

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 13 JANUARY 2021

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. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None.
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2020 & EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS HELD ON 9 & 16 DECEMBER 2020 & MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk reported that –

- a Service Level Agreement and cheque for £243.36 had been sent to Idverde for the dog litter bin waste collection contract and she was waiting to hear when the contract would start.
- an application for grant funding had been submitted to Somerset Prepared for funding towards the defibrillator support package.

Councillor Ogilvie-White advised that West Somerset Railway had confirmed the fence which runs along the south side of Woolston approach was a WSR asset and they are making arrangements to repair the fence.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2020 and the Extraordinary Meetings held on 9 and 16 December 2020 were approved. Given the current circumstances, the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman congratulated Councillors for the work they had done with regard to lanes and hedges in and around Bicknoller village.

6. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- 6.1. Environment – Chris Skinner – no reports of any flytipping.
- 6.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Andrew Harrison – he continued to receive notifications of various scams centred on the Coronavirus pandemic.
- 6.3. Rights of Way – Kevin Ogilvie-White – a seriously large tree was blown over in the gales three weeks ago at Longcombe which bridged the footpath. He had reported this to SCC who had put up some hazard taping and this morning he saw some workers with chainsaws going in the direction of the fallen tree, although he had not had time to check to see if the obstruction/hazard has been cleared.
- 6.4. Roads – Julian Anderson - water is coming up through the tarmac in Church Lane just below its junction with Trendle Lane and the small triangular island. Wessex Water have tested and sampled and have informed that the water involved is not mains water and therefore "natural" water. He had subsequently emailed SCC Highways asking their engineers to visit the site and take the necessary steps to stop the flow. He had heard nothing further about drainage works in Chilcombe Lane. Hedge cutting: A358 the problem of hedges/trees overhanging the verge and invading the tarmac on this trunk

road has only been partially resolved. He had emailed SCC Highways again on 9 January 2021 and had yet to receive a reply; this situation was first drawn to their attention on 14 July 2020. The absentee landowner of an overhanging hedge in Trendle Lane had stated it was their intention to rejuvenate the hedge during the dormant season. It was resolved to now pass this matter on to SCC Highways, as the responsible authority. Councillor Dowding advised there was a need to have the banks in Chilcombe Lane/Trendle Lane taken back in as the highway was getting narrower. Flooding in Dashwoods Lane: The problem appears to have been resolved by raising the bank with what looks like a solid structure or rocks, gravel and earth. This will be strengthened further by the roots of the grass which will be sown on it in the Spring. It was resolved that the Bicknoller Volunteer Group would get a team together to clear vegetation in the stream to help ease the flow. Lane sign: the support of the sign in upper Dashwoods Lane has collapsed and has been reported to Somerset West & Taunton Council. Potholes: Two potholes, one at the junction of Trendle and Chilcombe Lanes and another at the junction of Church Lane have been reported to SCC Highways. Drains: Councillor Mrs Skinner had reported a blocked drain at Halsway and Councillor Rawle reported a problem with a drain grill near Dobles Wood; Councillor Anderson would visit both. Somerset County Councillor Mrs Lawrence agreed to chase SCC Highways up on the highways matters raised.

- 6.5. Community Resilience – Councillor Ogilvie-White – there had been no cause yet to reinstate the Tamar Communications contact number for the Bicknoller Coronavirus Group. Kim Martin has kindly offered his contact number, he has had a few calls and he would let Councillor Ogilvie-White know if the calls became too much to manage, in which case the Tamar Communications contact number will be reinstated. However, he thought the majority of people have got their support networks in place for this lockdown. SCC had offered to cover the cost of the contact number, although he had not sent them any paperwork to date. With regard to an alternative use for the old telephone box opposite the Bicknoller Inn when the defibrillator was removed later in the year, Parish Councillors suggested a library, a seed exchange scheme and the repositioning of the Parish Council noticeboard from the adjacent bank. After discussion, it was agreed (1) that parishioners should be asked for their suggestions and agreed (2) to place an item on Bicknoller Post and in Parish Pumpings (Councillor Ogilvie-White and the Clerk to action this).
- 6.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Stuart Dowding – nothing has happened in the period since the last meeting. The eastbound Church Lane bus shelter needs a new sterling board and new felt and this work was agreed. At some point in the future, the whole roof will require replacing. He had looked at the cost of sheds for the storage of equipment but a location is needed before one can be purchased. The Parish Council is grateful to John Grellier for continuing to store the equipment at the moment, but this is not an option in the long-term.
- 6.7. Quantock Hills & Farming – Mike Rawle – there had been a large number of dog attacks on the Quantocks as a lot more people are walking on the hills and not controlling their dogs. It was agreed (1) that the Parish Council should purchase signs asking people to keep their dogs on leads and agreed (2) that Councillor Rawle would write to the National Trust asking for permission to erect signs on their property.

7. **PLANNING** (Stuart Dowding)

- 7.1. Applications:
3/01/20/017: Rural building on land off Chilcombe Lane, Bicknoller: Conversion of redundant rural building into 1 No. dwelling with associated works. It was resolved to object to this planning application.
3/01/20/018: 1 Woolston Moor Cottages, Cottiford Road, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 4LP: Erection of first floor extension on the east elevation. It was resolved that there were no objections to this planning application.
3/01/20/019: Dairy House, Middle Halsway, Halsway Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4BA: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of a building as a dwellinghouse. It was resolved to object to this application.
- 7.2. Decisions: None.

8. FINANCE

- 8.1. Budget & Actual; Cashflow 2020-2021– noted.
- 8.2. It was resolved to note the following income had been received:

CIL Payment 2020	£799.47
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- 8.3. It was resolved to note the issuing of the following Cheque & Direct Debit:

Chq. No. 238, Mr J Anderson, contribution to ZOOM subscription	£65.00
Direct Debit – ICO Data Registration Renewal	£35.00
- 8.4. It was resolved to issue the following Cheque:

Chq. No. 240, Clerk's Expenses (3 September 2020 to 13 January 2021)	£52.66
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- 8.5. A request for a grant towards the maintenance of the Bicknoller Churchyard was considered. It was resolved not to make a donation based on the advice issued by the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC). They had advised that Parish Councils should not be paying any S137 monies, or any monies, to a Church or churchyard unless it is a closed Church or churchyard.

9. INTERNAL CONTROL AUDIT: TO REVIEW

The ten key control tests, which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, was reviewed and it was resolved that no changes were required.

10. REVIEW OF ASSETS

The list of assets, which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, was reviewed and it was resolved that no changes were required.

11. ATTENUATION PONDS & QUANTOCK MOOR COMMON

Councillor Anderson reported that as part of a joint project between Quantock Eco and the Two Valleys Project (tree/hedgerow planting/natural flood management), Project Manager, carina Gaertner, is in discussion with the owners of the pond about methods of slowing the flow of the stream. At present the conversation revolves around the two ponds on the hill side of Trendle Lane. It was noted that Councillor Anderson, as Chair of Quantock Eco, would receive periodic reports from the Project Manager and would keep the Parish Council informed.

12. SCRAPPED CAR IN AONB FIELD IN TRENDLE LANE

It was resolved to note that, as this was on private land, there was no action the Parish Council could take at present.

13. FILE BACKUPS

The Clerk reported the Internal Auditor had suggested a Parish Councillor should hold file backups and a list of passwords in case the Parish Clerk was unable to perform her duties. It was resolved that Councillor Harrison would hold these details. Given the current circumstances, the Clerk would pass the relevant information on when conditions allowed.

14. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

10 March 2021 at 7 pm

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: