

Minutes, Bicknoller Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 13th July 2022, commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall

(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

PRESENT:

Councillors C Warren (Chairman), S Dowding, M Andersen, A Harrison, M Rawle, D Leggetter

IN ATTENDANCE:

SCC Cllrs C Lawrence & M Kravis.
SWT Cllr A Trollope-Bellew
C Morrison-Jones (Parish Clerk)
2 x member of the public

PARISH FORUM:

No issues raised

SCC Cllr C Lawrence
Cllr Lawrence reported on current matters of interest

SCC Cllr M Kravis
Cllr Kravis reported on current matters of interest

SWT Cllr A T-B
Cllr Trollope-Bellew reported on current matters of interest

SCC Cllr M Kravis left the meeting at this point

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
None
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**
None
3. **TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11th MAY, 28th MAY AND 25th JUNE 2022**
Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the above meetings as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE AGREED MINUTES NOT COVERED BY THE BELOW AGENDA ITEMS**
None
5. **COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION**
There is still one space on the Council which can be filled by co-option. Any interested parishioners are invited to contact the Chairman or the Council for further information. The clerk was requested to create a poster advertising the vacancy for the noticeboards
6. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
 - There are issues with the ditches and visibility is being obscured by overhanging vegetation at Woolston
 - The Ditch opposite the Village Hall – the verge hasn't been cut and overgrowth of shrubs from the bordering property prevents access to the ditch to clear it. Cllr M Andersen offered to report the problem to Highways.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

7.1. Environment – Cllr D Leggetter

Woolston moor cutting: It was cut on Sunday night. Thistles were collected and disposed of. Cllr Leggetter had found evidence of a 5 year plan that maps the work to be carried out on the moor. Councillors were unaware if this plan (noted in PC minutes, number 6.1, 9th September 2020) had been commissioned or accepted by the Parish Council or if it was binding and requested that it be raised as an agenda item at the September meeting

SWT Cllr A Trollope-Bellew left the meeting at this point

7.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr A Harrison

The monthly police newsletter is already circulated to Neighbourhood Watch members. The PCSO has offered to attend PC meetings if councillors wish. The PCSO is to attend the next Neighbourhood Watch wardens meeting and Cllr Harrison will brief the PC after that meeting

7.3. Rights of Way – Cllr C Warren

Nothing to report

7.4. Roads – Cllr M Andersen

- The problems with the Woolston Moor sight lines have been reported to Highways,
- The overhanging trees on Woolston Moor have been reported, and inspected by Highways but with no action currently
- The overgrowth of the hedge on A358 causing safety issues for cyclists (forcing them onto the middle of the carriageway) has been reported and Cllr Andersen will continue to pursue on behalf of the PC
- The work in Chilcombe Lane is nearly finished, some snagging issues to be resolved

7.5. Community Resilience – Cllr M Andersen

Defibrillator:

registered with the ambulance service; anyone within 400m of the defibrillator will be informed of its locations when calling 999. A refresher and training session is booked for 16th August at 6pm (training is free as part of package purchased by the PC). Councillors resolved to pay for the hall hire for that session. Posters advertising the training to be put up in various village locations

Community emergency plan:

The new plan is ready for adoption. Councillors resolved to adopt the plan as presented understanding that some details still to be completed. The plan is to be kept in the VH (appendices to be protected due to GDPR risk). Volunteers are still needed to fill the roles of flood warden, co-ordinator and deputy co-ordinators

7.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group – Cllr S Dowding

There are less and less volunteers year on year; trying to recruit new members
The gullies are getting cleaned and essential work is being done

7.7. Quantock Hills & Farming – Cllr M Rawle

There is a great need to take care with fires at this hot dry time

8. BICKNOLLER VILLAGE HALL

8.1 The Parish Council as a Trustee

Due to some misconceptions circulating that are causing some disquiet, the Chairman confirmed the role of the Parish Council as a Trustee of the Village Hall:

- A Custodian Trustee is a corporation appointed to have the custody, as distinct from the management, of trust property. Where a Custodian Trustee is appointed to hold property of a charity, the administration of the charity is left in the hands of the charity trustees. A custodian trustee is not a charity Trustee [Charity Commission, 2005]
- Holding (or Custodian) Trustees sole function is to hold the title to the property. They should not be involved in the day to day running of the charity, which is the responsibility of the Managing Trustees (unless the governing document gives them certain other rules or responsibilities). Holding/Custodian Trustees can be either:
 - (i) individuals
 - (ii) a body corporate, a parish council
 - (iii) the Official Custodian for Charities [ACRE,2000]

- The Parish Council is a corporate holding trustee.
- There are currently 2 other individual holding trustees of the Bicknoller Village Hall
- Holding/Custodian trustees have no legal right to interfere in the management of the Village Hall. That is entirely the remit of the Management Committee and the Management Committee hold the liability.
- The Parish Council, as a corporate body is one trustee, NOT a number of individual trustees
- There is no personal liability risk to Councillors where the PC is a corporate trustee. Councillors individually are not trustees, the PC is the trustee.

Cllr Dowding repeatedly called for the Parish Council to question the plans of the Management Committee but was reminded that this falls outside the remit of the Parish Council and beyond its legal powers.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned, and then re-convened, to allow Members of the public to speak

The Chairman reminded councillors that it is vitally important that councillors do not mislead the public nor impart information that they know to be wrong. This is damaging to both the council and to any third parties involved.

The position of the Parish Council as a holding trustee is clearly laid out in law and in guidance issued by the Charity Commission, ACRE and SALC. The law is clear, and the Parish Council is obliged to abide by it.

8.2 Representatives of the PC as Village Hall Trustees

It was resolved that the Parish Council no longer has nominated representatives

SCC Cllr C Lawrence left the meeting at this point

9. PLANNING

9.1. To note the following decisions of Somerset West & Taunton Council:

- 3/01/22/004. Demolition of garages and utility room and erection of single storey side extension, demolition of porch and erection of entrance hall and erection of rear dormer. 8 Combe Close, Bicknoller. granted 16.5.22
- 3/01/21/009. Erection of two storey side extension on the west elevation, single storey extension on the north elevation and porch extension. Lower Chilcombe Cottage, Taunton Road, Bicknoller. granted 29.6.22

9.2. Appeals:

- 3/01/21/005. Application for 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 and garage. Land adjacent to Chilcombe House, 30 Trendle Lane, Bicknoller. allowed 16.6.22

9.3. General Planning Update

None

10. FINANCE

10.1. To approve bank reconciliation dated 21.6.22

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 21.6.22, of £15,294.78. Of this amount, £1896.67 is held in earmarked reserves

10.2. Income received

4.5.22	HMRC	VAT reclaim	£504.23
20.4.22	SWT	precept	£6000.00

10.3 Payments to authorise

Clerk	salary, May & June 2022	£338.68
Clerk	expenses and reimbursements, May & June 22	£134.49
HMRC	PAYE	£6.00
SALC	training, 26.5.22 & 31.5.22	£40.00
C Darke	Jubilee expenses	£248.43

Bicknoller Village Hall	July room hire	£17.50
JPC Design	Web hosting & domain name renewal	£49.19
Open Spaces Society	membership renewal (paid by direct debit)	£45.00

10.4 Bank mandate update

The clerk reported that Santander had been very slow in amending the bank mandate (as per minute number 9, PC meeting of 10th November 2021). Numerous telephone calls have now resulted in an apology from Santander and being assured last week that the mandate had now finally been updated as requested

one member of the public left the meeting at this point

11. REVIEW ADOPTED POLICIES:

11.1 Standing orders

It was resolved to adopt, unamended, the draft Standing Orders previously circulated to councillors

11.2 Financial regulations

It was resolved to adopt, unamended, the draft Financial Regulations previously circulated to councillors

12. WOOLSTON MOOR:

12.1 Bramble overgrowth

Cllr Leggetter reported that Natural England advised that it was a good idea to cut 1/3rd of bramble growth away each year and it should be done in October to allow for breeding wildlife. Councillors asked Cllr Leggetter to obtain quotes for the necessary works to bring to the September meeting for consideration.

12.2 Post and Rail Fencing

Cllr Harrison has been in conversation with Somerset Railway and has received agreement that they will replace the worn fencing in September (as the repairs will involve hedge/undergrowth cutting, it is necessary to wait until the end of the nesting season). Some temporary repairs to the sections of the fence may be possible sooner due to the safety related nature of this particular section of fence.

13. SUPERFAST BROADBAND INSTALLATION OVER WOOLSTON MOOR: Airband Agreement

Councillors resolved to agree and sign the wayleave agreement. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllrs Warren and Leggetter, and witnessed by the Clerk

14. CONSIDER PROPOSAL FOR A VILLAGE SIGN

Councillors resolved that this was not a proposal that could be considered without the provision of more Detailed proposal

15. WEBSITE: CONSIDER THE ADDITION OF A VILLAGE SERVICES AND FACILITIES PAGE

The Parish council had received a request for the formation of a Village Services and Facilities page on the website. Councillors considered that the information was already provided in the contact details provided in the Community Resilience Plan.

The Clerk was requested to return to the requester to see if these details met the parameters they sought. If so, maybe a hyperlink on the website to the Resilience Plan would be more appropriate than creating a new website page.

16. BICKWATCH COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

Cllr Harrison reported that there was to be a 'meet and greet' at Phoenix centre on 25th July in an attempt to recruit more drivers

17. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- The Woolston Moor 5 year plan

18. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 14th September 2022

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm