

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 13 MAY 2020

A (remote attendance via Zoom) meeting of the Council was held at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: (Remote attendance via Zoom): Councillors C Warren, J Anderson, S Dowding, A Harrison, K Ogilvie-White and M Rawle.

IN (Remote attendance via Zoom): Mrs C Richards (Clerk),

PARISH FORUM: None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Mrs C Skinner, District Councillor A Trollope-Bellew and Somerset County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence.

The Council accepted apologies from Parish Councillor Mrs C Skinner given the current circumstances and the ruling concerning non-attendance by Councillors at meetings for six months.

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

None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 MARCH 2020 & MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor Harrison advised the Village Hall Committee had given permission to attach a dog bin to their boundary wall and to use their general waste bin for an initial period. It was resolved (1) that Councillors Harrison & Ogilvie-White would undertake a risk assessment and resolved (2) that Councillor Harrison would look into the type of bins available and report back to a future meeting.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2020 were approved. Given the current circumstances, the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

4. **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2019-2020**

The Certificate of Exemption 2019/20 was approved. Given the current circumstances, the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

5. **INSURANCE RENEWAL 2020-2021**

It was resolved to accept the quotation from Zurich Municipal in the sum of £319.76 and Chq. No. 222 would be raised for this amount when conditions allowed.

6. **BUSINESS CONTINUITY POLICY**

(A draft Business Continuity Plan had been circulated prior to the meeting).

It was resolved:

- (1) to agree the Business Continuity Policy; and
- (2) that the Parish Council could have a mix of meetings and delegations and any decisions taken under delegated powers, between meetings, are reported to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Councillor Anderson was keen for the Parish Council to bring its activities closer to parishioners. He had a list of over 100 Bicknoller resident email addresses which he had used to send information of varying kinds over the years and suggested that he

email those people to ask if they would be interested in receiving email correspondence from the Parish Council. Following a discussion on GDPR, it was agreed that Councillor Anderson email Bicknoller residents asking for their permission for the Clerk to hold their details so that the Clerk could email them items of interest.

7. PLANNING (Stuart Dowding)

7.1. Applications:

3/01/20/007: 7 Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG: Formation of Parking Space – No Objections.

Councillor Dowding drew attention to works at a property in Chilcombe Lane, which had been reported to the District Council's Enforcement Officer.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

8.1. Environment – Councillor Mrs Skinner had reported she had received no reports of any flytipping.

8.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Harrison reported that there had recently been reports of three garage/garden shed break-ins in Williton. He would circulate details to all NW members.

8.3. Rights of Way – Councillor Ogilvie-White – SCC Rights of Way Officer had asked him to look at an issue raised about a stile towards Halsway but he had not yet managed to do this.

8.4. Roads – Councillor Anderson – Chilcombe Lane drainage – Councillor Warren reported he had spoken to the local engineer, who had advised Chilcombe Lane is scheduled to have drainage work followed by resurfacing where required. However, due to the virus there is no time plan at the moment. Councillor Anderson expressed concern as to whether the plans would include work on the gullies as at present flood waters bypass several and stated he would continue to press Kevin Bridgwater and David Peake, SCC Highways, for some idea of what is going to happen. Councillor Anderson had also spoken to the owner of a field on the right hand side going up Chilcombe Lane to ask for a site meeting to look at possible ways of reducing run-off from that site. With regard to potholes, these will have to wait unless they are very serious. Supply lines for tarmac (and other materials) have been severely disrupted by Covid-19 social distancing regulations. Councillor Warren further reported that SCC Highways had also reported that the drains in Culverhayes Lane are due to be jetted soon.

In a report circulated prior to the meeting, Councillor Anderson had set out the situation regarding the speed checks on the A358 as follows "I am grateful to PCSO Sue Thompson for her help in obtain this data. As you know my objective was to see what speed vehicles actually drove through our village, not necessarily whether they were exceeding the limit. That objective has been achieved. We now know that the average speed of eastbound traffic was 52 mph and in a westbound direction 48 mph, with the occasional driver well over the 60 mph limit. The next stage in the survey is to determine how many accidents, fatal or otherwise, have occurred along the stretch of the A358 which traverses the Parish. We know of at least two in the life of this current Council: overturned vehicle and sign post swept away to the other side of the road. Kate Brown of SCC Traffic Management has kindly passed on my request for accident data to her colleagues in the Road Safety Team".

8.5. Community Resilience – Councillor Ogilvie-White – most of the news is around the community in view of the epidemic. He thanked Kim Martin who has done an excellent job in the community, not only with the shop, but for his

idea of setting up Bicknoller Parish Covid-19 Response Plan. A Bicknoller Post facebook page had also been set up which carries a lot of important and useful information for residents within the village to express any concerns and let us know if they need any help. He stressed the importance of people not putting personal details on the site because of scammers. Volunteers have been added to a WhatsApp Group so we can co-ordinate responses for requests for help. Currently there are 20 responders on the group. He had also set up a contract with Tamar Communications at a cost of £10.99 per month, which he had paid for himself, for a single line of contact which all residents of Bicknoller and West Quantoxhead could ring. The phone will ring all responders until someone answers, takes message and deals with the enquiry. It is being used on average 3 calls a day but they have had up to 6 calls a day. Calls range from asking for advice, wanting some shopping or collection of a prescription. All Councillors thanked Councillor Ogilvie-White and Kim Martin for their hard work in setting these schemes up, which was of great benefit to the community.

- 8.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Parish Clerk – no report. Councillor Dowding drew attention to the culverts under the A358 which had become overgrown and needed attention. It was resolved that he would have another look at these and report back. He further advised that some of the bus shelters needed creosoting in the summer and it was agreed he would purchase the material and claim the money back from the Parish Council. Councillor Warren agreed to speak to John Grellier to ask if he was still prepared to act as Co-ordinator for the Group.
- 8.7. Quantock Hills & Farming – Councillor Rawle – urged dog walkers on the Quantocks to take care as there was a prevalence of ticks at the moment. The farmers had to round-up sheep to treat them and some sheep had died due the ticks. The round-up had been monitored by the Police.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: