

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 10 MARCH 2021

A (remote attendance) meeting of the Council was held at 7.00 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, District Councillors M Rigby and A H Trollope-Bellew, Mrs C Richards (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC (remote attendance): Ian Liddell-Grainger MP

REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR: District Councillors M Rigby and A H Trollope-Bellew, and County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence reported on current matters of interest.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION:** None.
3. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** None.
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2021 & MATTERS ARISING**

The Clerk reported that –

- The National Trust had given permission for the Parish Council to erect signs regarding keeping dogs under control on all Bicknoller entrances to the Quantock AONB. The NFU had supplied official signs free of charge and Councillor Dowding would erect these.
- the contract for emptying the dog waste bin had commenced on 19 January 2021 at a cost of £243.36 including VAT for the year. It was proposed and seconded that a gift be purchased for Mrs Kate Harrison, who had kindly voluntarily emptied the bin in the lead up to the contract commencing. Note: Councillor Harrison did not speak or vote on this proposal.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 January 2021 were approved. Given the current circumstances, the Chairman would sign these when conditions allowed.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked Councillors for the work they had done with regard to lanes and hedges throughout the village, especially Councillors Anderson & Dowding regarding a hedge in Trendle Lane.

6. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- 6.1. Environment – Chris Skinner – no reports of any flytipping. There was a lot of rubbish along the A358 and she was happy to join a team to help clear this up. Councillor Rawle reported that four tyres had been dumped in the wooded area by the layby at the top of Halsway Hill. Councillor Skinner would report this.
- 6.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Andrew Harrison – has sent out warnings about various scams centred on the Coronavirus pandemic. There had also been an increase in dog thefts during the pandemic. He had received representation from a parishioner who had been approached at Staple Plain by a PCSO who said they should not be there and they would be fined if they were seen there again. The situation had now been clarified by PCSO Sue Thompson with the parishioner.
- 6.3. Rights of Way – no report

- 6.4. Roads – Julian Anderson – **Church Lane:** water is coming up from under the tarmac. This was reported to Country Roads on 11 January 2021. It is constantly wet and when it freezes is dangerous for both pedestrians and vehicles. Wessex Water have said it had nothing to do with them. **Lower Chilcombe Lane Drainage, Phase 1:** new pipes have been laid, gullies widened and water flow channelled to them in the dip where serious flooding used to occur. **Phase 2:** Highways will be requesting money in September to extend drain renewal to just above the entrance to “The Stables” but work will not be carried out until sometime in 2022/23. **Drainage Junction Trendle and Chilcombe Lanes:** there is a constant flow of water at this point emanating from both Quantock Moor and the Paradise Combe bridle path. The result is that it is always wet, and potholes constantly form and re-form. A request has been made that the two potholes currently there be filled. It was resolved that Councillor Dowding would write to SCC Highways requesting information on the contract for the drainage works. **Culverhayes Lane:** There is a large pothole at the A358 end of the lane which has been marked for repair; Councillor Rawle advised this had now been done. Councillor Anderson further reported there are four blocked drains further down the lane. He had received a complaint from residents that large tractors are seriously damaging the banks of this lane. It was believed that Cannington Enterprises rent fields which border the lane and he would write to them to ask their drivers to take maximum care when driving along these lanes. **Halsway, Paradise Lane:** The two blocked drains outside Broomfield Cottage still remain to be unblocked. **Newton Lane/A358:** A car smashed into a signpost at the junction of Newton Lane and the A358 and Highways have been told about the damage to the signpost. **A358:** The problem of hedges/trees overhanging the verge and invading the tarmac on this trunk road between Merways Knapp to Church Lane remains. This was first brought to the attention of Highways in July 2020. **Yellow/Stogumber Road:** The same problem applies to trees/hedges on the Yellow-Stogumber Road, just off the A358 (hedge immediately on the left going towards Yellow). We have had complaints about this from Stogumber residents. **Trendle Lane hedges:** he advised that, despite an email sent by the Parish Council on 15 February 2021, no further action had been taken, only approximately one third of the hedge has been laid. It was resolved to pass this item on to Highways for further action. The Clerk advised that due to GDPR she was unable to pass on email and home address details. Councillor Anderson agreed to forward the emails regarding this matter on to Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP, who agreed to forward the matter on to SCC on behalf of the Parish Council.
- 6.5. Community Resilience – no report.
- 6.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Stuart Dowding – was aware of the rubbish on the A358 and would organise a team of volunteers to clear that as soon as possible. He was still trying to find a location for a hut to take the volunteer group equipment away from its current locations.
- 6.7. Quantock Hills & Farming – Mike Rawle – nothing to report

7. **PLANNING** (Stuart Dowding)

- 7.1. Applications:
3/01/21/001: 11 Church Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EL: Erection of single storey rear extension. It was proposed and seconded that there were no objections to this application.
- 7.2. Decisions
3/01/20/017: Rural building on land off Chilcombe Lane, Bicknoller: Conversion of redundant rural building into 1 No. dwelling with associated works. (Refused).
3/01/20/018: 1 Woolston Moor Cottages, Cottiford Road, Stogumber, Taunton, TA4 4LP: Erection of first floor extension on the east elevation (Granted).
- 7.3. 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. It was proposed and seconded that further objections would be submitted.

8. FINANCE

8.1. The Budget & (Final) Actual for 2020-21 was noted.

8.2. It was resolved to note the following Income has been received:

Grant funding from Somerset Prepared	£900.00
Western Power Distribution (WPD) Wayleave Payment	£158.59

8.3. It was resolved to note the issuing of the following Cheque:

Chq. No. 240, Idverde UK (Dog Waste Bin Emptying Contract)	£243.36
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8.4. It was resolved to issue the following cheques:

Chq. No. 242 – JPC Design – Web & Tech Support/Updates	£31.25
Chq. Nos. 243 & 244 – Clerk's Salary (January-March 2021)	£496.47
Chq. No. 245 – Clerk's Expenses (14 January 2021 to 10 March 2021)	£22.82

NOTE: The Clerk advised that that Chq. No. 239 had been incorrectly made out and had therefore been destroyed.

9. DRAFT BUDGET 2021-2022

The Draft Budget had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was resolved to agree this.

10. CODE OF CONDUCT: TO CONSIDER ADOPTING NALC'S CODE OF CONDUCT 2019

It was resolved to adopt NALC's Code of Conduct 2019. Given the current circumstances, Councillors would sign acceptance forms to the new Code when conditions allowed.

11. RISK ASSESSMENT: TO REVIEW

It was agreed that Councillors Dowding and Ogilvie-White would review this and present it to the next meeting.

12. DEFIBRILLATOR SUPPORT PACKAGE

The Parish Council had received two requests from parishioners to reconsider its previous decisions taken on 28 October 2019 (Minute No. 7 refers) to reduce the number of defibrillators from two to one and 9 December 2020 (Minute No. 7 refers) to keep the defibrillator at the Bicknoller Village Hall. The Chairman advised that a grant of £900 had been received from Somerset Prepared towards the cost of renewing the support package. On being put to the vote, it was proposed and seconded to ratify the previous decisions taken.

NOTE: Councillor Anderson abstained from voting on this item.

13. LAND BEHIND CHURCH LANE, BICKNOLLER

Ian Liddell-Grainger reported on a situation on land behind Nos. 28 to 40 Church Lane and the A358 where some agricultural machine, some goats together with assorted pig arks, plastic oil tank and various pieces of timber had been deposited. This had been reported to Myra Spalding of Somerset West & Taunton Council (SWT) who had visited the site. She advised that a number of the items are due to go on a sale and she had requested 2 weekly updates from the tenant. She would keep Ian Liddell-Grainger, MP, updated as and when there is further information to update him with and he would be photographing the site every two weeks and will monitor the situation. He was further concerned regarding the welfare of the goats on site with regard to lack of feed, water and shelter for them and it was agreed this should be reported to the RSPCA.

14. ONE SOMERSET - UNITARY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

It was agreed that Councillor Dowding would act as the lead Councillor on this.

15. DOG FOULING – HILL LANE

It was noted that since this had been drawn to the Parish Council's attention, the situation seems to have improved somewhat. However, Councillor Dowding had acquired some signs from the NFU and had erected two at the top of Hill Lane. He had given out others and still had some left if others required them.

16. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Risk Assessment: To review

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that, due to uncertainty over easing of lockdown, the Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Conference would be brought forward to 14 and 28 April 2021 respectively and both held remotely via ZOOM.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Date: