

## **BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL [BPC].**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 11th MARCH 2020 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL, AT 7.30 PM**

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Beth Huntley - Chair	BH
	Cllr Sharon Smith	SS
	Cllr Stuart Watts	SW
	Cllr Cathy Case	CC
	Cllr Valerie Scott	VS
	Cllr George Rosevear – Vice chair	GR
Acting Clerk:	Cllr George Rosevear	7 Members of the Public present.
	DC Cllr Bernard Taylor	BT

**1 /**                    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
There were Interests declared.

**2 /**                    **APOLOGIES** – Cllr Keely Holland and DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert

**3 /**                    **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING – 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**  
The minutes having been previously circulated were taken as read. Proposed VS, seconded by SW and approved unanimously for the Chairman to sign.

**4 /**                    **MATTERS ARISING FROM 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY.**  
Whilst there were some items, as they were not considered critical, they are to be carried over until the April meeting; on the basis there will be one.

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Although not on the agenda, it was agreed to insert the open forum at this point.

- (i) Sedgewell cove and Stargazy Lights: The meeting was informed that many lights on this property had been left on, inadvertently for several days, the owner had been informed.
- (ii) Merrylees: Any changes to the lighting specification are awaited, following Val Scott's intervention with the architect. In addition, it was noted that long planted trees and foliage on the footpath side of the development, had been felled and uprooted. CC took note, as this was on her family's land. It is understood a fence may replace them, whether or not there will be fresh plantings, is unknown.
- (iii) Disabled Parking in the proximity of Venus Café. Cllr BT would look into the matter and report back.
- (iv) It is noted that Emma Widdicombe has succeeded Cathy Aubertin, (former head of Parking), who has retired.
- (v) In the absence of Cllr Gilbert a request in respect of Pot Holes and Flooding was made, in addition to the need to clear the Lincombe Lane Buddle Hole

- (vi) It was noted that there would be a Parish walk in aid of the Church Restoration on 8<sup>th</sup> May VE Day. VE Day would be covered under item 10.
- (vii) It was noted that there was already illegal parking on double yellow lines, this early in the year and when there was plenty of space in the official car parks.
- (viii) A member of the Council had received a complaint from a parishioner from an adjoining Parish about the extensive amount of rubbish and abandoned equipment on land in Combe valley. There were also some buildings that could have occupants; but there was no sign of life on the site. Earlier today, following a site visit, without going on the land four Councillors took stock of the situation. It was agreed that for the Clerk, Cllr GR would write and inform the planning department, copying in the enforcement team and the SHDC DC BT.

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**VACANCY – PARISH CLERK**

Three applications had been received and it was hoped to hold interviews during the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

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**DEVON COUNTY COUCILLOR'S REPORT**

Rufus Gilbert had apologised. Cllr GR would seek to secure a copy of his report to post with the minutes.

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**DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Bernard Taylor**

Well again, but pleading to leave after giving his report BT reported as follows:

- (i) The District Council had set within their budget a sum of £400,000 for the Climate Change Emergency. This would come from the New Homes Bonus fund. An officer would be recruited on 1-2 year contract and part of the role would be to liaise and advise Town and Parish Councils how to assist with the programme. It was noted by Cllr BH that the closing date for applicants had already passed on 23.02.2020.
- (ii) The District Council had increased Council Tax by 3%. In respect of a Band D property this was a £5.00 increase per annum. Of the total Council Tax raised, based on a Band D property the District Council only receives an 8.33% share.
- (iii) Car Parking charges were to increase by 4%. This would be the only increase in this council's term, so an effective 1% per annum. The increases are likely to take effect late in the first quarter of the new fiscal year [likely sometime in June].  
Cllr BH raised the issue of profits being generated when they are not supposed to be. DC Cllr BT countered that any surpluses generated would be re-invested in car parks and also put towards the purchase and installation of Electric Car charging points within the District.
- (iv) CVS Grant. Although intending to cut this Grant. At council it was voted to maintain the Grant of £10,000 for a further 12 months from April 2020.

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**FINANCE:**

Other than the regular monthly direct debit for BT there were no payments to approve. These would be deferred until the clerk's return, or the April meeting, should there be one, in order to ensure no suppliers were left unpaid.

There was no verbal or visual representation of the Council's finances, this would be deferred until the April meeting. Should there not be one, a summary of the Council's finances will be posted on the notice Boards.

Internet banking up-date. This relates to information required for the new mandate, relating to a fresh name on the mandate. The view had been expressed by the person concerned that the information was too intrusive. It was agreed to seek advice as to what was necessary and what can be omitted.

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### **PLANNING & THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

There is only one planning matter to resolve.

#### **a / Application: 0572/20/FUL Land north of Cumery Farm – the erection of an agricultural building for the storage of farm machinery.**

Cllr VS led a site visit consisting of Cllrs BH, SW and GR. They met the landowners' agent Jonathan Bell and reviewed the application. The site visit team recommended Support. Support was Proposed by Cllr BH Seconded by Cllr VS and approved unanimously. (It was noted that the general finishes in the drawings were to be green, allow the building to fit into the landscape).

#### **b / Neighbourhood Plan up-date.**

Cllr VS read her report, which would be posted with the minutes

Cllr BH request that in future, when applications are received, in our response, wherever applicable, the relevant page clause, chart or drawings are notated and also brought to the attention of our SHDC DC Cllr BT or his successors.

Time was taken to discuss and agree that in respect of the Council's Scheme at the rear of Holywell Stores, that the Council makes every effort to ensure local residents, who may or may not be on the Housing list, are made aware that for those wishing to rent they should ensure their names are on the register of **Devon Home Choice**. For those wishing to buy, they should ensure their names are on the register of **Help to Buy**. These are both agencies within SHDC. Wherever possible progress with the scheme should be carried on the Community website, in the Bigbury News and Bigbury Drums and if possible those on either or both lists, kept personally informed within the context of GDPR.

#### **From the Floor: A question was posed as to how the selection of tenants or purchasers would be made.**

In essence, the usual criteria for Housing Needs would apply. However, the first selections would be those who could also show a clear link to the Community. For example, (i) already living here but with family and wanting their own home. (ii) Working in the Community but obliged to live elsewhere; but with a clear familial link to the Community and (iii) those neither living in nor working in the community; but who had family here or even grown up here and been obliged to move elsewhere.

From the Floor it was also recommended, that individuals and families ought to be encouraged to get their names on the list of their choice.

However, the Council ought not to market the scheme too forcefully until the Conditional Planning and Section 106 Agreements were in place. This would be the time to uplift the scheme to the Community mediums. Probably through all three: The Community Website, Bigbury News and Bigbury Drums, with even a separate flyer.

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**VE Day 75th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

Cllr GR had posed the question whether, as with the D Day Commemoration, whether the Community wished to have a similar Commemoration for the VE Day 75<sup>th</sup>. Council was made aware that there was already a planned Parish walk in aid of the Church's restoration on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. There was no wish to clash with this.

Therefore, it was agreed to provisionally book the Memorial Hall and utilise its car park and football pitch, for a street style party on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May for the afternoon.

Cllr GR to organise, with support from Cllrs SS and CC.

*The event will be kept under review and it will be contingent on Government advice in respect of the coronavirus pandemic – COVID19.*

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

None received.

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**AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

Carried over from this meeting, as Keely Holland was not present. How to deal with the control of Seagulls [Herring, Common Gulls, or others]. In particular discouraging feeding them, or being exposed to their raiding parties on and around the beaches etc.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 7.30 p.m. Memorial Hall

Signed.....

Cllr Beth Huntley - Chair

**This next meeting and future meetings will be subject to Government advice in respect of the coronavirus pandemic – Covid-19**