BIGBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting of Bigbury Parish Council (BPC) held on Thursday, March 18th, 2021 at 2:00pm to respond to proposed changes to SHDC Dog Control Orders. 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), V Scott (VS), S Watts (SW), K. Holland (KH), C Case (CC), DCllr B Taylor (BT), Ms. H Foskett SHDC, Clerk I. Bramble, (IB).

1.0 Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all those attending.

2.0 Proposed changes to Dog Control orders

The Chairman invited Cllr. Taylor to open the discussion and he advised that the existing orders have been in place since 2014 and are required to be reviewed tri-annually and drew attention to SHDC’s desire to work with BPC on this review.

In May 2020 BPC had objected to proposed changes to the ‘dogs not permitted’ hours and submitted to SHDC its propsosal of no change from the previous position. At that time the areas in which dogs were permitted and were not permitted had not been discussed.

BH commented that a great deal of misinformation had been published recently in the ‘South Hams Gazette’. In turn this had produced a misinformed response from readers.

VS stated a preference for a part of the beach, west of the causeway, between B. on S. and Burgh Island to be retained as a ‘dogs permitted’ area and that the current restrictions should be retained. SW questioned the rationale for the proposed changes, that the BPC preferences for the ‘dogs not permitted’ hours had been met and that these present arrangements worked well.

HF quoted consultation responses from members of public as follows:

*6 in favour of relieving restrictions*

*37 against relieving restrictions. Of these 37, 18 indicated a preference for a 24 hr ban*

The reasons for the proposed changes were explained, which included allowing families with dogs to have their dogs on all parts of the beach; the need for the majority of beach users to be visible to lifeguards; to avoid pushing beach users with dogs onto a less safe part of the beach and to allow dog owners to walk up the estuary towards Cockleridge and also onto Burgh Island.

Discussion took place on the above main issues, during which BT reminded BPC of the powers of the new Locality Officers to deal with dog owners not in proper control of their pets. Also BPC asked for clarity of signage, with the observation that present signage was acceptable.

BH gave support to SHDC proposals, specifically for the entire beach between B. on S. and Burgh Island to be a ‘dogs permitted’ zone.

VS proposed keeping restrictions, with the ‘dogs not permitted’ area and timings as they are now. SS seconded and GR, and KH supported, while BH opposed no change and supported SHDC’s proposal. The motion for no change was carried 4 to 1. CC was unable to vote, not being present throughout the full meeting.

The meeting closed at 3:16pm.

The next meeting is to be held on **Wednesday, April 14th at 7:00pm**

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

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