

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 5 MAY 2021

A (remote attendance) Extraordinary Meeting of the Council was held at 7 pm.

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

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor C Warren

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

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR: County Councillor Mrs Lawrence thanked the NHS and all volunteers for their hard work with the vaccination programme, stated how low COVID numbers were in the area but stressed that everyone needed to remain vigilant. Parish Councillors also expressed their appreciation to the NHS and volunteers.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Warren be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. He would sign his Declaration of Acceptance of Office when conditions allowed.

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

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Dowding be elected as Vice Chairman for the ensuing year.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

Councillor Anderson declared a personal interest in Item 7 - Presentation by Two Valleys Project – as he was the Chairman of Quantock Eco, who were working with the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust.

5. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2021 & MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk confirmed that the amount of money to be refunded to Somerset West & Taunton Council should read £799.47 and not £199.47. Subject to the Minutes being amended accordingly, the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28 April 2021 were approved. Given the current circumstances, the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: The Clerk advised there were no questions from the public. However, she took the opportunity, with the permission of Councillors, to read an email from a parishioner which extended ongoing thanks to members for all that they continue to do for our community and thanks to the Clerk for the many communications during the course of the last year.

7. PRESENTATION BY TWO VALLEYS PROJECT

Hannah Bailey, Engagement Officer of the Two Valleys Project, gave a presentation on the work of the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust. She advised that she and Briony Wilde, Project Manager, together with the Environment Agency are running a Natural Flood Management programme in the Two Valleys Area, around the Doniford and Monksilver streams. The overall aim is to reduce flooding and focus mainly on rivers and rainfall run-off. Their plan is to establish a flood management group with the community. They are here to support people who want to implement measures on their land prior to their project finishing at the end of March 2022. Councillor Anderson advised that Quantock Eco hoped to meet with other local organisations as soon as COVID restrictions allow to look at planting more trees and building some woody dams at the bottom of the Coombe and it would be useful to have a member of the Parish Council at such a meeting. Councillor Warren advised he would be interested in attending this meeting.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

8.1. Environment – Councillor Mrs Skinner – flytipping has now been removed from Halsway layby. A successful litter pick had been undertaken on 19 March 2021 when several bags of litter had been collected. When she rang the Council to ask for them to be

collected, she was advised that some bags had been collected and had been reported as flytipping. The Council have subsequently asked that in future when a litter picking session is arranged that the Clerk let the Council know beforehand so bags could be collected and were not treated as flytipping.

- 8.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Councillor Harrison – nothing to report.
- 8.3. Roads – Councillor Anderson – He stated he was due to meet Andrew Turner from SCC Highways on 6 May 2021 to look at a hedge in Trendle Lane. He expressed his ongoing frustration with the lack of response and action from SCC Highways following his reporting of several matters, some dating back to July 2020. Councillor Dowding had circulated a draft letter prior to the meeting which he wished to send to SCC Highways regarding drainage works in Chilcombe Lane and it was resolved that the letter should now be sent.

Councillor Skinner reported that the bus stop signs on the left and right hand sides at Halsway Hill were leaning. The Clerk agreed to check with SCC Highways who was responsible for these.

Councillor Rawle advised that the sign pointing to Culverhayes & Kingswood at the top of Halsway Hill was broken and needed repair. The Clerk agreed to report this to SCC Highways.

- 8.4. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Councillor Dowding – The stream at Woolston Moor had been cleared by members of the group but bird nesting put an immediate stop to progress. Work will recommence when conditions allowed. He would like to see some of the brush at the southern end of the Moor cleared. He was seeking volunteers to help with the renewal of the roof on the bus shelter on the eastbound side at Church Lane and it was agreed that the materials for this could be purchased.

Councillor Anderson advised volunteers were working to make the stream flow easier and building up the banks of the stream in Dashwoods Lane to prevent flooding down Dashwoods, Gatchells and Church Lanes.

- 8.5. Quantock Hills & Farming – Councillor Rawle – gave an update on the new car park planned by the Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme. The Landscape Officer had advised they have to reapply for planning permission as the intended new car park spanned two different District Council areas. They also have to cut down 6-8 trees to make this car park. If and when permission is granted, it is envisaged the work will take two years to complete. At present, a lot of cars are parking on land owned by the Friends of the Quantocks, which they should not be doing.

9. **PLANNING** (Stuart Dowding)

9.1. Applications:

3/01/21/003: Newton Farm, Newton Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EU: Change of use of agricultural land to holiday use with creation of access track and 2 No. hardstanding areas to site 2 No. glamping units (showmans wagons).

It was resolved that the Parish Council have no objections in principle but query whether the colour will impact upon the AONB and clarification was required on the environmentally friendly treatment plan, details of which are missing from the application. The Parish Council see this as a "low impact" development and would be very concerned to see any great increase in the size of the site or number of buses.

Finally, the Parish Council welcome any development which encourages tourism and, subject to acceptable answers to these points, wish the venture well.

9.2. Decisions:

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 (Granted).

3/01/21/001: 11 Church Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EL: Erection of single storey rear extension (Granted).

9.3. Appeal:

3/01/20/016: Application for Outline Planning Permission with all matters reserved except for access for the erection of 1 No. dwelling and detached garage in the garden to the side with associated access: Chilcombe House, 30 Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG (Appeal Allowed and Planning Permission Granted). The Parish Council expressed concern that the Secretary of State had granted permission 3 weeks before the closing date for comments. The Parish Council was actively exploring ways of pursuing this matter further.

10. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2020-2021

- 10.1. Certificate of Exemption 2020/2021 – it was resolved to approve this.
- 10.2. Annual Internal Report 2020/2021 – the Clerk reported the response to Item K should have read “Yes” rather than “No”. She had spoken with the Internal Auditor, who had agreed the amendment could be made. The Parish Council resolved to note this.
- 10.3. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 – it was resolved to approve this.
- 10.4. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 20120/2021 – it was resolved to approve this.

NOTE: The Chairman would sign the above documents when conditions allowed.

11. FINANCE

- 11.1. Bank Reconciliation: it was resolved to note this had been undertaken on 31 March 2021 by Councillor Harrison when the current account balance as at 17 March 2021 was £8,024.76.
- 11.2. It was resolved to note that the following income had been received:
Somerset West and Taunton Council – Parish Precept £5,400.00
- 11.3. It was resolved to note the issuing of the following cheque:
Chq. No. 248 – Zurich Municipal – Insurance £317.78
- 11.4. It was resolved to issue the following cheques:
Chq. No. 249 – SALC Invoice INV-20858 – Remote Clerk Training 16.3.21 £30.00

12. RISK ASSESSMENT: TO REVIEW

It was resolved that no amendments were necessary.

13. MATTERS ARISING FROM PARISH CONFERENCE 28 APRIL 2021

- 13.1. Use of land behind Church Lane, Bicknoller
Concerns had been raised by parishioners in Church Lane regarding the use of the land and welfare of animals. It was resolved to write to the owner of the land to make them aware of these concerns.

14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

It was noted that a local poll of all electors on two proposals for the future of local government in Somerset currently under consideration – One Somerset and Stronger Somerset – will take place from 18 May to 4 June 2021. The local poll was agreed by each of the four Somerset District Councils at meetings on Friday 30 April 2021. A general discussion took place regarding local government reorganisation.

15. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Seat at Little Moor, Woolson
- Horse-riding on Woolston Moor
- Trusteeship of the Bicknoller Village Hall
- Broadband connectivity at Woolston

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9 June 2021	7 pm
14 July 2021	7 pm
8 September 2021	7 pm
10 November 2021	7 pm

The meeting closed at 8.31 pm.

Signed: Date:
Chairman