

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EMERGENCY MEETING HELD ON 24th MARCH 2020

Meeting conducted via on-line video link

Present:	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
	Cllr. Keely Holland	KH
	Clerk Richard Matthews	RM

This 'EMERGENCY' meeting of Bigbury Parish Council was convened specifically to discuss and consider the impact to the community of Covid-19.

To comply with current Government guidelines this meeting was held using on-line video link technology and thanks are given to Cllr. Case for facilitating this.

To address the corona virus topic without delay, this meeting was convened without prior publication of an agenda and in the absence of members of the public.

Meeting started 19:00

1. Corona virus – Covid-19

This virus has been identified as the most serious threat our nation has faced in recent times – probably post world wars.

To address the challenge an *ad hoc* Bigbury Coronavirus Support Group (BCSG) had been formed by several Councillors and concerned members of the community to ensure the safety and security of the residents of Bigbury Parish. To formalise the Parish Council's support for this group in an expedient and efficient manner and not be constrained or delayed by heavy bureaucratic protocols, Cllr. Rosevear proposed the Parish Council adopt the BCSG as a full committee and delegate Councillors to work with community volunteers to deal with day to day matters. Cllr. Case seconded this proposal and all Councillors voted unanimously to adopt this approach. Cllr. Watts is currently coordinating the activities of the BCSG.

The support group are currently using every medium available to reach out and communicate to the community – e mail, whatsapp, Bigbury News, Bigbury Drums, Community website, Holywell Stores, leaflet drops, phone contact, posters etc. etc. All of this will continue on a daily basis and will reflect any changes in guidance provided from central or local government.

Specific initiatives had already been implemented but in discussion it was agreed the biggest threat to the residents of the Parish came from the influx of visitors to holiday homes etc. THIS IS DESPITE THE INSTRUCTION FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT NOT TO TRAVEL. Strategies to address this were discussed, some being more feasible to implement than others. These included: SHDC closure of all car parks, DCC closing all footpaths, Police intervention, publicity through BBC or other media providers, lobbying of MP – Sir Gary Streeter.

As this is a dynamic situation, residents are advised to raise specific issues with any member of the Parish Council as above.

Clerk confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 8th April. This meeting will be conducted via on-line video link and in this emergency situation it will not be possible for members of the public to take part.

The agenda will be truncated and focus on the important issues only. Covid-19, planning applications and financial compliance will be standard. Submissions from C. Cllr. Gilbert and D. Cllr. Taylor will be supplied in written form and for efficiency can exclude any covid-19 matter that has already been filtered down from County or District levels.

Members of the public are invited to raise issues and topics for inclusion with Councillors before the meeting. This includes any comments relating to planning applications to be discussed. The cut-off date and time for such matters to be considered at the meeting is Friday 3rd April at 5pm.

Meeting closed 20:00