

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Bigbury Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann's Chapel on WEDNESDAY 11th April 2018 at 8:10pm

PRESENT: Cllr B Carson (in the chair) D. Cllr. E Huntley, Cllrs. G Rosevear, S Smith, V Scott, H Getley and Parish Clerk R Matthews. Eight residents were present.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received from Cllr. Case

2.0 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING April 2017.

Cllr. Rosevear proposed these minutes be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting. Cllr. Smith seconded the proposal and Councillors voted unanimously to approve them.

3.0 CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

As you all know, we are now three quarters of the way through this term as a Parish Council. From my point of view as Chairman, I would like to emphasise how much I see the work as a team effort. I am very grateful for the support of the hardworking, reliable people sitting here with me as we try to do the best we can to represent the interests of the whole community, and I thank you all for your contributions. I would also like to congratulate Richard, our Parish Clerk, who has done such an excellent job in bringing us into the modern world of communication technology. He deals with a large amount of information and correspondence, and we are all very grateful for the work he puts in.

You will know that during this year Rose Owen has resigned as a councillor. Her contributions and knowledge were immensely valued, and we are very sorry to have lost her. After ten years she also retired as editor of the Bigbury News in December, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank her yet again for her tireless efforts in making such a huge contribution to the community as a whole.

Others who have made valued contributions are John Simes who retired as the Footpath Warden after several years. Trish Bagley continues as our tree warden, and has also taken on the role of Footpath Warden with Norman Botton.

Stuart Watts continues to run the Community Website, for which we are very grateful, and you will all have received the first copies of your new look Parish Magazine which has been produced by Louise Wainwright who has lived in the parish for just over a year. We are very glad to welcome her to Bigbury!

Last year I reported on the loss of several businesses in the parish, and I am pleased to report that there have been no further losses this year. However we do continue to face the same challenges, and fight the same battles as before. We are still trying very hard to re-instate the Bay Cafe at Bigbury on Sea, where they wish to build four new houses which is an example of how we are still finding that we have to contest planning applications that are not sympathetic to the needs or character of our beautiful parish. We DO need affordable homes for local people who will make permanent homes here, and we DO NOT need expensive properties that will only be occupied for a few weeks each year.

It is extremely disappointing that there will be luxury houses and a new road layout at St Ann's Chapel, after we fought so hard to prevent it. There will of course also be four new luxury homes at the Royal Oak site in Bigbury Village.

Val Scott and the Neighbourhood Plan team have done an excellent job in producing the first draft of the document, which addresses many of these concerns. Hopefully it will be adopted this year, and it will strengthen our position in dealing with difficult planning matters in the future. We are very grateful for many hours of hard work put in by the team.

Part of the Neighbourhood Plan is to provide some affordable housing for local people, and we are making some progress with this project.

I would like to finish by again thanking all the businesses, organisations and individuals who make such sterling contributions to the vibrancy of this community. Included in this are Holywell Stores, The Pickwick, Unwind Salon, the Golf Club, Parkdean at Challaborough, the Memorial Hall Committee, and all those who run various activities and clubs here.

4.0 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT

Bigbury (Kingsbridge West) continues to be policed by PC Ryan Hayhurst and PCSO Warren Palmer under the supervision of Inspector Tapley and Sergeant Dave Green.

In the last 12 months 10 crimes have been recorded in the parish, out of a total of 790 for the whole of Kingsbridge and Salcombe areas. This is against 4 for the same period in the previous year 2016/2017 in Bigbury.

Of the 10 crimes recorded in the last 12 months between 29/03/17 – 11/04/18, the breakdown is as follows:

- Assaults 3
- Theft offences 3
- Offences relating to Public Order 2
- Burglary (outbuilding attached to a dwelling) 1
- Drink Driving 1

(These figures do not include all recorded non crime domestic incidents, traffic offences and safeguarding enquiries)

Emerging Trends and/or outcomes:

Two offences listed are relating to the same offender at the same location.

- Crimes where offenders have engaged with Community Resolution/reparation to victim - 1
- Suspects charged or reported and summons to Court – 3
- Crimes where suspects have been identified by victims or Police but no further action taken due to; evidential difficulties/victim not wishing to support Police action/inappropriate due to age or vulnerabilities – 1
- Crimes with no known suspect – 5

PC 6486 Ryan Hayhurst
Kingsbridge Neighbourhood Team.

PC Hayhurst further advised the Parish Council that the VAS (Variable Actual Speed) indicators were a good device to help address the issue of speeding traffic, adding that any deterrent is a good deterrent. In the same manner, installing locks to gates and outdoor buildings has a similar effect of deterring theft.

5.0 FOOTPATH WARDEN'S REPORT

Norman Botton spoke on behalf of himself and Trish Bagley who took over as 'joint' Footpath Wardens in September 2017. Norman also took this opportunity to thank John Simes for all the support he had given during the transfer of responsibilities.

At the start of their involvement the Wardens walked all 11.8 miles of the Parish footpaths, identifying areas that needed attention. Trish Bagley completed this task again and their findings formed the basis of the Parish P3 submission to Devon County Council. This document was comprehensive and well received by Ros Davies who has overall responsibility at County level.

In November they attended a training day where they met both Ros Davies and Peter Guy, the latter being responsible for fixing broken gates, replacing posts etc. Norman reported on a meeting with the representatives from the National Trust and stated the improvements to the path on Clematon Hill had been completed to a high standard. More recently both Norman and Trish had actively been clearing footpaths and Norman commented on the importance of receiving updates from the local community as a means of informing where there were footpath issues.

Norman suggested that perhaps a Parish Walking Day could be organised; an opportunity for everyone to access all areas. Louise Wainwright agreed to include something on this in a future edition of Bigbury News.

6.0 TREE WARDEN'S REPORT

Trish Bagley also holds the role of Tree Warden and reported as follows:

All three villages had been looked at regarding trees of importance that should be preserved for the future. There are four trees at Bigbury-on-Sea and two on Burgh Island waiting TPO assessment by Alex Whish (Tree Officer for South Hams) and on completion he will providing a written report (cc Parish Council). There are trees in Bigbury Village that are of importance, although these are in the conservation area so under protection already.

The woodlands within the Parish are mainly mixed and have been assessed to the best of my ability, although some have poor or limited access. These areas could also be put forward for protection if the Parish Council and Neighbourhood Planners feel it is necessary, especially as Mr Johnson's shooting enterprise is expanding.

Ash die back remains a big concern for the future along with acute Oak and Chestnut decline (combination of rust and disease). Anyone having a concern over a specific or group of trees is encouraged to contact me and I will investigate further. Such issues were discussed in November 2017 at a South West tree forum which also looked at tree mapping and a new website called 'treezilla'. This meeting concluded with a walk around Dartington Hall gardens.

7.0 REPORTS FROM LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Bigbury News – Louise Wainwright provided her first annual update stating that three editions of Bigbury News had now been produced in the new format, thanking everyone for their support through the start up. Special thanks were also given to Rose Owen for all the work undertaken as Editor of Bigbury News before Louise took over.

She thanked all advertisers for their support adding the introduction of colour advertising was an important and new step forward and the increased and incremental revenue generated from the more attractive images was vital as the cost of production was higher. Louise stated that the direct cost (materials etc.) amounted to £1 per copy. Both her time and that of other people involved in the production was in addition to this £1 figure and was effectively 'a labour of love'. Louise thanked the Parish Council for their annual donation but was hoping to raise further donations to help support the enterprise as making money to support local good causes and charities was an aim.

A committee was being formed to oversee the magazine's publication and other options were being considered as incremental revenue streams.

Cllr. Carson thanked Louise for her input and effort, further emphasising the importance of the magazine to the community.

Bigbury Community Website – Stuart Watts stated the website was a complementary source of information to the Bigbury News and confirmed that the number of hits to the website was slowly increasing, with the Parish Council pages attracting a significant share of the total. The site continued to be hosted by 'Kingsbridge Websites' and some improvements / changes had been made to the log in, especially Catcha.

If and when accessed it could be a valuable source of information although there appeared to be a dis-connect between itself and local Tourist Information Offices, resulting in Bigbury not being publicised as well as it may be. Cllr. Rosevear, as a representative of Modbury Tourist Information and Cllr. Getley, as a local business person showed an interest in developing these links for the long term benefit of the local community.

It remained an important communication tool and means of ensuring full transparency on Parish Council matters.

Memorial Hall – Charles Harrington was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following update: *During the last twelve months we have continued to try our best to*

contribute to the community life of Bigbury Parish and to increase cohesion between the various centres of population.

This is done, mainly, in two ways. First, we provide a venue for regular group activities such as fitness classes, yoga, the history society, Parish Council meetings and South Hams Shrimps. It is good to report that the Youth Club, which recommenced last year, is attracting decent numbers. Also, we have more regular activities in the form of Zumba classes and a Christian meeting group.

Secondly, we stage regular social events during the year. Events have included two wine tasting evenings, a quiz evening, the Bigbury Garden and Produce Show, the Church Bank Holiday bazaar, two film and food nights and two Villages in Action events.

In addition, the Hall has been well used for private functions and this has increased markedly as a result of the building improvements made over the last few years.

We have continued to upgrade facilities wherever we can and are about to refurbish the rear extension roof and replace all rainwater goods and install a new cooker.

RNLI – Simon Crayfourd was also unable to attend the meeting and provided this informative update in respect of the 2017 season: *107 people were aided by lifeguards at Sedgewell Cove and Bigbury North, this was made up of the following incidents:*

- *15 rescues and 7 mass rescues of groups of 3 or more*
- *13 assistances*
- *4 major first aids*
- *70 minor first aids*
- *3 searches*

In addition to the lifesaving activity undertaken the lifeguards remained busy undertaking preventative actions to help educate the beach users on how to enjoy their time on the beach as safely as possible. In 2017 they completed over 19,000 preventative actions, which range from face to face advice to erecting safety signage and making public address announcements. Having the lifeguard facility positioned above the beach for the second year was again invaluable, the view it provides ensures that whether the lifeguards are positioned at the water's edge or the at the facility they have a clear view of the beach and are easily identifiable to the public.

There was a noticeable increase in the number of people swimming, kayaking and stand up paddle boarding around Burgh Island. This is something that the lifeguards at both Bigbury North and Sedgewell Cove were monitoring closely in 2017 and will remain a focus in the coming season as this is a potentially high risk activity due to the lack of visibility once they are behind Burgh Island. We have been encouraging people to check in and out with the lifeguards if they intend to go around Burgh Island so the lifeguards are aware.

8.0 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS

Cllr. Carson thanked everyone for their efforts and time expended to both Council and Community matters over the last year.

Meeting closed 09:25 pm

DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2019

Signed.....

Bryan Carson, Chairman, Bigbury Parish Council