

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 9 JUNE 2021

An Extraordinary Meeting of the Council was held in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors C Warren, J Anderson, S Dowding, A Harrison, Mrs C Skinner and M Rawle.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence; Mr K Martin, Mrs M Pumphrey and Mr C Raisey (Members of the Bicknoller Village Hall Committee) and Mrs C Richards (Parish Clerk).

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR: County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence reported on current matters of interest.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

An apology for absence was received from District Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:

A dispensation relating to Bicknoller Village Hall to cover the period 15 May 2019 to 31 May 2023 was signed at the meetings held on 25 September 2019 and 8 January 2020.

3. MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 5 MAY 2021 & MATTERS ARISING

With regard to Item 13.1 - Use of land behind Church Lane, Bicknoller - a reply had been received from the landowner, which had included an invoice for his time for travel and an on-site inspection. A draft letter was discussed and it was agreed to send this and a refusal to pay the invoice, as the Parish Council had merely been bringing the matter to their attention.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 5 May 2021 were approved and signed.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME: None.

5. CASUAL VACANCY: There were no requests for co-option onto the Parish Council.

6. BICKNOLLER VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE STATUS & APPROVAL OF BICKNOLLER VILLAGE HALL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Kim Martin, Treasurer of the Bicknoller Village Hall Committee, advised that upon trying to change Treasurer details at the Bank, they had flagged up and queried the charitable status of the Bicknoller Village Hall. Upon seeking legal advice, the following had been flagged up: Trustees and the Committee are two separate entities and a person on the Committee cannot be a Trustee. In accordance with the Trust Deed, Bicknoller Parish Council is the sole trustee for the charity and the Trust Deed states there must be at least three trustees and no more than five. Following discussion, it was agreed that Councillor Dowding would approach three parishioners to ask if they would serve as a Trustee and report back to the next meeting.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked Councillors for all their work over the past 12-15 months, which had been a very difficult time for all.

8. AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

- Rights of Way: It was agreed that Councillor Warren would take this on.
- Community Resilience: This vacancy was not filled.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 9.1. Environment: Councillor Mrs Skinner had not received any reports of flytipping. The Clerk had received an email regarding flytipping at Quantock Moor & Chilcombe Lane, both of which were on private land and therefore the responsibility of the landowner.
- 9.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch: Andrew Harrison reported that he continued to pass on alerts from the Police. There had been a number of spoofing and phishing scams. He stressed the importance of reporting email/text/telephone scams as these

are entered into automatic sorting system and will assist in blocking illegal sites. Police Liaison: Woolston Moor – a big lorry got stuck on double bend between Woolston end of hamlet and the railway bridge and proceeded to rip out at least 20 yards of a major hedge, together with an electricity pylon and wiring. The Police and Western Power had been notified, which led to the power having to be turned off so they could put new wiring in place. The Police had been unable to trace the vehicle responsible.

- 9.3. Roads: Julian Anderson thanked County Councillor Lawrence for taking the Parish Council's concerns to the highest level at County Hall. He was pleased to say that he now had a conversation with Kevin Bridgwater from SCC Highways which had covered both Highways' and Bicknoller Parish concerns. During the conversation, the following reports had been made, **Chilcombe Lane Drainage:** it was agreed the construction of the new drains could have been better. **Church Lane:** The hole in the tarmac in front of "The Old Court" (corner with Gatchells) has been repaired. A "French drain" is to be installed to stop the water bubbling up from under the tarmac at the junction of Church and Trendle Lanes. **Blocked Drains:** These would only be unblocked where they presented a risk to life or property. Councillor Anderson had subsequently reported blocked drains at Combe Close and Paradise Lane. **A358 & Vellow/Stogumber Lane:** Hedges/trees overhanging the verge and invading the tarmac on the 358 at Merways Knapp forced traffic out in to the centre of the lane, and reduced sightlines for traffic exiting Church Lane. Kevin Bridgwater had explained the budget originally allocated to this had been pulled but he would personally visit the sited. There is a plan to increase the number of swathes cut in the twice yearly routine cuts in areas where one swathe has not been sufficient with regard to safety. Bicknoller (A358) is planned to be modified significantly on the routine cutting programme. **Newton Lane/A358:** A car smashed into the signpost at the junction of Newton Lane and the A358. County Councillor Mrs Lawrence advised she had spoken to Katherine Tyson at SCC Highways and this repair had now been put forward as an emergency and should be dealt with shortly. **Hedge in Trendle Lane:** Highways cannot force the landowner to cut the hedge as it is on her property. **Dashwoods Lane Stream:** The Bicknoller Volunteer Group had built-up the bank to help prevent flooding and grass seed had been sown on the ungrassed section. Councillors Harrison and Mrs Skinner drew attention to lack of sight lines following verge cutting at Halsway and the junction of Vellow Road/A358 and Councillor Anderson agreed to look into this.
- 9.4. Quantock Hills & Farming: Mike Rawle reported that sheep had been coming off the hills into the village and the road but the gap they were getting through was being dealt with.

10. PLANNING (Stuart Dowding)

- 10.1. Applications: None.
10.2. Decisions: None.
10.3. General Planning Update: None.

11. FINANCE

- 11.1. It was resolved to issue the following cheques:
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| Chq. Nos. 250 & 251 – Clerk's Salary & Tax (April-June 2021) | £496.47 |
| Chq. No. 252 – Clerk's Expenses (March-June 2021) | £66.81 |

12. FINANCIAL REGULATIONS: TO REVIEW

It was resolved to replace Kevin Ogilvie-White's name with Stuart Dowding in Paragraph 9.4. No other amendments were required.

13. WOOLSTON & WOOLSTON MOOR

- 13.1. Horse-riding on Woolston Moor: Councillor Harrison advised there had been no obvious further deterioration in the state of the Moor recently. The value of the area traversed by the horses has been highlighted by the appearance of over 20 orchids near the Woolston Lane end.
- 13.2. Seat at Little Moor, Woolston: Councillor Harrison advised that since last reporting on this, a possible alternative to a formal bench was being considered, which was likely to reduce the cost. Residents of Woolston had raised nearly £200 and it was hoped this

would be sufficient to cover the whole cost. He was asked to let the Parish Council know if there was a shortfall when a contribution would be considered.

- 13.3. Decay to Tree at Little Moor, Woolston: It was agreed that Councillor Warren would ask Matt Sharp to cut down the decayed Willow tree at the bridge end and also a small loose branch swinging from a lower bough of the Alder tree above the entrance.
- 13.4. Broadband Connectivity at Woolston: Councillor Harrison gave a brief update on various speeds available and stated it was believed problems were due to being half a mile away from the nearest fibre box. He reported that residents of the Almshouses have poor tv reception and that they had contacted a tv engineer but had received no response to date.

14. BICKWATCH PROJET - COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

The Clerk reported that David Croxton, BICKLifts, had confirmed that the Agreement between Watchet Town Council, as lead, and Somerset County Council has now been signed and an application submitted for release of funds. It is planned to now arrange an initial meeting of everyone involved. It was resolved that Councillor Harrison would represent the Parish Council.

15. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Bicknoller Village Hall Charitable Status

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

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

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed: Date:
Chairman