

BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the monthly meeting of Bigbury Parish Council held on WEDNESDAY April 15th 2020 at 7:30pm. In accordance with Government advice and DALC guidance this meeting was held via video link (Zoom)

PRESENT: Cllrs: E Huntley (EH) (Chair), G Rosevear (GR), S Smith (SS), C Case (CC), V Scott (VS), S Watts (SW). K Holland (KH), Clerk R Matthews (RM) and four members of the public.

1.0 Declaration of Interest

CC declared an interest in agenda item 8a – planning application Avonmouth Shantee. No further declarations of interest were noted.

2.0 Apologies for absence:

C. Cllr. Gilbert (RG) and D. Cllr. Taylor (BT) were both absent from the meeting itself did provide written updates for discussion.

3.0 Approval of Minutes of previous monthly meeting held on March 11th 2020

GR proposed these Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. KH seconded this proposal which was duly agreed to by all Councillors.

4.0 Matters arising from Minutes of previous meeting held on March 11th 2020

Disabled parking in proximity of Venus Café – carry forward to next meeting.

Action BT

VE day celebrations. GR stated a directive from County Chairman confirmed that no public gatherings were to take place and individuals should reflect in isolation. It was agreed to place this topic on the agenda for the May meeting.

Action RM

Condition of land known as Crosstream, Combe Valley–carry forward to next meeting.

Action GR

5.0 Approval of Minutes of emergency meeting held on April 4th 2020

VS proposed these Minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record. GR seconded this proposal which was duly agreed to by all Councillors.

6.0 Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting held on April 4th 2020

There were no matters arising

7.0 County Councillor's report

GR kindly submitted a written update stating a) Covid-19 updates were being regularly provided by DCC and RM confirmed these were regularly passed on to all interested parties, b) an enquiry from Mr. B. Carson in respect of the entrance to St. Lawrence church would be dealt with in due course, c) an issue raised by Mrs. P. Trundle in respect of a building site on Ringmore Drive had been dealt with and d) the dry weather had helped speed up the response to pot hole repairs across the County.

8.0 District Councillor's report

BT kindly submitted a written update as follows: *'I hope you are all well and keeping safe, All our parishes has done a fantastic job setting up their emergency plan and it has all worked really well thank you all very much.*

SHDC has set up an emergency plan to help people who need help with their utility bills etc. and if anyone you know has asked for help please contact me and I will point them in the right direction or they can go to SHDC website.

The 'up to £150 reduction in council tax for those already on council tax reduction scheme is automatic and we will send then a revised bill as soon as we have the software-they don't need to do anything or contact us .

So if their current bill after CTR is £75 for 2020/21 they will get £75 further reduction and be sent a revised bill for nil. If their current bill after CTR is £200 for 2020/21 –they will get £150 further reduction and be sent a revised bill for £50

This is where the 'up to £150' comes from –they can only get as much further discount as it takes to reduce their 2020/21 bill to zero.

Waste collection is continuing as normal, everyone should obey the 2m rule and keep 2m from the operators.

Just before lock down we said goodbye to Sophie Hosking our chief executive, we have appointed a replacement but this has yet to be ratified by full council - skype in the next week or so.

Planning will be dealt with in exactly the same as before the shutdown with exception of site visits and Development Management (DM) meetings which will not take place, if there is a planning issue we need to take to committee it will be dealt with by a delegated team which consist the Chief planning officer, the PO who is dealing with the application, the chair of DM and the ward member Stay Safe'

9.0 Finance

RM confirmed the bank statements had been reconciled to the cash book and the closing balance as at March 31st 2020 was £30022.71

RM confirmed that the first 2020/2021 precept payment had been received from SHDC.

RM confirmed a sum of £495 had also been received from SHDC as a grant towards costs specifically related to corona virus related activities. It was agreed to defer how this was going to be allocated, according to the guidelines, until the crisis was over.

RM confirmed that the external audit process had been delayed by the auditors in line with Government advice – notification of new deadlines was awaited. RM confirmed he would complete the audit process and not leave this task to the new clerk.

GR proposed the following payments be approved. This was seconded by SS and agreed to by all Councillors:

Cheques:

£ 7.00 IDALC - Annual subscription

£680.00 J Simpson - painting Millennium steps (£360) and painting post box Ringmore Drive (£320) as per agreed quote November 2019

£705.42 R Matthews Salary for quarter (£540.00), Expense for quarter (£165.42)

£103.62 E Huntley - paid on behalf of invoices from David Gay - material costs related to refurbishment of telephone box Ringmore Drive

£139.81 DALC annual subscription renewal

Direct Debit payments to SHDC:

£120.00 Payroll services (in line with Precept)

£548.10 Annual cost grass cutting play park (in line with Precept)

£281.26 Printing of maps for Neighbourhood Plan

£ 76.12 Charge in respect of uncontested election

Direct Debit payment to BT:

£ 33.48 Memorial Hall

10.0 Open session - planning related matters

No representations were made from members of the public present at the meeting.

