

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 11th April 2018 at 7.00pm.

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

Declaration of Interest

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

Casual vacancy for the office of Councillor:

Mrs Valerie Scott, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Planning Committee, had applied for the Parish Councillor casual vacancy and Cllr Carson proposed Mrs Scott be accepted to the position. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Rosevear and was unanimously agreed by the members. Mrs Scott read and signed the declaration of acceptance. A copy of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Parish, which is a sub section of the schedule of documents, policies and procedures followed by Bigbury Parish Council is to be provided by the Clerk who is also to advise the Electoral Office of SHDC of the appointment. **Action Clerk**

Mrs Scott then joined the other Parish Council members for the duration of the meeting.

1.0 Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Case

2.0 Minutes of previous meetings held on March 14th 2018

Cllr. Rosevear proposed the minutes be accepted as being an accurate record of the previous meeting. Cllr. Smith seconded the proposal and all 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:

Mr Radford asked if it would be possible to use the side wall of the bus shelter as advertising space for the holiday park and he would ensure whatever was placed there would be suitable. SHDC planning restrictions may apply. **Action Mr Radford**

D.Cllr Huntley suggested this space may be needed to advertise the Bay Café but the Chairman advised this was in the future and needed further consideration.

4.0 Open session

Cllr. Carson agreed to the request from Jill Gubbins to discuss the Civic Day – Jill wished to leave in order to attend the annual meeting of the St Lawrence Church Council.

"Last year, local residents on a visit to Modbury's twin town of Lanveoc in Brittany saw their French counterparts participating in activities associated with an annual civic day, volunteering a little time to tackle a range of tasks to make their locality more attractive - things like weeding public flower beds, mending broken items, cleaning signs, redecorating a public hall, painting up a converted container for sharing books.

Modbury Parish Council took this idea on-board, and by the time you read this, Modbury Marigolds Day will have taken place, with residents sprucing up the town after the winter ready for visitors. Equally, Bigbury Parish Council is proposing the idea of a civic day in our parish, to tackle some of the niggling jobs that get raised by parishioners, but that just never seem to get to the top of the priorities list in these days of cutbacks! The parish is not only a beautiful home to many of us, but also a prime spot for tourism, which contributes financially to our local businesses, so keeping the area attractive helps sustain those businesses and in turn the residents - a win-win all round for our community.

The parish clerk has been compiling a list of tasks that might be done under the auspices of a civic day and if you have something in mind to suggest - please, a job on public land, and safe! - and/or would be prepared to volunteer a couple of hours or so to undertake a task, with a friend or as part of a small group, please do contact the people below by the next Parish Council meeting, Wednesday 16th May. (NB this is a week later than the usual date for council meetings). A decision will be taken at the meeting as to whether there is sufficient response to proceed, (Friday 8th June is the proposed / agreed date), and on the precise organisation of 'Busy B(igbury) Day'. It would be lovely if each part of the parish, or St Ann's Chapel, Bigbury Village and Bigbury on Sea at least, can have an activity occur that makes that community noticeably improved!

The people to contact about helping with this novel community action are: Parish Clerk, Jill Gubbins or any Parish Councillor.

5.0 County Councillor's report

C.Cllr Gilbert reported on the County's progress in respect of road repairs and shared the following communications from earlier in the day:

Dear Clerks, Councillors et al,

I am just back from County Hall Cabinet and much discussion about highways pot holes, flooding etc.

You will see from the below an email the backlog is building up, after the last months appalling weather and I suspect it will take all summer to catch up.

Added to that, normally pot hole reports run at about 200/day. At present they are running at 600/700 per day.

I and my fellow DCC Councillors are of course under some stress to get things fixed. I'm doing all I can, so please be patient.

Dear Councillors

Some of you have recently been in contact with us to highlight defects needing action.

Although we are willing to accept your reports, your NHO does not have (or has ever had) direct control of the contractors workforce and is unable to have these locations given preference above Skanska's own priorities. We do have a good working relationship with our local contractor so can pass these requests on as supplemental if they complete their workload.

However, due to the damage caused by the recent weather Skanska reported an increase in pothole reports. At the Devon Highways Board meeting they proposed to prioritise only defects recorded by the safety inspectors. This decision was approved but has led to a backlog of potholes reported by the public. Since the new year Skanska have increased the number of gangs tackling potholes on the highway network and are working hard to manage the workload but it is expected that the backlog may take weeks to bring under control.

This is leading to the increased contact from your Constituents which is likely to continue. Devon County Council and Skanska are working to resolve the issue but currently there is no means for your NHO to intervene in the current working practice. We are aware of the difficulties this causes but appreciate your support through this busy period.

It was agreed that Clerk would recirculate details of how to report pot holes to DCC. This was to be sent to all Councillors and publicised on both the Bigbury Community website and in Bigbury News.

Action Clerk

C.Cllr Gilbert advised that the issue of the broken mirror in St Ann's Chapel and the damaged Seven Stones Cross sign would be discussed with Adam Keay on his return to work next week.

The following was also shared:

- The cost of maintaining Adult Social Care was high and Totnes MP Sarah Woolaston was of a view this should be integrated back into NHS.
- On a grim note there were between 60 and 70 suicides in Devon each year.
- 95% of grey bin waste was being incinerated at the waste site in Devonport, Plymouth.
- The issue of the Slapton Line had been resolved.
- With the roll over into a new financial year, C.Cllr Gilbert confirmed that funds were available for investment. This would be from the 'Invest in Devon Fund' for capital projects and also through the Locality fund. C.Cllr Gilbert added he would be willing to support the civic day through purchase of cleaning items etc.

Cllr. Scott asked whether the capital fund could be used to address the issue of speeding cars through St Ann's Chapel – perhaps through the laying of a different coloured road surface.

This was to be considered further.

Action Cllr. Scott

Cllr. Carson also agreed to look into the option of installing a Variable Average Speed camera / sign.

Action Cllr. Carson

- Cllr Getley enquired about the possibility of installing a Ringo system at the Bigbury-on-Sea car park. C.Cllr. Gilbert stated this should be referred to the District Councillor.

Action D.Cllr Huntley

6.0 District Councillor's report

D.Cllr Huntley shared the following:

- Burgh Island changed hands this afternoon – the new owner is Mr Fuchs (company OSIT)
- The Warren Cottage/Bay Cafe ACV challenge was withdrawn yesterday, so it was good not to have to fight this challenge in Leicester on May 25th.

Latest update: I've met with two interested parties both speaking with Angus Mac, both with second homes at Bigbury-on-Sea. One would want develop cafe and cottage, the other same but would also build 2 houses on car park as well.

Additionally met with 2 lease holders, one today and spoken to the other in the past, now potentially interested in running cafe, both of whom run cafes in Bigbury Bay.

- Waves Edge Challaborough. John Simes and Bryan Carson spoke eloquently in DMC, who took into account Council's written request from for consistency with their decision last time the application was discussed - which also mirrored that of appeal inspector. Decision was NO to design offered. Six Planning Committee members said yes they find this fresh design acceptable provided they submitted plans showing new roof reduced to original roof height. Two opposed this with one abstaining as they thought this design was too uninspired for such a beautiful location.
- The Warren car park overnight tariff has increased from £8 to £9, providing the necessary 2% increase required by SHDC.
- Joint Local Plan has finished inspection but is not yet sound and can't applied in planning matters yet.
- Colin Whybrow, a Modbury Parish Councillor is a qualified playpark inspector and will be introduced to Cllr. Case to offer advice on the Playpark project.
- Adrian from South Hams CVS is available to advise on grant funding for the Playpark project.

7.0 Planning applications and related matters:

Waves Edge, Challaborough – Covered in District Councillor's report above.

Bay Café – application for demolition – notices 1143/18/PAA and 1145/18/PAA

Cllr. Scott advised this was a re-submission and related to the issue of Japanese Knotweed, more specifically a report provided by Acorn Ecology on behalf of Galion Homes.

The Parish Council were opposed to these applications and Cllr. Scott requested a further report be commissioned on behalf of the Parish Council by JFA at a cost of £350.

Cllr. Rosevear proposed this be accepted, Cllr. Huntley seconded the proposal and the Councillors voted in support – with one Councillor abstaining.

Warren Cottage, Marine Drive, Bigbury-on-sea – 0828/17/FUL – application for development of #3 detached four bedroom houses and #1 three bedroom maisonette above 61.5 sqm mixed use D1 Use Class and A3 Use Class commercial unit.

All Councillors had reviewed the plans submitted prior to the meeting and the overall view was that there were no positive features in this proposal. The development was not at all in keeping with surrounding area, it was impractical, the proposed café area was smaller than the existing facility, there was no kitchen space and it lacked a car park. Cllr. Carson proposed that the Council object to the proposal, this was seconded by Cllr. Scott and agreed by all Councillors unanimously. Clerk to prepare formal response. **Action Clerk**

8.0 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Scott, in the capacity of Chairman of the Bigbury Parish Neighbourhood Plan steering group, gave the following update:

Land Option Agreement for community-led housing scheme

SHDC are currently preparing a land option agreement in relation to the community led housing scheme on land which forms part of Holwell Farm to the rear of the Holywell Stores and the two new houses on the eastern side of the B3392 when entering the village from Seven Stones Cross. Bigbury Parish Council will be involved in liaising with SHDC and the landowners on the layout and details of the proposed development and Option Agreement asks for a contact name to represent Bigbury Parish Council. I would suggest that the Chairman of the Parish Council should be the main contact although I would continue working with Bryan with regard to the progress of development on this site.

Until this agreement has been signed SHDC are reluctant to spend any more funds on the project but they have advised that they would be willing to make funds available to the Parish Council to fund any further work involved once this option agreement is in place.

When we have progressed that plans a little further and discussed these with the landowners we will then be in a position to hold a community event to obtain the views of the whole community and to ensure that any future development on this site does accord with the aspirations of the community, provides for local housing needs, particularly affordable housing, and is a development that we can all be proud of.

The initial concept plan shows 12 dwellings, one for the use of the landowners, two for private sale to make the scheme viable and 9 affordable dwellings of mainly two with some three bedroom units. We are also proposing to include two bungalows or houses suitable for the elderly as part of this mix. The houses will remain affordable in perpetuity with preference given to people who already live in the parish or have direct connections through work or family.

The heritage assessment has now been completed by Oakford Archaeology and has been sent to Historic England and Devon CC Heritage Department for their comments.

The Initial Ecological Assessment has been completed and the initial Landscape Assessment is expected shortly.

Views, vistas and local heritage list

The closing date for suggestions re identifying important local views or buildings or structures of local heritage value has been extended to 20th April. The box for comments is at the Holywell Stores or suggestions can be sent straight to me at valeriescott@bigbury.net.

We will be doing the events with the local youth of the parish once I can walk around without crutches.

Draft Neighbourhood Plan

I have sent to all Parish Councillors a copy of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. This has also been sent to SHDC officers, Historic England and the AONB Unit for comment. We also need AECOM to complete the Strategic Environmental Assessment and then we can carry out a wider consultation with the parish. Views of the Parish Councillors would be welcomed.

Clerk confirmed that two grants given to the Parish Council by Groundworks UK had now been closed. Details of these grants and how the funds were spent can be found in the Bigbury Parish Council pages on the Bigbury Community website – 'Presentation at April 11th 2018 Parish Council meeting (slides 21 and 23)

9.0 Proposal for a Civic Day – general housekeeping of Parish

Covered in open session

10.0 Playground

In the absence of Cllr. Case this was adjourned to a later meeting.

11.0 Signage in and around Bigbury-on-Sea car park

This topic was adjourned to a later meeting.

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

With reference to 8.0 above Clerk showed details of the cheques raised against the grants received.

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.

£25.00 – R Matthews – reversal of cash paid into account

£96.00 – Allwood of Totnes – maintenance of war memorial

£120.00 – SHDC – payroll services

£140.24 – DALC – annual affiliation fee

£420.00 – JFA Ecosystems – knotweed report

£45.00 – SHDC – provision of maps for local plan

£965.83 – R Matthews – salary £540, expenses £425.83

£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 £16,240.04 as at March 31st 2018.

Clerk showed a statement of restricted and reserved funding with a balance of £3,090.06.

Clerk showed details of S106 funds held by SHDC – £97,578 for affordable housing projects and £24,194 for OSSR projects.

13.0 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:

SHDC – permission in principle – changes to planning rules

Beach clean at Bigbury

Travel Devon transport awards

Council Tax road show at Bigbury-on-Sea

AONB communication

SHDC – SeaMoor Lotto update

Modbury Caring – thank you letter for donation given
SHDC car parking charges
Mrs Trundle – complaint about pot holes and general maintenance
DCC – update on potholes and backlog of work
St Luke’s Hospice Plymouth - seminar

14.0 Dates of upcoming Parish Council meetings

May 16th (Annual General Meeting) re-scheduled from May 9th
June 13th - July 11th - September 12th - October 10th - November 14th - December 12th

15.0 Agenda items for next meeting

It was agreed to include Playground, Civic Day, Signage and 100th anniversary celebrations of the Armistice on the agenda of the May meeting.

Meeting closed 08:10 pm

Date of next meeting is WEDNESDAY May 16th at 7:30pm (rescheduled from May 9th) – please also note this is the Annual General Meeting of Bigbury Parish Council.

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