

BICKNOLLER PARISH COUNCIL – 10 NOVEMBER 2021

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

PRESENT: Councillors C Warren (Chairman), M Andersen, 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).

PARISH FORUM: Mrs M Pumphrey spoke in respect of Item 16 – Celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee – June 2nd-5th 2022. Mr Clive Raisey spoke in respect of Item 11 – Bicknoller Village Hall, Playground & Shop: Charity Status and Item 12 – Bicknoller Village Hall Accounts 30 September 2021.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from District Councillor A H Trollope-Bellew and Parish Councillor Stuart Dowding.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

3. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK & APPROVAL OF CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

The Chairman advised that Claire Morrison-Jones had been offered and accepted the position of Parish Clerk. Her contract would commence on 22 November 2021 although he was aware that she was waiting to have an operation after which she would be unavailable for a number of weeks. Due to the distance of travel for the new Clerk and to save Council expenditure, it was agreed that Parish Councillors would place notices on boards prior to meetings and that there was no need for her to attend planning meetings.

The outgoing Clerk thanked Parish Councillors for the flowers she had received.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2021 & MATTERS ARISING

With regard to Item 12, Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund, the Clerk confirmed that grant funding of £242 had been received from SALC/SCC, she had purchased the materials and given to the Bellringers of St George's Church. However, due to delivery charges, the actual figure spent was £245.79. The Parish Council agreed to cover this additional small charge and reimburse the Clerk the full sum of £245.79.

Subject to noting the above, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

No report.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 6.1. Environment – Chris Skinner advised she had received no reports of fly tipping. There is what appears to be an abandoned car at the top of Halsway Hill, which had been reported to the Police. She would also report this to Somerset West & Taunton Council.
- 6.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Andrew Harrison – nothing of major importance. A bag with clothing had been found in the rubbish bin by the Village Hall and been reported to the Police and collected today. However, in light of information received at this meeting, he would let PCSO Sue Marks know no further action was needed.
- 6.3. Rights of Way – Chris Warren – no report of any issues.

- 6.4. Roads – Councillor Anderson advised that Kevin Bridgwater, SCC, had reported - **Overgrown Hedges on the A358:** Money will be forthcoming in a few days for the job to be done. **Chatterwood Flooding:** Will be done before Christmas. **Dangerous Path between Church Lane & Chilcombe Lane:** This path does not exist on Highways maps, and as such is not a designated footpath. However money exists for “ploughing” and he will see whether it can be applied to clearing the path. Councillor Anderson suggested a letter to the owner of the hedge requesting it cut back. **Church Lane Leaks:** He will get back to Councillor Anderson on this. **New Electricity Poles in Trendle Lane:** the telephone and power cables are independent of each other and on opposite sides of the road. I do not think BT/Open Reach will make any changes. A second road closure may therefore not be necessary.
- Councillor Anderson reported - **Damaged Signpost on A358:** Katherine Tyson (SCC Traffic) has written to say that a request to replace the signpost has been made, and “the contractor will programme in the works accordingly within their contractual timescales”. She could not give an exact date “but it will be completed within this financial year”. In a later telephone conversation she confirmed the sign had been ordered. **Village Speed Limit:** Katherine has promised to drive through our village when next in the area to do a recce ahead of further discussions. **Blocked drains, Halsway & Paradise Lane** – two blocked drains outside Broomfield Cottage had been reported to SCC Highways in mid-January but nothing has yet been done.
- 6.5. Community Resilience – Mike Andersen reported the defibrillator had been checked, South Western Ambulance Service Trust informed and the reference number passed to the Clerk to place on record.
- 6.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Stuart Dowding – report circulated prior to meeting - there is now a vision panel in the Church Lane west bound bus shelter.
- 6.7. Quantock Hills & Farming – Mike Rawle – there has been an influx of sheep getting off hill around Halsway and another area. The Commoners have now managed to fence the areas at great expense.

7. **PLANNING** (Stuart Dowding).

- 7.1. Planning Applications: None. The Clerk reported one application had been received since the last meeting and it had been received too late to be included on the Agenda for this meeting. This was planning application no. 3/01/21/006 Deesway, 21 Church Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EL: proposed demolition of “chalet” and erection of single storey building to be used as ancillary accommodation to the host dwellinghouse. Somerset West & Taunton Council had agreed an extension of time until 6 December 2021, which would enable the new Clerk to deal with this application.
- 7.2. Planning Decisions: none had been made by Somerset West & Taunton Council since the last meeting on 8 September 2021.
- 7.3. General Planning Update
 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 noted that the applicant had now gone to Appeal.
 3/01/21/005 – Land adjacent to Chilcombe House, 30 Trendle Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EG: Application for the approval of reserved matters following outline application 3/01/20/016 for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for the erection of 1 No. dwelling house and garage.
 It was noted that this application had been refused at the Somerset West & Taunton Council Planning meeting held on 4 November 2021.

8. **FINANCE**

- 8.1. Budget & Actual; Cashflow 2021-2022 was noted.
- 8.2. It was resolved to note the following income had been received:
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| Opening Up Safely & Reconnecting Communities Fund | £242.00 |
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- 8.3. It was resolved to note the issuing of the following Direct Debit & Cheques:
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| ICO – Data Protection Registration Renewal | £35.00 |
| Chq. No. 263, Mr G S Dowding, reimbursement for cost of materials | £7.99 |
| Chq. No. 264, West Somerset Free Press | £268.80 |
| Chq. No. 265, Bicknoller Village Hall, room bookings | £64.00 |

8.4.	<u>It was resolved to authorise the issuing of the following Cheques:</u>	
	Chq. No. 266, Mrs C Richards, reimbursement of cost of materials purchased under the Opening Up Safely & Reconnecting Communities Fund on behalf of the Bicknoller Bellringers	£245.79
	Chq. Nos. 267 & 268, Clerk's Salary & Tax (September-November 2021)	£381.90
	Chq. No. 269, Clerk's Expenses (8 September-10 November 2021)	£32.65

9. BANK SIGNATORIES

It was resolved to remove Mrs Claire Richards as the account holder and signatory and replace with Mrs Claire Morrison-Jones. The Clerk confirmed the current signatories were herself, Councillors Andersen, Harrison and Rawle.

10. PARISH PRECEPT 2022/23

It was agreed to increase Precept for 2022/23 to £6,000 and the Chairman signed the form.

11. BICKNOLLER VILLAGE HALL, PLAYGROUND & SHOP: CHARITY STATUS

The Chairman advised the Parish Council is currently the sole legal trustee of the charity. According to the Charity governing documents there must be a minimum of three Trustees and a maximum of five. Trustees must be resident in Bicknoller Parish and they must not be members of the Management Committee or Parish Council.

At the AGM of Bicknoller Village Hall Management Committee (BVHC) on 26th October 2021 at the Village Hall, it was resolved at the General Meeting -

To advise the Custodian Trustee that, at the above Meeting, it was resolved to ask the Custodian Trustee to appoint David Simpson and Keith Cook as Trustees

To consider the Deed of Appointment drawn up with and discussed/approved by a retired village lawyer, and if approved, to sign, and date, as shown.

If approved by the Trustees, BVHC would be willing to undertake forwarding and notifying the Charity Commission and any other statutory organisations on their behalf, as well as copying and returning copies.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Rawle and seconded by Councillor Mrs Skinner that the Parish Council, being at this time the sole Trustee of the Bicknoller Village Hall and Playfield Field Charitable Trust and having been advised by the Management Committee of the Bicknoller Village Hall that additional trustees have been nominated, the Parish Council now resolves to appoint additional trustees, namely:

Keith Harry Cook of Linndhu, Trendle Lane, Bicknoller and David William Simpson of Purlands, Dashwoods Lane, Bicknoller.

On being put to the vote, this was CARRIED.

It was further resolved that –

- (1) the Deed of Appointment be signed by the Parish Clerk and Councillors C Warren and J Anderson.
- (2) the BVHC be requested to undertake forwarding and notifying the Charity Commission and any other statutory organisations on their behalf, as well as copying and returning copies.
- (3) the Parish Council delegate authority to Councillors Anderson and Dowding to represent the Parish Council as the Trustee.
- (4) the BVHC be asked to supply the Parish Council, as Trustee, with copies of minutes of their meetings, together with decisions made, by whom and action by when.

Note: The Clerk advised that Keith Cook and David Simpson had confirmed, via email, that they were happy to accept the nomination of Trustee.

12. BICKNOLLER VILLAGE HALL ACCOUNTS 30 SEPTEMBER 2021

At the AGM of Bicknoller Village Hall Management Committee (BVHC) on 26th October 2021 at the Village Hall, it was resolved at the General Meeting

To inform the Trustee that the Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2021 were a true record, had been independently scrutinised and therefore BVHC recommended that the Trustee accept and approve them.

It was resolved to approve the Accounts for the year ended 30 September 2021. The accounts were signed by Councillor C Warren and Mr C Raisey.

Note: The Clerk advised that Keith Cook and David Simpson had confirmed, via email, they were happy for the accounts to be approved, having seen them at the BVHC AGM on 26 October 2021.

13. EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Andersen advised the current plan was in need of updating. He suggested the Emergency Plan of Sampford Brett would be a good model to follow and asked Parish Councillors to look on their website. The Clerk agreed to contact the Clerk at Sampford Brett to ask for a copy.

14. REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO INSTALL EQUIPMENT ON LAND AT WOOLSTON MOOR – SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Councillor Mrs Skinner had requested a site meeting and was awaiting dates, after which she would let everyone know. There was also a landowner who had also been approached for the same reason and she would also invite them to attend the site meeting when arranged. It was agreed to put this item on the next Agenda.

15. EX BT BOX OPPOSITE BICKNOLLER INN

It was agreed to ask BT to disconnect the power supply after which Councillor Anderson would try and sell it on behalf of the Parish Council.

16. CELEBRATIONS FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE – JUNE 2ND-5TH 2022

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.

17. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Councillor Harrison reported that, as designated Parish Council representative for the BickWatch community transport project he had attended a series of Zoom meetings as the plan this has taken shape evolved over recent weeks. His role has been much more as an observer than an active participant. He was not aware of any actions or decisions presently required by Bicknoller PC so this report was solely to keep Parish Councils up-to-date with the situation. It was agreed this would be a standing item on each Agenda.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12 January 2022 at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

Signed: Date:
Chairman