11.0 Planning related matters

- a) 0765/20/HHO Avonmouth Shantee, Bigbury-on-Sea, TQ7 4BA Application for modification and upgrade of existing dwelling and replacement of #3 sheds with #2 standing sleeping cabins.

VS proposed the Council object to this application on the following grounds: a) scale, height and density of development – all of which are contrary to JLP, b) light pollution, c) harmful to the unspoilt character, appearance and tranquility of the undeveloped coast (Heritage coast) and Avon Estuary, d) health and safety concerns relating to sleeping cabins, e) the lack of sanitary and washing facilities, f) inadequate information relating to the impact on the sewage system and g) the potential damage and loss of the existing coastal footpath.

GR seconded this proposal which was agreed to by all Councillors.

- b) Crossstream GR agreed to take this matter forward

Action GR

- c) Neighbourhood Plan

VS advised the revised date for making and adopting the plan at SHDC was now April 23rd 2020, She added that the S106 process related to the St Ann's Chapel development site was close to being finalised. As soon as these matters are concluded, a decision notice will be issued and conditions discharged – it is hoped that work will start on site in the autumn this year.

After discussion it was agreed that VS would ask SHDC to take on the ongoing responsibility for landscaping maintenance on the site.

12.0 Update on Bigbury Coronavirus Support Group (BCSG) activities

SW thanked all those who had been involved and given up their time to volunteer within the community, especially the area coordinators for the different parts of the parish. The first two weeks had been quite hectic for everyone but the routine was now more settled. Bigbury now had more volunteers than people identifying themselves as needy. Many households had made their own arrangements for obtaining essential items whilst the vulnerable were housebound but Holywell Stores continues to live up to its reputation as a true community shop showing great flexibility and adaptability with the services provided, offering specific times for tasks such as pensions to be withdrawn, doorstep deliveries of milk with newspapers, etc. Bigbury Drums had proved of immense value with regular, frequent information updates on the COVID-19 arrangements within the parish and printing of materials.

KH asked if there were individuals who had not asked for help and were therefore vulnerable and had fallen through the support net. In discussion it was generally considered all areas of the parish had been covered with neighbours watching out for each other, telephoning the likely needy, etc. in addition to the information gathered from the early leaflet distribution with Bigbury News asking the needy to self-identify.

13.0 Open session

Resident A commented that the refurbishment of the phone box in Ringmore Drive was now complete and thanked those who contributed towards the work. The contract for transfer of ownership was still to be signed.

Action GR

Resident A also referred to the earlier discussion on coastal footpaths (11a) stating he had written to the Chairman of Planning at SHDC emphasising the crucial need to undertake thorough groundwork surveys on all properties adjacent to the coast. He commented the cliff had been eroded by a distance of between five and eight metres in recent years.

Resident B stated that traffic on the road that crossed the golf course was noticeably excessive and asked if the council could take action to establish who was visiting the properties. CC advised that Nicholas Johnston should be contacted as there will be a licence in place stipulating the speeds allowed, however enforcement is another issue. Any concerns on occupation during the Covid-19 pandemic should be brought to the attention of the police.

Resident C asked what plans were in place to tell visitors arriving to self-isolate. SW confirmed that the BCSG had printed leaflets to advise visitors of HM Government guidelines. The restrictions have been widely publicised nationally and locally; visitors should not now be arriving, in contravention of the Lockdown regulations.

14.0 Correspondence received

Memorial Hall broadband contract was due for renewal and it was agreed to renew. **Action RM**

A consultation document has been circulated in respect of bus services within the South Hams. In discussion it was agreed to request the Friday service be extended to include Saturday. Additionally it was decided to request improved links from the parish to Modbury at times that would link to services between Kingsbridge and Plymouth. **Action RM**

SW stated he had been in contact with the Coastguard about their Covid-19 activities and provided this update *'The local Coastguard have been collaborating with their colleagues at Prawle and the police, patrolling between Slapton and Wonwell twice per day. They were very active over the Easter period, acting as the 'eyes & ears' of the police force, acquiring information about gatherings of people, etc., relaying that info to their operational HQ for subsequent onward relay to the police. The Coastguard received about 400 requests to investigate activities in contravention of HMG guidelines during that period. One example was a large gathering of people at Wonwell beach which was dispersed. Another involved kite-surfers (at South Milton), where the surfers were warned off because the RNLI are not active at the moment'*

This Coastguard collaboration has been 'stood down' since Easter but staff are ready to resume these patrols if requested to do so by the police. The first contact of concerned parishioners about inappropriate shoreline activities should be the police force.

15.0 Agenda Items for next meeting

- VE / VJ day celebrations
- BCSG update
- Crosstream
- Capacity at St Lawrence burial ground

NOTE Supporting information is uploaded to the Parish Council section of the Bigbury Community website.

It is acknowledged that a few individuals had significant difficulty in joining this meeting on-line. Most of this was outside the control of the Parish Council

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

The next meeting is to be held on **WEDNESDAY May 13th at 7:30pm**

Signed....., Bigbury Parish Council