

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 12 JANUARY 2016

A meeting of the Council was held in the Village Hall Committee Room at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors C Warren (Chairman), J Grellier, A Harrison, R Murphy, M Rawle and Mrs C Skinner.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs C Richards (Clerk), County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence, and District Councillor S Dowding.

PARISH FORUM: None.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence and District Councillor S Dowding reported on current matters of interest.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Andersen and A Harrison.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

- 2.1. Councillor C Warren declared a personal interest and spoke on Item 19 - Woolston Moor, Boundary Issues. Councillor R Murphy declared a personal interest and spoke on Item 6.1. planning application 3/01/15/015, Quantock Barn, Woolston Lane.
- 2.2. Councillors signed a dispensation form in relation to setting of the precept to cover the period 12 January 2016 to 31 May 2019. Councillors M Andersen and A Harrison would be asked to sign at a future meeting.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2015 & MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1. Works had been undertaken on some overhanging trees at Woolston Cross heading towards Stogumber by Mr M Sharp with only a small charge of £20 towards traffic management, which Councillor C Warren had paid. A letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Sharp.
- 3.2. The Clerk had written a letter of objection from the Parish Council and on behalf of BickLifts to Somerset County Council in respect of the consultation on bus services and concessionary fares.

Subject to noting the above, the minutes of 19 November 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 5.1. Environment - Councillor Mrs Skinner - there had been no reports of flytipping. The bin at Quantockside had not been emptied and she had emailed West Somerset Council asking which day it was scheduled to be emptied. Now that grass verges had been cut, litter picking could be undertaken by the Community Volunteer Group. She had been asked by a parishioner if a list of recycling and rubbish collection dates over Bank Holidays could be displayed on noticeboards; the Clerk advised this was already being done.
- 5.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – no report.
- 5.3. Rights of Way – Councillor Murphy - nothing to report. Councillor Mrs Skinner asked if some stones/hardcore could be placed up the hill at Upper Halsway where the ground had been churned up and Councillor Murphy agreed to make enquiries.

- 5.4. Roads – Councillor Andersen was not present but had reported that there would be a road closure at Dashwoods Lane from 18 January for 26 days. A resident of Dashwoods Lane had contacted him about a letter he had received from Highways and he was concerned/interested to know what access arrangements will be for residents and cars. Highways had advised that access would be maintained to properties within the works. However if the property is on the other side of the works they will need to follow the diversion route. With regard to the damaged finger post by the bus stop on the A358 (Williton side), Highways had advised they now have sufficient details of the incident to submit a claim for rechargeables to the relevant insurance company. They will postpone the removal of the remaining sections of the finger post until they have the replacement parts available to allow complete replacement at the site. However the specialist company which makes the finger arms can take several months to supply. Councillor Warren advised he had spoken to Councillor Andersen and they had decided it was not a danger to leave the damaged finger post where it was.
- 5.5. Community Resilience & Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Councillor Grellier reported that nothing had been undertaken since the last meeting due to the weather but the Group will start doing some jobs once the weather improves. Works were required to the roof of the bus shelter at Woolston Moor (Taunton side). Mention was made that Stogumber Parish Council made a donation towards the initial cost of the bus shelter as some residents in Stogumber make use of the bus stop. It was resolved therefore that the Clerk should write to Stogumber Parish Council to ask if they would be willing to make a contribution towards the cost of the repairs. Councillor Grellier reported that Councillor Warren is currently allowing the Group to store equipment/materials in in one of his sheds and Councillor Warren was thanked.
- 5.6. Quantock Hills & Farming – Councillor Rawle – no report.

6. PLANNING

- 6.1. Applications:
3/01/15/015 – Quantock Barn, Woolston Lane, Sampford Brett, TA4 4LN: Erection of a wooden shed for storage of a lawn tractor and other equipment, such as trailer, hedge trimmer, etc, associated with maintenance and use of the two paddocks. Councillors viewed and discussed the plans and it was agreed there were no comments to make on the application.
- 6.2. Decisions:
3/01/15/009 Chilcombe House, 30 Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG: erection of dwelling house with double garage and formation of vehicular access from Chilcombe Lane (Outline Planning Permission Granted).
3/01/15/013 – Bicknoller Village Hall, Dashwoods Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EQ: installation of new playground equipment to replace old playground (Granted).
3/01/15/014 – Combe Hayes, Taunton Road, Bicknoller, TA4 4EH: side extension and new windows to west elevation (Granted).

With regard to 3/01/15/009 Chilcombe House, 30 Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG, it was noted that only Outline Planning Permission had been granted, the matter would be dealt with as reserved matters and the Parish Council would have an opportunity to call it in rather than have the application dealt with by Officer delegation.

