

**BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2010**

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

**PRESENT:** Mr D Venner (Chairman), Mr M Andersen, Mr J Anderson, Mr M Cox,  
Mrs C Randell, Mr K ter Braak

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs M ter Braak (Clerk), Mr S Dowding (District Councillor)

**PARISH FORUM:** John Lees showed Councillors the painting of Dashwoods House by Barry Watkins, which was very much admired. Mr Lees had put his retirement gift from the Parish Council towards the cost of this painting.

**REPORT FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:** before the formal start of the meeting, Mr Dowding briefly reported on matters of current interest.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from Mr A Trollope-Bellew.
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Mrs Randell declared a Personal Interest in item 7.3 - Bicknoller PCC request for a contribution towards maintenance costs of the church and churchyard. She did not speak or vote during discussion of this item.
- 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2009:** the minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** the Chairman, along with many other farmers, had helped to keep open the A39 and A358 during the recent snowy conditions.
- 5. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**
  - 5.1. Environment - Mr Anderson advised that the recent bad weather had highlighted a number of problems concerning rubbish collection, which had been left to the discretion of the drivers due to the dangerous condition of the lanes in the village. As a result rubbish was left on the kerbside for much longer than usual and any rubbish in plastic bags provided a midnight feast for various animals, with unsightly results. The District Council does not have sufficient funds to provide wheelie bins for each household, but this subject will be discussed at a Cabinet meeting to be held in early February to finalise a new waste strategy (called "Sort it +") which is due for launch early in 2011.

Quantock Eco will be officially launched on 12 February in the Village Hall. It was confirmed that this will be the last meeting organised by the Bicknoller Eco Team and therefore the Parish Council's responsibility for Bicknoller Eco Team expenses will cease from that date. It was also agreed that it was not necessary for the Parish Council to have an ex-officio representative on the Quantock Eco's Executive Committee.
  - 5.2. Footpaths – as Mrs White was not present, a report will be made at the next meeting.
  - 5.3. Police Liaison – nothing to report.
  - 5.4. Roads - Mr Andersen will meet with Highways to discuss what can be done about the condition of the road surface outside the entrance to the church. There are also problems with a number of pot holes in Chilcombe Lane as a result of the recent snow and frost damage. Mr Andersen will report back on both these issues at the March meeting.
  - 5.5. Young People - Mrs Randell gave each Councillor an Eco tea towel designed by the Youth Group and thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Youth Group for sponsoring the project.

**6. PLANNING**

6.1. Applications - the Parish Council had no objection to the following applications:

3/01/09/012 - Mr J Waters, Treetops, Newton Lane. Demolition of existing flat roof side extension. Building of side and rear extensions with pitched roofs to match existing house.

T/3/52 - Tree Preservation Order, Hove-To, 2a Trendle Lane. Fell 3 Lombardy Poplars, grind out stumps and replant site with Oak or Beech.

6.2. Decisions - the following application has been granted by West Somerset Council:

3/01/09/011 - Mrs Thelma Burnell, 9 Church Lane. Conservatory to rear elevation.

**7. FINANCE**

7.1. Authorisation of expenditure -

the Meeting noted the issuing of the following cheques:

chq.no. 170	PMM Group (balance re Eco Team CDs)	£187.88
chq.no. 171	Quantock Towers Benefice (re Pumpings)	£13.22
chq.no. 172	Victim Support Somerset	£30.00
chq.no. 173	Somerset Playing Fields Association	£10.00
chq.no. 174	Bicknoller Village Hall (room hire 2009)	£111.00

the following cheques were authorised:

chq.no. 175	Mr J Anderson (Eco Team expenses 2007-2009)	£50.00
chq.no. 176	Mrs M ter Braak (expenses)	£28.60

7.2. Precept 2010-2011: it was agreed to set the Precept for 2010 - 2011 at £2,500.

7.3. Grants & donations

- It was agreed to make a donation of £250 to Bicknoller PCC as a contribution towards maintenance costs of the churchyard.
- It was agreed to make a donation of £50 to G.L.E.A.M. (Green Lanes Environmental Action Movement) to help continue its work in fighting B.O.A.T. applications on Rights of Ways.

**8. BYE-LAWS SIGN AT WOOLSTON MOOR:** it was agreed that Councillors Venner and Cox will move this sign from its present position to the telegraph pole on the moor near where the BT telephone kiosk used to be.

**9. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:**

9.1. Lease of Village Shop - this is due for renewal on 2 April 2010, to be signed by the Parish Council as Holding Trustee. The Clerk will get clarification of the Parish Council's responsibilities as Holding Trustee and advise all Councillors.

9.2. An agenda item for the March meeting will be a proposal of have grit bins in key places in the village.

**10. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday 18 February	7 p.m.	Parish Council - Planning (provisional)
<b>Thursday 18 March</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>	<b>Parish Council - Full</b>
Thursday 15 April	7 p.m.	Parish Council - Planning (provisional)