

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 9 DECEMBER 2020

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

PRESENT: (Remote attendance): Councillors J Anderson, S Dowding, A Harrison, K Ogilvie-White, 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)

PUBLIC (remote attendance): Mrs I Silvester, Mr D Croxton.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Parish Councillor Mrs C Skinner and District Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:**
 - 2.1. Dispensation relating to Precept setting meetings of the Bicknoller Parish Council held between 13 November 2019 and 31 May 2023 signed at the meetings held on 13 November 2019 and 8 January 2020.
3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None.
4. **SOMERSET CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY COMMUNITY FUND – BICKLIFTS PROPOSAL**

Mrs Silvester and Mr Croxton advised the bid for funding would be a joint one between BICKLifts and Watchet Drives. They explained how it was envisaged the scheme would work between the two organisations, although this was still subject to further discussions. The bid will be drafted by the Community Involvement Officer of the Smart Communities arm of the Community Council of Somerset for the lead council to submit (it was hoped that Watchet Town Council would be the lead council, although this was subject to discussion at a Watchet Town Council meeting to be held on 9 December 2020).

Parish Councillors were mainly supportive of the scheme but had serious concerns regarding the finances and, in particular, \$137 as they did not want to financially compromise Parish Council finances.

After a lengthy debate, it was agreed to seek advice from Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) regarding \$137 finances before any decision was made.
5. **HEDGES WITHIN THE PARISH**

Councillors Anderson & Dowding advised that following an email on 18 September 2020 an absentee landowner had cut their lane side of their Trendle Lane hedge. However, despite this it was felt that some hazards persist in the form of the possibility of dead wood falling from the hedge and possible serious consequences following damage to overhead telephone and broadband cables. Councillor Anderson advised that in the opinion of experts the ancient hedgerow would be lost unless action is taken without delay not to cut it back, but to lay it and fill the gaps with new plants.

Following discussion, it was

Resolved (1) to write to the absent landowner again requesting them to carry out the required works as soon as possible and certainly before 15 January 2021, after which time the Parish Council reserve the right to ask Somerset County Council to undertake whatever action is thought necessary to remove the hazards and recover the cost of doing so.

Resolved (2) to write to thank the landowners who had cut back their hedges following the Parish Council's request dated 18 September 2020.

Resolved (3) to write to thank a gentleman who undertakes work within the village on a voluntary basis in his own time when he visits the village and to ask him if he would like to join the Bicknoller Volunteer Group.
6. **DEFIBRILLATOR SUPPORT PACKAGE**

The Clerk confirmed that the Defibrillator Support Package for the two defibrillators was due to expire in March and July 2021 respectively. It had previously been agreed that the number of

defibrillators be reduced to one (Minute No. 7, Meeting 28.10.2019 refers). The South West Ambulance Service Trust (SWAST) had advised that the cost of one defibrillator was £1,800 + VAT and this cost could now be spread over 4 years. The Clerk advised that it may be possible to obtain some grant funding from Somerset Prepared. Parish Councillors also felt that the two defibrillators were relatively close together in terms of location. On being put to the vote, it was resolved (1) to keep the defibrillator at the Bicknoller Village, resolved (2) to apply for grant funding from Somerset Prepared towards the cost of renewing the support package and resolved (3) that the Parish Council pay for the support package as a whole rather than over a 4 year period.

Note: Councillor Anderson abstained from voting on resolution (1).

7. DOG WASTE BIN: SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT FOR EMPTYING

The dog waste bin near the Village Hall was well used and, currently, was being emptied by Councillor Harrison. The Clerk advised that the cost of a contract at one empty per week at £3.95 + VAT was in the region of £250 and it was resolved to enter a service level agreement with Idverdie. Until a contract could be put in place, Councillor Harrison was happy to continue with the current arrangement. The Chairman and Councillors thanked Councillor Harrison for his work.

8. FINANCE

8.1. It was resolved to issue the following cheques:

Chq. Nos. 236 & 237, Clerk's Salary & Tax (October-December 2020) £496.47

8.2. Parish Council Precept 2021/22

It was resolved to increase the precept to £5,400. Given the current circumstances, the Chairman and Clerk would sign these when conditions allowed and return them to Somerset West and Taunton Council.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

13 January 2021 at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: