

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 8 JANUARY 2020

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

PRESENT: Councillors C Warren, J Anderson, S Dowding, A Harrison, K Ogilvie-White, M Rawle and Mrs C Skinner.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillors A H Trollope-Bellew (left at 8.15 pm) and M Rigby (left at 7.35 pm); Somerset County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence (left at 8.15 pm) and Mrs C Richards (Clerk),

PARISH FORUM: None.

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS: District Councillors A H Trollope-Bellew and M Rigby and County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence reported on current matters of interest.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2019 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked everyone for all their work during 2019 and expressed his hope that this would continue in 2020.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 5.1. Environment – Councillor Mrs Skinner – a tyre and wheel had been dumped at the top of Halsway Hill and had been reported to the Council.
- 5.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Harrison – no report.
- 5.3. Rights of Way – Councillor K Ogilvie-White – nothing to report.
- 5.4. Roads – Councillor Anderson – SCC Highways had been: informed of potholes in Church Lane, Chilcombe Lane and by the Church Lane bus shelter; asked to confirm if repeated flooding at the entrance to Chilcombe Lane would be dealt with in April; asked for permission to erect two poles to place speed indicator units on the A358 on the verge outside Chatterwood and reporting a damaged sign on the grass verge just before Chilcombe Lane. At the Dunster Area Panel Beccy Brown invited those who had questions for David Peake, who was absent, to submit them via herself. He had referred two questions, one relating to what legal leverage we might have to enforce cleaning up after hedge cutting and topping deemed dangerous to users of a lane. The Parish Council resolved to leave these matters until after the end of the cutting period (February). He was concerned that with heavy rain the Dashwoods Lane stream will overflow into Combe Close and the erosion of asphalt at the side of the stream and questioned ownership. Councillor Dowding stated that Chilcombe Lane/Trendle Lane had not been resurfaced for over 10 years and that the verges were encroaching onto the road and they need moving back so they are clear of the drains; Somerset County Councillor Mrs Lawrence agreed to mention this to David Peake, SCC

Highways. Councillor Harrison drew attention to a pothole at Woolston and the Clerk agreed to report this to SCC Highways. Councillor Anderson further stated that a bag of salt at Halsway had been taken and there was none in the grit bin. The Clerk advised SCC Highways had not asked if the Parish Council required any bags of salt this year and she was asked to email them to request a supply. It was agreed that, if bags were supplied, a bag should be placed where Dashwoods Lane meets the A358.

- 5.5. Community Resilience – Councillor K Ogilvie-White had not yet had an opportunity to review the Emergency Plan or contact John Grellier to seek his guidance on this.
- 5.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – the Parish Clerk reported that drains at Halsway had been checked and a blocked one reported to SCC Highways. The Group were now planning works for 2020.
- 5.7. Quantock Hills & Farming– Councillor Rawle – nothing to report. It was noted that, earlier in the evening, District Councillor Trollope-Bellew had advised that Somerset West & Taunton Council were aware of the situation regarding the fencing at Bicknoller Quarry.

6. PLANNING (Stuart Dowding)

- 6.1. Applications: None.
- 6.2. Decisions: None.
- 6.3. Appeals:
3/01/19/001: Land off Combe Close, Bicknoller: Outline planning application with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of 4 No. detached dwellings (Appeal Dismissed).

7. FINANCE

- 7.1. Budget & Actual; Cashflow 2019-2020 was noted.
- 7.2. It was resolved to issue the following cheques:
Chq. No. 211 – Clerk's Expenses (25 September 2019-3 January 2020) £44.26
Chq. Nos. 212 & 213 – Clerk's Salary & Tax (January-March 2020) £483.21

8. SOMERSET PLAYING FIELDS' SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

The Clerk advised that when the Village Hall Committee took on the play area, the Parish Council agreed to pay their subscription to the Somerset Playing Fields' Association. However, the Village Hall Committee had now advised they no longer required membership of this organisation. It was resolved not to renew it.

9. BUDGET & PARISH/TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT 2020/21

It was resolved to increase the precept to £5,000. It was stressed this was the first increase in precept since 2016-2017. However, it was felt this was necessary due to the possible increase in devolution of services from Somerset West & Taunton Council and SCC Highways

10. RISK ASSESSMENT

Councillor Ogilvie-White stated that, although there were a few improvements that could be made, he considered it a good risk assessment. He would bring it before the next meeting for discussion and agreement.

11. REVIEW OF ASSETS LIST 2019-20

The Assets List 2019-20 had been circulated prior to the meeting and was agreed.

12. SOMERSET WEST & TAUNTON COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

District Councillor Rigby had, earlier in the evening, advised that formal consultation on the Issues and Options document for the newly formed Somerset West and

