cover included computer safety, scams, security, how to send more complex e mails, print photos and cloud storage.

To make the sessions cost effective and viable more people were needed and a class size of fifteen.

Cllr. Smith expressed a concern that the branding was Bigbury Seniors Computer Club, suggesting the word Senior should be removed.

Resident B asked if more could be done to instruct on communication techniques.

Resident C commented that WhatsApp was a particularly effective means of communicating at no cost.

In order to support the education process further Cllr. Carson proposed that the Parish Council pay the Hall hire charges for these training sessions. This was seconded by Cllr. Case and unanimously agreed by all Councillors.

9.0 Planning applications and related matters:

K1128/W/17/3171733 – Bay Café – notice of appeal against planning refusal.

Clerk confirmed that a formal letter would be sent to the Planning Inspectorate before the deadline for submissions.

3029/17/HHO – Dolphin House, Folly Hill, Bigbury-on-sea – Boundary wall alterations to form opening for new access gate.

Resident A expressed concerns over safety by having a pedestrian entrance directly on to a road, considered to be dangerous. Approval of such a design would also set a precedent for other properties.

Cllr. Carson proposed the application be supported with the following conditions:

Highways were to be consulted by SHDC to review the safety aspects.

The space is NOT to be used to park a vehicle.

A fixed bar MUST be installed between the pedestrian gate and the road to eliminate any possibility that someone could inadvertently walk straight out of the property into the road.

With these conditions agreed, Cllr. Rosevear seconded the proposal and the Councillors unanimously agreed.

3228/17/HHO – Glen Cottage, road from St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury – Demolition of existing detached garage and erection of new detached garage – resubmission of application 0665/17/HHO

The Councillors had discussed this development as part of the site visit and Cllr. Carson proposed the Council support the application. This was seconded by Cllr. Huntley and agreed unanimously by all Councillors.

10.0 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Huntley confirmed that draft two had been completed and Cllr. Rosevear confirmed a sum of £97,578 was available for use on Affordable Housing projects under the Section 106 allocation. This was of course subject to a satisfactory plan being submitted.

11.0 Layby – Bigbury-on-Sea

Clerk presented some options to redevelop the obsolete bus stop lay by.

Resident A commented that the community had not been consulted on this topic, to which Cllr. Carson stated this had been an open point of discussion for eighteen months and needed to be brought to a conclusion.

Clerk to draft a notice in respect of this and set a timetable. This notice to be placed on notice boards, included in Bigbury News, uploaded to the website and included on Charterlands Chatter.

Action Clerk

12.0 Footpath Warden' report

Norman Botton and Trish Bagley attended for the first time in their capacity as Footpath Wardens, thanking John Simes for a very productive and professional handover.

All 22 of the Parish footpaths have been walked, a distance of approximately eleven miles. Contact has been made with Ros Davies and Peter Guy at Devon County Council. Both Norman and Trish were to attend a DCC workshop at the end of November. They would use Parish Council minutes, Bigbury News, Bigbury Community website and Charterlands Chatter as a means of keeping the residents updated on all footpath and tree related matters.

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

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

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

£540.00 – R Matthews – salary July – Sep 2017

£20.00 – Bigbury Memorial Hall – hire for Parish Council meetings

£120.00 – Grant Thornton – fee for external financial audit

£50.00 – B Carson – Chairman's annual expense allowance

£25.00 – G Rosevear – Councillor's annual expense allowance

£25.00 – S Smith – Councillor's annual expense allowance

£25.00 – C Case –Councillor's annual expense allowance

£25.00 – B Huntley – Councillor's annual expense allowance

£25.00 – H Getley – Councillor's annual expense allowance

Resident C asked if the Councillor's allowances were supported by receipts. Clerk confirmed the individual sums were non material and covered things such as making numerous phone calls, printing, travelling to site visits etc.

Clerk confirmed this allowance was approved as part of the budgeting process (Precept) and Cllr. Rosevear added such expense was covered under DALC guidelines

Clerk showed a slide of the current cash book and bank reconciliation statement showing a balance of £24735.34 as at September 29th 2017.

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

Clerk showed a new slide detailing S106 funds held by SHDC - £97,578 for affordable housing projects and £26,882 for OSSR projects.

Clerk confirmed Parish accounts had been signed off by external auditors – Grant Thornton.

14.0 Casual vacancy for Parish Councillor

This position is still open.

15.0 Correspondence

Details of a meeting of the Avon Estuary Forum were shared – Tuesday 17th October

16.0 Agenda items for next meeting

It was agreed to add Devon Air Ambulance (night landing sites) and Bigbury News to the agenda of the November meeting.

It was also agreed that the start of the December meeting would be delayed until 19:45 as the hall was being used earlier for the Shrimps Christmas party.

Meeting closed 09:30 pm

DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8th at 7:30 p.m.

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