7. FINANCE

- 7.1. Budget & Actual: Cashflow 2015-2016 – noted.

- 7.2. The meeting noted the issuing of the following cheques:
 Chq. No. 098, Stuart Dowding – reimbursement of cost of materials £30.99
 Chq. No. 099, Richard Hill – reimbursement of cost of materials £80.47
Note: Due to difficulties Stuart Dowding was having with his bank, the Clerk had stopped Cheque No. 098 at his request, for which a charge of £10 had been made by Santander. Councillor Dowding would be asking his bank to reimburse the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to issue a replacement cheque.
- The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheques:
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| Chq. No. 100 – Invoice No. 4031 – Hire of Village Hall | £146.00 |
| Chq. No. 101 – Clerk's expenses (20.11.15-15.1.16) | £41.49 |
| Chq. No. 102 – Councillor C Warren, reimbursement of costs (Minute No. 3.1. refers) | £20.00 |
| Chq. No. 103 – Geoffrey S. Dowding – reimbursement of cost of materials (replacement for Chq. No. 098 (Minute No. 7.2. refers)) | |
- 7.3. Budget & Precept 2016-2017: District Councillor Dowding advised that as parish precepts were not capped at present, West Somerset Council were suggesting they should be increased this year to make allowance for any devolution of services from the Council. Parish Councillors resolved to increase the precept by 5% to cover possible future Government rate capping and the possibility of future devolution of services from West Somerset Council. The Chairman signed the precept request form which the Clerk will send to West Somerset Council.
- 7.3. It was resolved to make a further grant of £25.00 towards the maintenance of Bicknoller Churchyard.
- 7.4. It was resolved that the request for a grant from the Bicknoller Village Hall towards the play area be deferred to the next meeting.
- 7.5. New table tennis table: County Councillor Christine Lawrence had made a £250 donation to the Table Tennis Club from her Health & Wellbeing fund. It was resolved that as the Table Tennis Club does not have a bank account, the money would be paid into the Parish Council's bank account and then a cheque for £250 would be forwarded to Mr K. Cook.

8. NEW PROCESS FOR AUDIT FROM 2017

Councillors noted that the Audit Commission ceased to exist on 1 April 2015 and a new company – Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd – has been created to take over the appointment of external auditors and the setting of audit fees for smaller authorities from 2017. At the present time no decision of fees for councils with a turnover of less than £25,000 had been made. Although there was an option to opt out of the new process, Councillors resolved not to.

9. NOTICEBOARDS

- 10.1. Woolston Moor. It was resolved to defer this item until Councillor Harrison was present.
- 10.2. Site of the old post box Dashwoods Lane. A parishioner had requested that the Parish Council consider renewing this board. It was resolved that Councillor Grellier would look into this matter.

10. BUS SHELTERS: ADVERTISING INTERNALLY: It was resolved to take no further action.

11. CHILCOMBE CROSS: ATTENUATION PONDS

Concern was expressed that the gulleys in Trendle Lane and Chilcombe Lane were full of debris, that outlet pipes may completely blocked up and questioned whether the attenuation ponds/sluices needed clearing out. Councillors were also

concerned at the amount of water running from Quantock Moor Common which could be exacerbating the problems. Questions were raised about ownership of Quantock Moor Common and it was resolved to contact the Parish Council's Solicitors to ask if they held the Deeds.

12. STOGUMBER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was resolved to congratulate Stogumber Parish Council on such a detailed document and to advise that the Parish Council have no further comments to make.

13. STREET NAMING & NUMBERING

West Somerset has now developed some guidelines for which certain parts of the service will be chargeable with effect from 1 December 2015.

14. CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN 2016

It was noted that as part of the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations the public were being asked to participate in a Clean for the Queen over the weekend of 4th-6th March. A Patron's Party would also be held in London on 12th June.

15. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Grant request towards Bicknoller Play Area.
- Noticeboard at Woolston Moor.
- Chilcombe Cross – attenuation ponds.

16. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2016

The dates had been circulated prior to the meeting and were agreed.

17. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

9 February 2016	7.00 pm	Planning (Provisional)
8 March 2016	7.00 pm	Full Council
12 April 2016	7.00 pm	Planning (Provisional)

18. TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved that this item be considered after the exclusion of the press and public because of the likelihood that exempt information would otherwise be disclosed relating to Paragraph 5 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Item 19 contains information that could release confidential information relating to legal advice.

19. WOOLSTON MOOR – BOUNDARY ISSUES

The Chairman advised the Council's Solicitors would be drawing up documents for approval at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: