

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 14 JULY 2021

A meeting of the Council was held in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Somerset County Councillor Mrs C Lawrence and Mrs C Richards (Parish Clerk).

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Mike Andersen and Mr Kim Martin

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

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 9 JUNE 2021 & MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 9 June 2021 were approved and signed.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None.

5. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Clerk reported that two parishioners had registered an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. At this point in the meeting, it was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to enable a ballot to be carried out. The result was a tied vote and with the Chairman having the casting vote, it was resolved that Michael Andersen be co-opted as a Parish Councillor to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Kevin Ogilvie-White. As he was present, he signed his Acceptance of Office form and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

6. AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY:

Community Resilience: Councillor M Andersen was elected to this position. It was resolved (1) that a job description be drawn-up for this role and resolved (2) that the Clerk would contact ex-Councillor Kevin Ogilvie-White with a view to arranging a handover of duties with Councillor Andersen.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman thanked everyone who had contributed to all the hard work over the last 12-15 months, which had been a difficult time and all for their participation in remote rather than face-to-face meetings. He also expressed his tanks to County Councillor Christine Lawrence for providing information from Somerset County Council, and to Mr Kim Martin for his work relating to Trustees of the Bicknoller Village Hall.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 8.1. Environment – Chris Skinner had not received any reports of flytipping. Councillor Rawle reported some flytipping in the small wooded area at the top of Halsway Hill and Councillor Mrs Skinner agreed to check and report as necessary.
- 8.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Andrew Harrison – continued to send out information relating to various scams. He also advised there had been an upsurge in the theft of catalytic converters from cars.
- 8.3. Rights of Way – Chris Warren – he asked all Councillors to keep an eye on public footpaths and to let him know if they became aware of any problems.
- 8.4. Roads – email from SCC Highways in reply to the questions raised by the Parish Council regarding drainage works at Chilcombe Lane was discussed. Highways had advised

that they had considered the email had been supersede by events and with in-depth conversations with Parish Councillor Anderson. They were therefore asking if the information was still required, as answering all of the points in full will take a considerable amount of time for various staff in both SCC and our main contractor Milestone and will divert resources from other projects/works. Following debate, Councillor Anderson proposed that the matter no longer be pursued; this was seconded by Councillor Warren. Councillor Dowding proposed that the matter be pursued further with Highways; however this proposal was not seconded. On putting Councillor Anderson's proposal to the vote, it was carried.

Councillor Anderson advised **Church Lane:** all safety defects have been addressed. **Blocked drains: Combe Close and Paradise Lane:** these have been inspected by Highways who reported "no actionable safety defect". They further state that as previously advised these blocked gullies can only be classed as safety defects when they are an immediate risk (i.e. currently raining and/or flooding); they will continue to monitor the situation at these locations. **A358 & Vellow/Stogumber Road:** hedges/trees overhanging the verge – Highways inspected and after the first cut the situation was improved. They have requested that this area be added to the enhanced (routine) cut list as intervening on an ad hoc or reactive basis. The area will continue to be monitored until the planned cut.

- 8.5. Community Resilience – Parish Clerk – a new Memorandum of Understanding had been signed for the defibrillator at the Village Hall. The defibrillator in the ex-BT phone box opposite the Bicknoller Inn would be removed on 20th or 21st July 2021.
- 8.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Stuart Dowding – a new roof had been put on the eastbound bus shelter at Church Lane. Some minor vandalism had taken place in the bus shelter opposite and a damaged board had been repaired.
- 8.7. Quantock Hills & Farming – Mike Rawle – nothing to report.

9. FINANCE

- 9.1. Budget & Actual; Cashflow 2021-2022 was noted. It was requested that another column should be inserted into the Budget & Actual column to show the current budget figures and the Clerk would look at this.
- 9.2. It was resolved to note the following income had been received:

VAT Refund	£97.03
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- 9.3. It was resolved to authorise the following Cheques:

Chq. No. 253, CRS Building Supplies Ltd (Invoice Nos. M222052 & M223377)	£79.60
Chq. No. 254, South Western Ambulance Service (Defibrillator Support Package)	£2,160.00
Chq. No. 255, JPC Design (webhosting)	£30.00
Chq. No. 256, Mr M Sharp, Forward Forestry	£100.00

10. PLANNING (Stuart Dowding).

- 10.1. It was resolved to note the following applications have been received by Somerset West & Taunton Council:
3/01/21/004: 17 Church Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EL: Erection of single storey extension to the rear (No objections).
- 10.2. It was resolved to note the following decisions of Somerset West & Taunton Council:
3/01/20/003: Land at Byways, 19 Church Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EL: Erection of 5 (No.) dwellinghouses with access and associated development (Refused).
- 10.3. General Planning Update
Nothing to report.

11. STANDING ORDERS: TO REVIEW

It was resolved to agree these without alteration.

12. SEAT AT LITTLE MOOR, WOOLSTON

Councillor Harrison gave details on the type of seat he had been looking at the cost for which was circa £273. He confirmed that some residents of Woolston had made a donation towards the cost. It was proposed by Councillor Warren and seconded by Councillor Anderson that (1) the Parish Council would purchase the seat, and Woolston residents will make a donation towards the bench, and (2) the seat would remain an asset of the Parish Council.

13. BICKNOLLER VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE STATUS

The Parish Council is currently the sole legal trustee of the charity known as Bicknoller Village Hall and Playing Fields. According to the Charity governing documents there must be a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of five. Without this, the Parish Council cannot take unilateral action and no decisions or actions can be agreed concerning the Charity. Legal advice had been sought on this. This has confirmed the above and that the Parish Council must appoint trustees that are resident in Bicknoller Parish and they must not be members of the Management Committee or Parish Council. Following the legal appointment of new trustees, the Parish Council together with the new trustees can decide on future actions. Separate legal advice had been taken from a retired solicitor and resident of Bicknoller who had confirmed that he was in agreement with the legal advice received.

Following debate, it was proposed by Councillor Dowding and seconded by Councillor Mrs C Skinner that the Parish Council, being the sole trustee of the Bicknoller Village Hall and Playing Field, and having been advised that under the terms of the founding document executed by the Executors of the late Henry Bickersteth Mayer there must be at least three trustees, that the Parish Council resolved (1) to appoint two additional trustees, namely:

Mrs Mary ter Braak of Harcombes, 3 Church Lane, Bicknoller, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4
Mr Kim Martin, Beacon Hill House, Bicknoller, Taunton, Somerset, TA4 4EG

It was resolved (2) that the Parish Clerk, Councillors C Warren, J Anderson and S Dowding be authorised to sign a Deed confirming these appointments.

It was further resolved (3) that Councillors J Anderson and S Dowding be authorised to meet with the new Trustees to discuss future actions. It was stressed that any proposed future actions would need to be brought to a Full Council Meeting for ratification.

14. DOCUMENTS DEPOSITED WITH PARISH COUNCIL'S SOLICITORS

Item withdrawn.

15. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Job Description for Community Resilience Area of Responsibility

16. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

8 September 2021 at 7 pm
10 November 2021 at 7 pm

Councillors confirmed they would like to continue to meet in the Main Hall for the time-being, with this being reviewed at the November 2021 meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.22 pm.

Signed: Date:

Chairman