

**BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2008**

A meeting of the Council was held in the Village Hall Committee Room at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr J Lees (Chairman), Mr M Andersen, Mr J Anderson, Mr K ter Braak,  
Mrs J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs M ter Braak (Clerk), Mr A Trollope-Bellew  
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PARISH FORUM: no forum was held.

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR: before the formal start of the meeting, Mr Trollope-Bellew briefly reported on matters of current interest.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: none were received.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Mr ter Braak and Mr Anderson declared a personal interest in item 8 "Proposed PC Membership of Friends of Quantock". They spoke and voted during discussion of this item.
3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY AND 6 MARCH 2008: the minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

3.1. *Matters Arising:*

New notice board - the Clerk advised that Highways owns the piece of land where the notice board is to be located. A formal notice has now been put up by Highways advising of the proposed siting of the notice board.

Access Track at Quantock Moor - Mr Anderson had prepared a draft reply to a letter received from Bruce Lang, Corporate Director, West Somerset Council about the access track at Quantock Moor. He had also given the Clerk a copies of an email from Chris Edwards (AONB Manager) and an exchange of letters between Mr Dowding and Greenslade Taylor Hunt. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Council as soon as possible to discuss the proposed draft letter.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: the Chairman and Mr Andersen had attended a Somerset Road Safety Partnership event about Red Routes, with particular reference to the A39 and the A358. The Road Safety Partnership's objectives are to achieve the Government's 2010 casualty reduction targets by focusing on engineering, enforcement and above all education of drivers.
5. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS
  - 5.1. Roads: Mr Andersen reported as follows -
    - Subsidence/flooding problem at A358 end of Chilcombe Lane. There is no sign of real subsidence and the flooding has only happened twice. Therefore Highways have decided that no immediate action is necessary.
    - New sign for Dashwoods Lane at junction Honey Row/Trendle Lane. Highways are still waiting for the funds to pay for this sign and the new signs for Combe Close.
    - HGV/GPS issue. Foreign lorry drivers often do not understand the "Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicle" signs, so Highways are investigating pictorial signs instead.

- 5.2. *Footpaths*: Mrs White reported that the length of railing at the Paradise Combe end of WL1/9 has now been replaced.
- 5.3. *Environment*: Mr Anderson reported as follows -
- Ban Plastic Bags Campaign: this has received a temporary setback as Viridor have refused to support our request for sponsorship. Other sources are being actively investigated.
  - Fly Tipping: the problem at the entrance to Culverhayes Lane persists. Mr Anderson is in touch with both the District Council and the Environment Agency, whose "Crime Squad" will inspect the site to see whether any evidence can be found as to who the culprits might be. If no success via that means, they will consider installing a camera.
  - A very successful presentation was given last Friday 14 March on the subject of Waste Management and the concept Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. This will be followed on Tuesday 25 March by a visit to the Carymoor Environmental Centre.
  - Bicknoller Combe: the Eco Team has obtained a reprint of the Ordnance Survey map of Bridgwater and The Quantocks (based on surveys conducted in 1802). The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act will also be a useful tool in our campaign.
  - Flora & Fauna Slide Show: this will take place on 3 May. The Show will be led by Councillor Venner supported by Ian Anderson.
  - Helping Parishioners benefit from the Internet: a survey of computer presence and usage in the Parish is under way. It is being conducted by all members of the Eco Team led by Councillor ter Braak. The results will be available at the beginning of April.
- 5.4. *Planning matters*: it was unanimously agreed that the alterations that have been made to the entrance at 28 Trendle Lane are a great improvement. The Clerk was requested to advise West Somerset Council of this decision.

## 6. PLANNING

- 6.1. *Applications*: the Council had no objection to the following application -  
3/01/08/004 - Mr & Mrs J Lighton, Steep Hill. Amendment to permission 3/01/06/018 to include insertion of 2 additional roof lights.
- 6.2. *Decisions*: the following applications have been granted by West Somerset Council -  
3/01/07/013 - Mr & Mrs P Thomas, Halsway Court, Halsway. Certificate of lawfulness in respect of use of property as a single dwelling house.  
3/01/08/001 - Dr M Pennington-Ridge, 26 Trendle Lane. Erection of porch at front of dwelling.

## 7. FINANCE

### 7.1. Authorisation of expenditure:

the Meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheques -

Chq.no. 108	StreetMaster (re new bench)	£ 526.40
Chq.no. 109	Village Hall (re Amenity Grant)	£30.00
Chq.no. 110	John Lees (refund re First Aid course PC grant)	£60.00
Chq.no. 111	Greenbarnes (re new notice board)	£1037.44
Chq.no. 112	Quantock Towers Benefice (re Pumpings)	£15.65

the following cheques were authorised -

Chq.no. 113	Somerset Association of Local Councils (08-09 sub.)	£84.54
Chq.no. 114	Mrs M ter Braak	£51.97

- 7.2. *Bank Statements ; Actual 2007-08; Budget 2008-09* - these were noted.
- 7.3. *Grants & donations*: Louise Greswell (Youth Club leader) has now advised that their request for funds towards insurance costs should be put on hold for the moment.
8. PROPOSED PC MEMBERSHIP OF OPEN SPACES SOCIETY & FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK: after some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk will circulate more detailed information on these two bodies, so that a decision can be made at the next full meeting in May.
9. BICKNOLLER POST OFFICE CLOSURE: it was agreed that the Chairman, with the help of the Clerk, will send a protest letter on behalf of the Parish Council to the Post Office about the impending closure of Bicknoller Post Office.
10. VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT: it was agreed that Mr ter Braak will explore the possibility of organising a meeting with the Planning Officers to exchange views on planning criteria.
11. ANNUAL PARISH CONFERENCE: it was agreed that catering costs should not exceed £35 (food and soft drinks). As regards provision of wine, it was agreed that this could be purchased on a sale or return basis.
12. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: none.
13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

Thursday 17 April 7 p.m.  
**Thursday 22 May 7 p.m.**  
**Thursday 29 May 7.30 p.m.**

Parish Council - Planning (provisional)  
**Parish Council - Full  
 Annual Parish Conference**