

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 8 JULY 2020

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

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

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor C Warren

IN (remote attendance): County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence, District Councillor M Rigby, Mrs C Richards (Parish Clerk)

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: District Councillor M Rigby and County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence reported on current matters of interest.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** District Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:** None.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2020 & MATTERS ARISING**

Dog Litter Bin - It was resolved to purchase a dog litter bin in the sum of £230.84 including VAT from Glasdon UK Limited. Councillor Harrison would look into sources of suitable liner sacks.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 May 2020 were approved. Given the current circumstances, the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None.

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

5.1. Annual Internal Report 2019/20. With regard to Internal Control Objective, Point G, it was resolved to note the Internal Auditor's comments that it had been identified that the method of calculating the Clerk's PAYE was incorrect.

5.2. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 was approved; the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

5.3. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20 was approved; the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

6. **FINANCE**

6.1. Budget & Actual; Cashflow – noted.

6.2. It was resolved to issue the following Cheques:

Chq. No. 226, JPC-Design (web hosting) £30.00

Chq. No. 227, Clerk's Expenses (11 March-8 July 2020) £39.88

6.3. It was resolved to note the following income had been received:

Parish Precept £5,000.00

6.4. It was resolved to note the issuing of the following Cheques:

Chq. No. 221, Somerset West & Taunton Council (election expenses May 2019) £100.00

Chq. No. 222, Zurich Municipal (Insurance Renewal) £319.76

Chq. No. 223, Matthew Sharp, Forward Forestry £50.00

Chq. Nos. 224 & 225, Clerk's Salary & Tax (April-June 2020) £483.21

NOTE (1): Cheque No. 219 had not been issued as the Bicknoller Village Hall Committee waived the charge for the use of the meeting room on 20 March 2020.

NOTE (2): Cheque Nos. 223, 224 & 225 had been issued under the Business Continuity Policy adopted by the Parish Council at its meeting on 13 May 2020.

7. **PLANNING** (Stuart Dowding)

7.1. Applications:

3/01/20/008: Manor Farm Barn, Woolston, TA4 4EG: Formation of attenuation/nature pond (No Objections).

3/01/20/009: Rainbows, Paradise Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4BB: Conversion of the existing outbuilding into a one bedroom granny annex to be used as ancillary accommodation to the main house (renewal of planning application 3/01/17/005 (No Objections)).

3/01/20/012: Culverhayes, Culverhayes Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EX: Erection of two single storey extensions and alterations to porch (No Objections).

NOTE: The response to the above Planning Applications had been taken under the Business Continuity Policy adopted by the Parish Council at its meeting on 13 May 2020.

7.2. Decisions: None.

In a report circulated prior to the meeting, Councillor Dowding had set out the situation relating to planning applications for 2020 to date. He asked West Somerset Councillor Rigby if he could find out the present position regarding the planning application at Byways. He advised that the "scrap yard" at a property in Chilcombe Lane, is in the process of being removed. He praised the work of Myra Spalding, the Somerset West & Taunton Council Enforcement Officer, for her work on this matter. The owners are fully co-operating and have until the end of August 2020 to finish the job, after which there will be no further extensions.

8. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

8.1. Little Moor, Woolston – The Chairman reported it had been necessary to fell a tree as a matter of urgency, this had been undertaken within 48 hours of reporting it; he thanked the residents of Woolston for clearing it away. The fallen tree had also damaged the fencing, which was in the ownership of the West Somerset Railway (WSR). Councillor Ogilvie-White had emailed them previously and received no reply, but would now visit Little Moor to take some photos and email WSR again, although it was pointed out that WSR were experiencing financial problems. The Clerk advised that WSR had undertaken repairs to the fencing in the past.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.1. Environment – Chris Skinner – report circulated prior to meeting - flytipping at Merways Knapp has been cleared away and she had received no further reports of flytipping. David Northcote Wright from Somerset Wildlife, together with residents of Woolston, Andrew Harrison and herself from the Parish Council, took a tour of Woolston Moor pointing out the various wildflowers growing there. The upshot of the meeting was that she believed that the Parish Council and Woolston residents will work more closely together in the management of the Moor and she will be keeping in touch with Anne Harrison from Woolston. Charlie Pascall, a local resident, will be cutting the Moor at the end of July in order to leave it until the wild flowers have seeded. One thing she was unaware of was that grazing rights stay with the property not the people. Councillor Dowding reported that a quantity of garden hedge cutting, logs and a black bag of what appears to be Xmas/gift wrapping had been dumped at Woolston Moor.

