BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Bigbury Parish Council held in the Memorial Hall, St Ann’s Chapel on WEDNESDAY January 8th 2020 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs: G Rosevear (Acting Chairman), S Smith, C Case, V Scott, S Watts. Cllr B Taylor (District Councillor) and Cllr. R Gilbert (County Councillor) and 14 residents were also in attendance.

1.0 Declaration of Interest

No declarations made when this item was raised but later in the meeting Cllr. C Case declared an interest as an adjoining owner of land in relation to Item 10a.

2.0 Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from the Mr R Matthews (Parish Clerk) and Cllr. E Huntley (Chairman).

3.0 Minutes of previous meetings held on December 11th 2019

Cllr. Rosevear read out two proposed changes to the minute as follows:

‘*Re issues relating to sewage infrastructure for St Ann’s Chapel Cllr. Scott’s comment was that South West Water had been consulted at the outline application stage and not objected but the details showed a much larger scheme, more houses now all 4 bedrooms’.*

*Re Bigbury Cottage Proposed Barn the last sentence should read that the District Councillor agreed to discuss the scheme with the Planning Officer.’*

Cllr Smith proposed the minutes be accepted as an accurate record of this meeting. Cllr Watts seconded the proposal and all Councillors present at that meeting voted unanimously to accept the minutes. These have now been signed by Cllr Rosevear.

4.0 Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting held on December 11th 2019

Road sweeping – comment that only Bigbury on Sea was serviced. Answer – vehicles can only clean where there is a kerb.

Stop signs for car park. Answer – SHDC confirmed it was in progress on December 13th 2019.

Maintenance jobs. Answer – Waiting better weather.

5.0 Open Session

**Resident A** said that road sweeping had recently taken place in the Bigbury on Sea area but since this time there had been a lot of hedge cutting taking place which had left the roads untidy with hedge cuttings likely to cause punctures to tyres etc. She wondered if there could be better liaison with regard to the timing of these events with farmers advising the Parish Clerk when the hedge cutting was to take place and arrangements made for road sweeping after this.

**Resident B** said that the hedge cutting in Bigbury Village had taken place at 5.30am with the noise waking her up at what she felt to be an unsocial hour.

Cllr. Case asked whether carrying out the hedge cutting at times when there was less traffic on the roads was preferable to it being done a peak traffic times and as such causing a delay to traffic.

Cllr. Rosevear said that he would discuss this with the Parish Clerk to find out what might be practical.

**Action Cllr. G Rosevear**

Cllr. Watts pointed out that there was hardly ever any road sweeping on the lanes running down to Easton and Foxhole. These roads were also full of potholes. D. Cllr Taylor to follow up action re road sweeping in Easton and Foxhole.

**Action D. Cllr. Taylor**

**Resident C** advised that Kingston Fire Station had had a reprieve and would continue to operate. She also said that she was organising a Fire Safety Awareness event on February 10th 2019 with Devon Fire and Rescue to provide a talk and volunteer firemen form Kingston Fire Station to also speak about their experiences. This would be advertised in the Bigbury News. She would also contact the Sue Green, Kingston Parish Council Clerk to let her know of this event. (Tel No: 01548 810270 or 07748602282).

She said that she would have to pay £35 for hire of the Memorial Hall. Peter Cook as a member of the Hall Committee said this could be reduced to £10.

**Action Louise Wainwright**

**Resident D** advised that the wall on the bridge over Dukes Mill had been knocked down and needed repair. Cllr. S Watts said that he had reported this to Devon CC. However, C. Councillor Gilbert recommended that a formal letter be sent by the Parish Clerk to Devon CC (Adam Keay) asking for action to be taken. He did however advise that there was a lot of work already ongoing in relation to the repair of walls, bridges and potholes so it might not be done straight away.

**Action Parish Clerk**

**Resident D** queried a remark made by Cllr. Scott at the last Parish Council meeting that the proposed residential development by the Bantham Estate in connection with the future of the Golf Club would accord with the Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan. He said that he had read through the Neighbourhood Plan and could find no policies or proposals that gave support for this type of development. He also referred to the comments made by the Inspector in relation to the value of the Plan in relation to the protection of the AONB and ensuring that new residential development id located in the most sustainable locations.

Cllr.Scott said that she could not recall exactly what she said at the previous meeting but agreed with resident B that the policies of the Neighbourhood Plan stated that new residential development should be confined to being within the settlement boundaries and that the policies relating to AONB, Heritage Coast and Undeveloped Coast sought to protect the openness and landscape beauty of these area. Para 4.92 of the Neighbourhood Plan did however give support for the long term future of the golf club as an important recreational, leisure, tourist and social facility and also a provider of local employment. It was stated in this paragraph that support would be given to any necessary improvements, extensions and/or other development which would ensure the long term viability of the club. This was not specific to giving support for a residential development and if this was proposed it would be necessary to demonstrate that it was essential for the future safeguarding of the golf club. It would be necessary to demonstrate ‘very exceptional circumstances’ to justify a departure from the policies of the Plan.

Cllr. Rosevear said that there were no specific proposals at the moment and that if and when an application was made the Parish Council would need to look at the proposals very carefully having regard to the evidence provided, the details of any scheme, and whether the proposals were in the interest of the local community.

6.0 District Councillor’s report

D. Cllr. Taylor provided the following updates:

South Hams District Council are proposing a Council Tax premium on long term vacant properties of 200% for properties vacant and unfurnished for 5-10 years, 300% for vacancies of more than 10 years. This is to encourage the selling or letting of properties that have remained vacant for several years. It will not affect properties used as second homes or holiday lets which are not occupied for some parts of the year. Once it is approved the increase in tax will start to take effect on any properties where long term vacancies are already known.

SHDC and West Devon are also looking for a new IT contract. The current contract runs out in January 2021. The cost is likely to be about £300,000.

Cllr. Rosevear asked if there was still money available in the Locality budget for works in the parish. He said that Bigbury Parish was required to spend £1300 for skip hire and wondered if a claim for this could be made. Cllr. Watts said that funding for this had been made available in previous years.

D. Cllr Taylor said that an application would need to be made to Locality which if considered appropriate would be sent to him for approval.

**Action Parish Clerk**

7.0 County Councillor’s report

C. Cllr. Gilbert asked whether the Parish Council had received the Gigaclear Plan.

Cllr. Case referred to correspondence sent to the Parish Clerk from Gigaclear at the end of November 2019 in which stated they stated that a Plan was being prepared in a month or two and would also be carrying out a leaflet drop.

C. Cllr Gilbert said that there was money available for grit bins and asked if any were needed. He also said that for refills of grit it was necessary to notify the Devon CC in the Autumn if possible to ensure that they were topped up and ready for the winter.

C. Cllr Gilbert said that for those interested in speed limits there was a Devon Speed Limit Policy which could be viewed on the website.

C. Cllr Gilbert also said that Devon CC was preparing a Devon Carbon Plan to try to address the climate change emergency. Information on this could be viewed on [www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk](http://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk).

C. Cllr Gilbert said that there was a backlog of work in repairing potholes.

He said that the Edmeston road works were progressing well and hoped that the disruption due to the road traffic lights was not too great. Cllr. Rosevear said that the traffic light system had worked efficiently just letting through about 6 to 8 cars at a time but had become inefficient more recently with longer queues. The convoy system now introduced also caused delays.

Cllr Scott asked if it was necessary to have so many signs particularly on the eastern approach. Cllr Gilbert said that this matter had been raised but had been advised that the signs were essential and that there was nowhere else to position them other than in the road. He said that this resulted in a slow down of traffic with its shicaning effect.

8.0 Finance

Cllr Rosevear referred to the bank reconciliation and reported that the following payments were to be made:

£33.48 BT – Paid by Direct Debi

£176.00 Triangle (Neighbourhood Plans)

£50.00 DALC – membership renewal

£150.00 South Hams C A B

Cllr. Smith proposed that the financial statement be accepted and that the payments set out above be paid. This was seconded by Cllr. Scott and all councillors agreed.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

Cllr. Rosevear advised that the Parish Clerk was waiting for a discussion with Cllr. Huntley regarding the proposed Internet Banking.

**Action: Parish Clerk/Cllr. Huntley**

9.0 Finance – Precept period 2020/2021

Cllr. Rosevear advised that a meeting had been held the previous day to discuss the finances for the year 2019/2020 and to consider the level of the precept to be sought for 2020/21. A level of £18,000 had been discussed and generally considered about right having regard to spending in previous years. Cllr. Case proposed that £18,000 be sought and this was seconded by Cllr Smith and agreed by all other councillors.

10.0 Planning related matters

1. S257 diversion of Bigbury footpath 28 (related to Grove Homes development). Cllr Rosevear said that this diversion had been considered acceptable by the footpath wardens Norman Botton and Trish Bagley. Cllr. Scott advised that the works related to the application for reserved matters made by Grove Homes for development of 9 dwellings. This reserved matters application may not be approved. The diversion was appropriate if this development was to proceed but should not otherwise take place. She proposed giving ‘no comments’ to this application which was seconded by Cllr. Watts and agreed by all of the Parish Councillors present part from an abstention from Cllr. Case who had declared an interest.
2. 4026/19/FUL Consultation as a neighbouring parish. Proposed alterations and extensions to existing building. Were Down TQ7 4AL. Cllr. Watts said that the applicants were keeping the original house as far as possible, that the proposed extension was fairly significant in size and they were also proposing a swimming pool and quite a lot of landscaping and tree planting. He expected the works to be carried out to a high standard of design and quality but considered that it would have little impact on the parish of Bigbury and that the comments on the application should be left for Aveton Gifford Parish. Cllr. Watts proposed ‘no comments’ which was seconded by Cllr. Scott and unanimously agreed by all Parish Councillors present.
3. 3789/19/HHO. Cllr. Watts advised that this property was also in the parish of Aveton Gifford. It was a fairly large extension but did not have much affect the Parish of Bigbury. He again proposed ‘no comment’ which was seconded by Cllr. Scott and unanimously agreed by all Parish Councillors present.

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr. Scott reported as follows:

Cllr. Scott said that the parish was now just waiting for a referendum to be arranged by South Hams District Council (SHDC). SHDC are required to publish information about the neighbourhood plan 28 days before the referendum, and to give notice that a referendum is taking place and the date of the poll. We have been advised that the referendum is likely to take place towards the end of February but have not so far been given a date for this.

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be arranging for posters to be displayed on the parish noticeboards and other places including the Holywell Stores so that parishioners are made fully aware of the date of the referendum.

People on the electoral register for Bigbury Parish are entitled to vote. If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote ‘yes’ then the neighbourhood plan becomes part of the statutory plan for the area.

A copy of the Referendum Version of the Bigbury Neighbourhood Plan has now been placed on the community website and hard copies of the plan are now available and will be made available for public inspection when the date of the referendum is known.

NB Cllr. Scott advised by SHDC on 10th January 2020 that the **Referendum is now to be held on Thursday, February 27th 2020.**

11.0 Update on signage

Cllr. Watts advised that he was now awaiting confirmation from AONB and for the sign to be made. The cost would be £250 but half of this would be paid by AONB.

**Action Cllr. Watts**

12.0 Initiative – free trees

Cllr. Rosevear said that the deadline for obtaining free trees from SHDC had now expired. He was not aware of anyone having taken on this opportunity but the notice had been quite short. Cllr. Smith asked if the period of time could be extended and Cllr Rosevear thought it was worth asking.

**Action Parish Clerk**

13.0 Casual Vacancy

Cllr. Rosevear advised that the vacancy and opportunity to become a Parish Councillor had been advertised. There had been an expression of interest made by one person and that any applications for this position should be made prior to the February meeting.

14.0 Correspondence received

Cllr. Rosevear had not been advised on any correspondence which needed to be reported to the meeting.

15.0 Agenda Items for next meeting

Nobody at the meeting asked for any special items for consideration at the next meeting.

NOTE The supporting presentation is uploaded to the Parish Council section of the Bigbury Community website.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.

The next meeting is to be held on **WEDNESDAY February 12th at 7:30pm**

Signed………………………………………………………………………………., Bigbury Parish Council