

## BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 12 JULY 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, M Rawle and Mrs C Skinner.

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

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PARISH FORUM: Mrs N Hulme attended and spoke in relation to Item 11.

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 R Murphy.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

Councillor Murphy had advised the Clerk he was happy to continue as Vice Chairman unless another Councillor wished to take up the position. It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Murphy be re-elected as Vice Chairman.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Councillors declared a personal interest as Trustees of the Village Hall in Item 10 – Bicknoller Village Shop – Selling of Alcohol. Councillor C Warren declared a personal interest and spoke on Item 16 – Woolston Moor, Boundary Issues.

**4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2016 & MATTERS ARISING**

- 4.1. Woolston Noticeboard – Councillor Harrison had canvassed Woolston residents. One resident had offered to have a noticeboard placed on their property whilst another resident had offered to do a newsletter for Woolston only. It was resolved that Councillor Harrison would check again with the resident who has offered to have a noticeboard on their property and if they were still happy to do so, to action this.
- 4.2. Neighbourhood Watch for Bicknoller – Councillor Harrison had now taken over as the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and another member of the Group had offered to host the annual meeting, therefore the request for the Parish Council to pay for the room hire for the annual meeting needed no further discussion. It was resolved (1) that Councillor Mrs Skinner would be the neighbourhood watch warden for Halsway and resolved (2) that the Clerk would do new notices for noticeboards.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 May 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman reported on a meeting he had attended between West Somerset Council, Bicknoller, Crowcombe & Stogumber Parish Councils on 8 June to discuss planning issues affecting the Quantock Hills AONB and its setting at which he had made some points about a few planning issues in Bicknoller.

**6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- 6.1. Environment – Councillor Mrs Skinner - there had been no reports of any flytipping.
- 6.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Harrison advised that PCSO Bolton had sent him a link for the public to access local crime statistics: <https://www.police.uk/avon-and-somerset/AW052/crime> There was also a link to a crime comparison website: <http://crimerates.co.uk/compare> where the district's crime levels versus those of others could be found. PCSO Bolton also went on to say that the statistics show that Bicknoller to be a very low crime area but

that there are occasional instances of people in vans visiting the village and surrounding areas attempting to sell on power tools and generators (although these are more likely to be cheap imports than stolen goods) and areas like ours are sometimes targeted by people seeking to break into non-dwelling premises, sheds, outbuildings, etc.

- 6.3. Rights of Way – no report. Councillor Grellier mentioned that some footpaths needed strimming. Councillor Andersen had undertaken training to do this and Councillor Grellier would contact him. Discussion ensued regarding stiles on footpaths and who was responsible for maintaining these and it was resolved that the Clerk would contact the SCC Footpaths Officer to ask him to check the stiles in the parish. Councillor Mrs Skinner drew attention to the footpaths on the Quantocks that were becoming overgrown and Councillor Rawle agreed to speak to the AONB.
- 6.4. Roads – The Clerk reported that SCC was still waiting for replacement pieces for the finger post. With regard to hedge cutting in the middle of the nesting season SCC advised “the dispensation we have is that we are only allowed to cut new season growth to avoid any nests.”
- 6.5. Community Resilience & Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Councillor Grellier had had a meeting with SCC and the Chairman of the Village Hall relating to the use of the village hall as a place of safety in case of an accident or some unforeseen accident in the local area. To date the following works had been undertaken, Stuart Dowding and Richard Hill had done some work on the bus shelters at Woolston Moor but more was required, the Church bank had been done and splays were continuing to be mown. Materials had been purchased under the repairs and maintenance budget for the works to the bus shelter and it was resolved to reimburse Stuart Dowding £64.08 for these.
- 6.6. Quantock Hills & Farming – Councillor Rawle – reported that West Somerset Council had cancelled a planned site meeting regarding fencing at the quarry. It was resolved that the Clerk would contact West Somerset Council to ask when a meeting would take place.

## 7. PLANNING

- 7.1. Applications:  
T/01/16/001 Hove To, Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG: application to carry out management work to two Copper Beech trees, one Robinia and two Horse Chestnuts included in Tree Preservation Order T/3/52 (No comment).
- 7.2. Decisions:  
3/01/16/002 Newton Farm, Newton Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EU: demolition of existing lean to and erection of replacement single storey extension (Granted).
- 7.3. Planning consultations to Parish Councils: The correspondence from Taunton Deane Borough Council and West Somerset Council on changes to the notification of planning applications to Parish Councils was noted.
- 7.4. Meeting between West Somerset Council, Bicknoller, Crowcombe & Stogumber Parish Councils held on 8 June to discuss planning issues affecting the Quantock Hills AONB and its setting: Dealt with under Item 5.
- 7.5. Consultation on proposed modifications to the West Somerset Local Plan to 2032: it was noted that the consultation period ends on 16 July 2016.

## 8. FINANCE

- 8.1. Audit for year ending March 2016 – External Auditor's report – the Clerk reported this had not been received and it was resolved to place this on the next agenda.
- 8.2. Budget & Cashflow 2016-2017 - noted.
- 8.3. 2016-2018 National Salary Award – Clerk & Other Employees – noted.
- 8.4. The meeting noted the issuing of the following cheque:

Chq. No. 116, Zurich Municipal – Insurance Renewal	£295.09
Direct Debit payment to Open Spaces Society on 1 July 2016	£45.00
- 8.5. The meeting authorised the issuing of the following cheques:

Chq. No. 117, Somerset Association of Local Councils Affiliation Fee	£106.89
Chq. No. 118, CRS Building Supplies Ltd	£424.09

Chq. No. 119, JPC Design re: website hosting £30.00  
Chq. No. 120, Clerk's expenses 11 May-12 July 2016 £88.73

**N.B.** Councillors felt it unreasonable for CRS Building Supplies Ltd invoices to be left for 2 months for payment and it was resolved (1) that invoices should be paid as soon as practical after receipt and resolved (2) that the Clerk should seek confirmation from the Councillor(s) placing an order that goods have been received prior to paying any invoice.

- 8.6. Grant request towards maintenance of Bicknoller Churchyard: it was resolved to grant £225 towards the maintenance of Bicknoller Churchyard.

**9. REVIEW OF ASSETS**

The list of assets had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was resolved (1) that Councillor Grellier would undertake a review of assets and report back to the September meeting and resolved (2) that photographic evidence of assets be taken for record purposes.

**10. BICKNOLLER VILLAGE SHOP – SELLING OF ALCOHOL**

It was resolved that the Parish Council had no objection to the sale of a limited range of wines, beers and cider by the Bicknoller Community Shop.

**11. CHILCOMBE CROSS: ATTENUATION PONDS**

The Chairman reported that ownership had now been confirmed. The reason for doing so was following concerns of a parishioner regarding flooding at the top by Chilcombe Cottage which was thought to be caused largely by the non-maintenance of the attenuation ponds. Mrs Hulme, owner of the area, advised she had spoken to previous owners and she and they had never heard of the area being called attenuation ponds, they were just gravel pits. She confirmed they cleared the area when they became aware of a problem and were happy to continue to do so but pointed out that there was also a lot of water coming off the fields. She stressed that should some-one become aware of a problem, she was happy for them to contact her on 01984 656376 and it would be dealt with as soon as practically possible. County Councillor Mrs Lawrence advised that Dr Bridgman who wrote the Roadwater flooding plan was now looking at farming through the years and she would mention it to her as a possible area to look into.

**12. WSC & AVON & SOMERSET CONSTABULARY PROTOCOL**

The Clerk reported that the protocol will cover a situation whereby a complaint made in respect of a district, town or parish councillor in West Somerset gives reason to believe that a criminal offence may have been committed in respect of section 34 of the Localism Act 2011. This relates to the requirements for a councillor to register or declare disclosable pecuniary interests as defined in the Code of Conduct and take no part in council business relating to such interests. It was resolved to note the Protocol.

**13. MATTERS ARISING FROM ANNUAL PARISH CONFERENCE – 24 MAY 2016**

- 13.1. Management of Woolston Moor: Councillor Mrs Skinner reported that she had been to Woolston Moor with Richard Hill and John Payton to check which area should be left for the bees. It was also agreed that a weedkiller would be used to kill the creeping strawberry plants and other unidentified weeds and that the alder, which seemed to be taking over, would be topped and then killed in the spring.

**14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

After discussion, it was resolved (1) that Parish Council meetings would move to a Wednesday night with effect from September 2016 - the two remaining meetings for 2016 being 7 September and 2 November – and resolved (2) that with effect from 1 January 2017 meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every other month and resolved (3) that all provisional meeting dates for 2016 are cancelled and that no provisional dates are made for 2017.

**15. TO CONSIDER EXCLUDING THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was resolved that Item 16 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 16 contains information that could release confidential information relating to legal advice.

**16. WOOLSTON MOOR – BOUNDARY ISSUES**

The Chairman advised the Deed of Confirmation now included photographic evidence and measurements of the site and had been signed by the property owners. It was resolved (1) that the Chairman and Clerk sign the Deed of Confirmation on behalf of the Parish Council, resolved (2) that a copy be taken for Parish Council files and resolved (3) that the signed Deed of Confirmation be sent to the Council's Solicitors for safekeeping

The meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Signed: .....  
Chairman

Date: .....