

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 14th February 2018 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Cllr. B Carson (in the chair), Cllrs: C Case, S Smith, E Huntley, H Getley and Clerk R Matthews. C.Cllr Gilbert and twelve residents were also in attendance.

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 Cllr. Rosevear

2.0 Minutes of previous meetings held on January 10th 2018

Cllr. Smith proposed the minutes be approved as being an accurate record of the meeting, Cllr. Carson seconded the proposal and the Councillors voted unanimously to accept the minutes, which were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

Clerk confirmed no changes had been made to exterior lights at the Golf Club.

Coach parking is covered later in the minutes but the following statement was provided by C.Cllr Gilbert 'Buses have not been paying to park in the car park since about 2004 and therefore are parking illegally. PCN's (parking tickets) have been issued against buses parking without consent during 2017 and will be in 2018 and future years.

Clerk confirmed recycling credits had been received from SHDC to the value of £256.70 and the account was now up to date.

Clerk confirmed the notice board in Bigbury village had been fitted with a clasp to stop it blowing open.

Clerk confirmed that the traffic mirror was an in-process task with Devon Highways

The issue of timely grass cutting is still to be resolved.

Action Clerk

Public liability insurance will be included in the Civic day discussion at the March meeting although a summary is included on the supporting notes which will be uploaded to the Bigbury Community website.

Action Clerk

4.0 Open session

Resident A raised an objection to the proposal from SHDC to put a hard surface and a steep slope on the Warren adding this site was of historic significance. It is understood this work was due to start shortly with little communication with the Parish Council.

Resident B added that a survey of options had been undertaken some years prior and the end solution need to provide an aesthetic approach.

Cllr. Case added the slope was important for access but need to be at an angle that was manageable.

C.Cllr Gilbert confirmed a new lease had been negotiated and agreed between SHDC and the owners.

Cllr. Huntley will take up this issue and work with members of the public and SHDC in an attempt to reach a satisfactory outcome.

Action Cllr. Huntley

Resident C provided background information in respect of the planning application (agenda item 7A).

5.0 County Councillor's report

C.Cllr Gilbert apologised that he was not able to attend every meeting, adding his remit covered a total of fifteen parishes.

C.Cllr. Gilbert shared the following key facts:

- Concessionary bus service cost Devon County Council £9 million per year
- The public transport subsidy was £3.3m per year
- Maintenance of public rights of way cost £600k per year (5,000 kms in total)
- EFW plant in Plymouth processed 54,000 tonnes per year
- The CAB grant from DCC was £400k and would not change
- The over 65 population swelled by 500,000 and was up 10% in England
- Residual waste (black bags) falling to 4.94kgs from 5.94 kgs -3rd best UK performance
- 7,700 potholes were fixed in January
- £6.5m extra in 2018/2019 for highways cleaning and patching pot holes
- Council tax increase was to be 5% or £63 per year on a Band D property
- Increase reflected 2.99% general plus 2% Social Care precept

C.Cllr Gilbert confirmed the lease for the Bigbury Car Park had been signed and there was a significant increase in the annual charge which would result in a need to increase fees.

C.Cllr Gilbert confirmed that it was necessary to consider charging for the use of Public Toilets across the County including the facility in Bigbury-on-Sea, adding there was no intention of closing it, selling it or converting it to another use. A number of facilities (Salcombe, Totnes, S. Sands, N. Sands, Slapton, Glanville Mills, Wembury and Dittisham) were approved for conversion for pay to use at a cost of 20p per visit. A pilot scheme had been successful in both Kingsbridge and Dartmouth and pay for use toilets were common in coastal locations across the country. The 20p charge was acceptable to the public using the facilities.

The total annual cost of keeping the toilets open across the County was £700,000 and this review is driven by the need to reduce costs adding there may be an opportunity for local businesses, such as the Venus Group to contribute.

The plan was to implement this change in 2019/2020 and C.Cllr Gilbert confirmed the Parish Council would be involved in discussions to reach the best outcome for the community. Any suggestions on alternative means of funding this would be helpful.

Cllr Carson indicated that passing overall responsibility for the Bigbury-on-Sea toilet back to the Parish Council was not an acceptable option.

Resident D asked if the invest in pot hole repair would mean the re-instatement of The Lengthsman – C.Cllr Gilbert was not sure.

Resident D also asked if the £9m spent on concessionary travel was considered as an option to review, with Resident E adding perhaps a charge of £1 per trip with everyone paying a little would be a way of reducing the burden. C.Cllr Gilbert confirmed this could not be changed.

Cllr. Getley suggested that payment machines should be upgraded at the car park and perhaps installed at the toilet. There was also a need for much better signage

Resident F added perhaps the car park fee should include a sum to allow access to the toilet, also questioning why it was possible to collect and process cash every day from a car park machine but it was not possible to process cash from the public transport system.

Resident G asked why it cost £700k to keep forty eight toilets open. C.Cllr Gilbert started that this included Water rates (very high consumption), Business rates, insurance costs and general upkeep.

6.0 District Councillor's report

D.Cllr Huntley reported the following:

She had written to the Leader of the Council to request machines that can process contactless payments.

The TAP fund had awarded £2,500 towards the Air Ambulance night landing site project (covered later in the minutes)

She had spoken to SHDC on several occasions about coach parking and added it may be an option to use the car park behind Warren Cottage / Bay Café for this purpose.

She confirmed she would take up the issue of renovation work on the Warren with SHDC.

She confirmed further applications had been submitted to demolish Warren Cottage (covered later in the minutes).

7.0 Planning applications and related matters:

Glen Cottage, Bigbury – 4075/17/HHO – application for demolition of existing garage and erection of a new detached garage. Resident C had provided the background to this application which the council members considered. Cllr. Huntley proposed this be supported which was seconded by Cllr. Smith and agreed unanimously.

Waves Edge, Challaborough – 4416/17/FUL – Erect replacement dwelling (re-submission of 1621/16/FUL). Applications on this site had been considered by the Parish Council on two previous occasions – both resulting in an objection being submitted as the roof line on the new building was higher than that on the existing property. The Councillors noted that the latest proposal had not addressed this issue to their satisfaction and that the need to maintain the roof lines on 'front line' properties was of paramount importance.

Cllr. Smith proposed that an objection to this proposal be submitted. Cllr. Getley seconded this proposal and the Councillors voted unanimously to object.

Royal Oak, Bigbury – 3516/17/VAR – Re-advertisement (Revised plans received) Variation of condition number 2 following grant of planning permission 05/2313/14/F to allow changes to approved plans.

4066/17/HHO Long Easton – application for landscaping and engineering works within garden and entrance to property.

This was a retrospective application and Cllr. Carson proposed it be supported. Cllr. Smith seconded the proposal and all Councillors were in support.

Bay Café

Clerk confirmed the tribunal to in respect of the Galion Homes challenge to the ACV application was to be a verbal appeal, despite both the District Council and Parish Council requesting a written appeal. Cllr. Smith pointed out that the deadline to submit supporting documentation was February 19th.

Action Clerk

Clerk confirmed three separate notifications had been received from SHDC in respect of proposals to demolish parts or the entire site. Resident C pointed out that the Galion homes documentation did not submit a proposal for the eradication of Japanese Knotweed from the site. Cllr. Huntley also stated the area of spread had been misrepresented in the documentation. The ecological report was also out of date. After further discussion the Council stated the agreement in principle to object to the three proposals.

Action Clerk

Resident C further stated that the more objections that were submitted to SHDC in terms of the demolition proposals, the greater the weight it would carry.

8.0 Neighbourhood Plan

Valerie Scott was provided an update, the text of which is included as an appendix to these minutes.

9.0 Venus Café – application to variance to licence to sell alcohol

Cllr. Huntley expressed concerns in respect safety issues when people mix alcohol and then take to the sea (rip-tide), especially as there may reductions in the level of life-guard cover. After further discussion Cllr. Carson proposed the time extension be approved but objected to the other change in condition removing the condition linking the sale of alcohol to the sale of food. Cllr. Smith seconded the proposal which was approved by the Council. Both Cllr. Huntley and Cllr. Getley abstained from the vote. A response is to be sent to the SHDC licensing department.

Action Clerk

10.0 Oyster shack – opportunity to sell oysters and crab sandwiches from a stall on Sedgewell Beach

Cllr. Carson stated it was not within the power of the Parish Council to either grant or refuse this request. It is the responsibility of Keiron Vanestone to gain permission from 'The Crown'. The members of the Council agreed with this position, although Cllr. Huntley wished to abstain from the discussion.

11.0 Footpath Wardens' update and P3 submission

Norman Botting stated he, and Trish Bagley, had been in discussion with Ros Davies from Devon County Council, confirming money would be made available for regular maintenance and it was the responsibility of the Parish to complete the work. Additional funding had been requested for a new gate on footpath 19.

It was confirmed the work on the National Trust footpath at Clematon Hill had been completed, with a huge improvement in the access provided. Further signs were now needed.

The P3 funding request was completed by Norman and Trish and was to be submitted to Devon County Council by the end of February.

Action Clerk

12.0 Playground

Cllr. Case confirmed the park was unsafe and was effectively condemned by the insurers, who had also asked the Parish Council to ensure any replacement equipment was fully compliant to British Standards (BS).

SHDC had recommended a person who may be able to undertake some short term remedial repair work although he would be unable to remove and replace the rubber matting. The Parish Council would try and find an individual to undertake this task.

Cllr. Case had spoken to two companies who could potentially supply new replacement equipment adding that it may be possible to apply for a National Lottery grant as well as accessing the SHDC OSSR funds, reported in the Parish financial analysis.

Cllr. Case proposed a committee be formed to bring this topic to a swift conclusion, requesting all Councillors visit the site, perhaps at a time to coincide with a planning site visit.

Action Clerk

13.0 Bigbury News – update from the Editorial team

Louise Wainwright confirmed the 'new' Bigbury News was up and running and £3,500 of incremental colour advertising revenue had been generated. There was however some discussion with the printers over the cost of printing and Louise hoped this would be resolved this week. Louise further confirmed that Lucinda Ellis had taken on the bookkeeping role.

Cllr. Case proposed the Parish Council continue supporting Bigbury News and that a grant of £500 be made. This was seconded by Cllr. Smith and unanimously approved by all Councillors. Clerk confirmed this was covered in the budget for the current year.

14.0 Devon Air Ambulance – update on night landing site at Bigbury Golf Club

Clerk confirmed the SHDC TAP fund had provided a grant of £2,500 towards this project. This would be supported by a grant from Devon Air Ambulance and a donation from Bigbury Golf Club, meaning the project was fully funded.

It was expected the site would be live in spring 2018 and the next step was to submit a planning application at a cost to the Parish Council of £95.00. **Action Clerk**

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

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

£20.00 – Modbury Memorial Hall – hire of hall for Precept meeting

£50.00 – Devon Communities Together – annual membership fee

£500.00 – Bigbury News - grant

£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 £23,298.14 as at January 31st 2018.

Clerk showed a statement of restricted and reserved funding with a balance of £8,077.49 which included a sum of £4,987.43 (grant for Neighbourhood Plan)

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

16.0 Celebrations to mark the upcoming Royal Wedding

This was not covered and will be added to the March meeting agenda.

Action Clerk

17.0 Correspondence

Full details of all correspondence can be found on the Bigbury Community website but for reference the summary of documents received is as follows:

Notification of a planning application for Bay View, Clematon Hill

E Mail from Lynn Hiscock asking that the topic of renovation work on the gates of St Lawrence Church remains an open topic.

E mail in respect of new benches along the coastal area

Letter of thanks from CAB in respect of donation

E Mail communication in respect of Tidal Road clean up

E Mail from Devon Highways – statutory consultation

E Mail from Devon Highways –Snow Warden

18.0 Dates of upcoming Parish Council meetings

March 14th - April 11th - May 16th re-scheduled from May 9th - June 13th - July 11th - September 12th - October 10th - November 14th - December 12th

19.0 Agenda items for next meeting

It was agreed to include Playground, Civic Day, Royal Wedding and Signage to the agenda of the March meeting.

It was also agreed to invite Mr Steve Radford from the Challaborough site to the meeting to give an update on the significant events for the coming season.

Meeting closed 09:45 pm

DATE OF NEXT MONTHLY MEETING - WEDNESDAY March 14th at 7:30 p.m.

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