

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – THURSDAY 20 MAY 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, Mrs C Randell, Mr K ter Braak
Mrs J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs M ter Braak (Clerk), Mr S Dowding (District Councillor), Mr A Trollope-Bellew
(County Councillor)

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

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** none were received.
2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN:** Mr Desmond Venner was unanimously elected Chairman and he signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Mr Mike Andersen was elected Vice-Chairman.
3. **CASUAL VACANCY: CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR** - it was unanimously resolved to co-opt Mrs Nicola Russell on to the Parish Council. The Clerk will contact Mrs Russell to arrange for her to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and to complete her Register of Interests Form.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** none.
5. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2010:** the minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.
6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** the Chairman had attended the Quantock Hills Joint Advisory Committee meeting on 7 May. He gave a copy of the Quantock Hills Management Plan 2009-2014 to Jenny White, who will circulate it to the other councillors.
7. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**
 - 7.1. Footpaths: nothing to report.
 - 7.2. Police Liaison: as Mr Cox was not present, an update will be given at the next meeting.
 - 7.3. Roads update: Mike Andersen reported as follows -
 - Road surface outside St. George's Church - following the Clerk's letter to the PCC on this subject, they have advised that the holes in the pathway should be repaired, but they would not wish to see the whole area covered in tarmac. As agreed previously, this matter will be raised at the Annual Parish Conference before any firm decision is made.
 - Repairs to various potholes have been carried out. As regards the water leakage in Chilcombe Lane, Highways intend to put in a "French drain" which should solve the problem.
 - 7.4. Young People: Mrs Randell advised the meeting that the Village Shop Committee had decided not to sell the Youth Club's tea towels. All Councillors were surprised and disappointed at the lack of support shown by the Village Shop committee towards the youth of its own village.

8. PLANNING

- 8.1. Applications: none.
8.2. Decisions: none outstanding.

- 9. DRAINAGE - LUCKES LANE, WOOLSTON MOOR:** a letter had been received signed by 5 Woolston parishioners expressing their concern at the alterations made to the stream in Luckes Lane. It was agreed that the Clerk will reply to the letter, giving details of the response received from Highways. In addition, a meeting could be arranged with the parishioners to discuss this matter further, if they so wished.

10. AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010

- 10.1. Statement of Accounts: the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2010 was approved by the Council and the Statement of Accounts was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk (as the Responsible Financial Officer).
- 10.2. Annual Governance Statement: the 9 assertions which comprise the Annual Governance Statement were discussed and the Council confirmed the response given to each. The Statement was approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.
- 10.3. Annual Report by Internal Auditor: Frank Robinson, the Internal Auditor, had reviewed the audit documents and had completed his section of the Annual Report, providing explanations where necessary for the External Auditor. It was agreed that the Clerk will purchase a small gift for Mr Robinson to thank him for his work on the internal audit.

11. FINANCE

- 11.1. Authorisation of expenditure -

the Meeting noted the issuing of the following cheque:

chq.no. 184	Quantock Towers Benefice (Pumpings)	£17.23
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the following cheques were authorised:

chq.no. 185	SALC (re Chairmanship training)	£20.00
chq.no. 186	National Association of Local Councils	£13.50
chq.no. 187	Community Council for Somerset	£30.00
chq.no. 188	Mrs M ter Braak (expenses)	£34.95

- 11.2. Grants & Donations: it was agreed to make a donation of £300 to the Village Hall towards the upkeep of the playground.

- 11.3. Insurance Policy renewal (2010-2011): it was agreed to renew the policy at a cost of £292.95, taking advantage of the 3 year Long Term Agreement.

- 11.4. Review of assets: the Clerk had inspected all the Parish Council's assets. Some minor maintenance work is needed on the 4 notice boards and the bus shelter (at Church Lane) on the A358 (Taunton direction) is in a bad state of repair. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact CJ Lynch to get a quote for replacing the bus shelter, similar to the new shelter at Woolston Moor.

The review of the PC's assets also included Woolston Moor and Little Moor. Three trees with commemorative plaques have been planted on Little Moor. Concern was expressed about this because the records show that Woolston Moor and Little Moor are a remnant of ancient grassland, and English Nature have in the past opposed the planting of trees. It was therefore agreed that no further planting of anything (trees, shrubs, etc. commemorative or otherwise) will be allowed to take place. Councillor White will explain this to the residents of Woolston.

12. COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER SCHEME FOR PARISH: nine parishioners have shown an interest in joining this scheme. It was agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the hire of the Village Hall and/or Committee Room in order for training sessions or meetings on this subject to take place.

13. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

13.1. Arrangements and help at the Annual Parish Conference were agreed.

13.2. Recycling Bins - Village Hall Car Park: a letter had been received from Somerset Waste Partnership about the introduction of Sort-It Plus waste collections which will start in November 2011. This will bring wheelie bins for refuse, food waste and plastic bottle collections to all domestic properties. In order to provide for this new collection scheme, cost savings will have to be made and therefore the Paper/Card and Can bins will be removed from the car park in early June 2010. The glass bins will remain on site until further notice.

14. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 27 May **7.30 p.m.**
Thursday 17 June 7 p.m.
Thursday 15 July **7 p.m.**

ANNUAL PARISH CONFERENCE
Parish Council - Planning (provisional)
Parish Council - Full