9.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Andrew Harrison – there had been recent shed break-ins at Bicknoller, Crowcombe and West Quantoxhead. The Bicknoller resident affected had found some of the items from his shed dumped in a hedge and saw a white van that might/might not have been coming to pick it up. Councillor Harrison had circulated details of the break-ins to Neighbourhood Watch Members and Woolston residents. He urged everyone to ensure they secure sheds and perhaps move valuable items from sheds into a more secure location for the timebeing.

9.3. Rights of Way – Kevin Ogilvie-White – nothing to report.

9.4. Roads – Julian Anderson – speeding through Bicknoller on the A358: he was still looking into this. He had received two very different reports on the number of accidents, fatal or otherwise, some of which had been confirmed by the SCC Road Safety Team. He would be investigating other accidents which Councillor Dowding had provided and asking the Road Safety Team why they were not on their records. Councillor Warren confirmed the fatal accident in 2015 at Upcott Lane. County Councillor Lawrence advised that it depends on where the fatality is, whether the person died at the scene or not. Councillor Anderson thanked Kate Brown who had been a great help. Councillor Harrison drew attention to an area of road section on the A358 (later identified Merways Knapp) which has grown over the verge and is now encroaching the paved area of the

A358, which could be dangerous, particularly to cyclists. Councillor Anderson agreed to notify SCC Highways of this problem.

No drainage or resurfacing work has been undertaken at Chilcombe Lane yet. He further reported hedges have been cut in most parts to one meter high. There is the same problem as last year with the overhang being a danger to passing road users. He had sent an email to a resident in Trendle Lane asking her to top her hedge. It was resolved that Councillors Anderson, Rawle and Warren would undertake a tour of the parish to look at the hedges and to agree on a way forward. There was a damaged bank outside No. 10 Trendle Lane, the result of the bank being shaved away by some heavy vehicle. The property owner had expressed concern that so much of the bank had been removed that the post carrying the overhead power lines might collapse. Western Power Distribution (WPD) had sent an engineer to inspect and work was undertaken. He had asked for WPD for confirmation in writing that the post is safe and a request has been passed to the Post Inspector to double check.

- 9.5. Community Resilience – Kevin Ogilvie-White – the number of telephone calls the Bicknoller Community Response Team was receiving on a weekly basis had dropped off dramatically to less than 3 or 4 a week. He thought this was partly due to people getting used to the new normal and putting systems in place with friends and neighbours who can get out and about with the restrictions. He will continue with the assistance contact number for at least a month or 2 and then review. Bicknoller Post, Facebook & WhatsApp are now posting much less than they were in the beginning. There had been really good assistance from residents and the community spirit has been amazing. He would be looking to see what things can be done in the future to bring everyone together, as it would be a shame to lose that community spirit.
- 9.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Councillor Warren reported that John Grellier had resigned from his role as Co-ordinator for the Group. Discussion took place regarding which Parish Councillor could take over this role. With no-one forthcoming at the moment, it was resolved to ask parishioners if anyone would be interested in undertaking this role. Councillor Dowding advised he was still waiting for some creosote for the bus shelters, which was on order. He would also wood preserve and repair the backboard at the noticeboard at Halsway. Councillor Warren would have a look at the stream drain running up Church Lane which was potentially blocked.
- 9.7. Quantock Hills & Farming – Mike Rawle – nothing to report.

10. SCC 'ONE SOMERSET'

County Councillor Lawrence advised that the Business Case was now available on www.onesomerset.org.uk She asked Councillors to view it and if they wished Mandy Chilcott, Deputy Leader of SCC, would be happy to attend a meeting to discuss further. Prior to the Business Case being available, Councillors Anderson and Dowding had attended a virtual meeting with Stogumber Parish Council when David Fothergill, Leader of SCC, gave a presentation.

11. "BRING YOUR PARISH COUNCIL CLOSER TO YOU"

Further to Minute No. 6 of the Meeting of 13 May 2020, the Clerk now had email addresses of parishioners who had expressed an interest in receiving communications from the Parish Council. The Clerk had the necessary permissions from parishioners on file.

12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed to continue with ZOOM Meetings for the timebeing.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9 September 2020 at 7 pm
11 November 2020 at 7 pm

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: