

Minutes, Bicknoller Parish Council
Wednesday 9th November 2022, commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall

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

PRESENT:

Councillors M Andersen, D Leggetter, A Harrison, M Rawle

IN ATTENDANCE:

SCC Cllr M Kravis

C Morrison-Jones (Parish Clerk)

In the absence of Cllr Warren, councillors elected Cllr Andersen to take the chair for this meeting

PARISH FORUM:

No members of the public present

SCC Cllr M Kravis reported on SCC matters

Cllr Rawle raised the issue of the quarry at Bicknoller Combe (owned by SWT). It needs fencing off...so far only sheep are falling in, but it could be a person or a child. Cllr Kravis offered to investigate with SWT

SCC Cllr Kravis left the meeting at this point

Councillors expressed great sadness on the untimely death of SWT Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew on 28th October 2022. A minute's silence was held, and it was resolved to send a letter of condolence to his family.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Warren and SCC Cllr C Lawrence

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None

3. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 27th SEPTEMBER, 1st AND 15th OCTOBER 2022

Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the above meetings as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman

4. MATTERS OF REPORT ARISING FROM THE AGREED MINUTES NOT COVERED BY THE BELOW AGENDA ITEMS

None

5. CASUAL VACANCIES ON THE PARISH COUNCIL

Following the resignation of Cllr Dowding, SWT was informed of the vacancy and the required statutory notices placed on the noticeboards. SWT have confirmed that they have not received any calls for election so the vacancy can be filled by co-option. Therefore there are now two vacancies on the parish council that can be filled by co-option.

If any parishioner is interested in joining the council, they can contact the Chairman, councillors or the clerk for further information and to register an interest

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

7. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

7.1. Environment (Cllr Leggetter)

Last meeting it was approved for a contractor to deal with brambles on Woolston Moor. The work is planned for 15th or 16th November.

Cllr Leggetter and Cllr Harrison offered to check the work and liaise with contractors to ensure that the work is carried out as agreed.

7.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch (Cllr Harrison)

No incidents to report since the last PC meeting. The first neighbourhood meeting since 2019 was held in October and a fresh advert is planned in pathways in an attempt to recruit new wardens

7.3. Rights of Way (Cllr Warren)

Cllr Andersen reported that the stile across stream from Square field to the field next to Chilcombe Lane needs attention. The details will be passed onto Cllr Warren to action.

7.4. Roads (Cllr Andersen)

The following have been reported to Highways:

Overhanging foliage on A358 – allocated for inspection

Chilcombe Lane, verge reinstatement - future work, not urgent

Dashwood/Old School Lane stream - future work not urgent

Woolston Moor, overhanging vegetation – inspected, no action required

7.5. Community Resilience (Cllr Andersen)

The bag of community resilience equipment has been located. The Village Hall have agreed in principle to hold both the equipment and the plan but an exact location in the hall needs to be agreed.

7.6. Bicknoller Volunteer Group

None

7.7. Quantock Hills & Farming (Cllr Rawle)

The quarry – fire and rescue (large animal unit from Barnstable) had to rescue a sheep recently as the quarry owned by SWT is not securely fenced.

Cllr Rawle is the PC portfolio holder for the Quantocks and is secretary of the Commoners Association so can be contacted by anyone who notices issues on the common

The sheep have been removed from hill and dipped as bad case of scab

8. COUNCILLORS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

8.1 Bicknoller Volunteer Group

Postpone to the next PC meeting

8.2 Planning

Cllr Warren had previously indicated that he would happy to take on this responsibility.

Councillors resolved to appoint Cllr Warren

9. SOMERSET UNITARY

- The Clerk reported on a meeting on Exmoor she had attended regarding the potential LCN configuration
- The PC has received notification that the precept for 23/24 (to be paid by the new Unitary authority) will be paid in full at the beginning of the financial year, rather than two 6 monthly payments as carried out by SWT
- The clerk has again raised the issue of inequality in SWT (Taunton Deane PCs still receive an annual maintenance grant, West Somerset PCs do not) and asked would this be addressed under the new unitary. A response received states that “once the new Council is established

on the 1st April 2023, it would be for elected representatives to consider whether they wish to review these grant payments, consider any existing inconsistencies and assess whether they wish to see a new policy/approach developed for the Somerset Unitary Council. At this stage SCC are not able to confirm when a review of these grant payments will take place. That said, SCC will ensure the matter is considered through the financial planning process for the Unitary Council.”

10. PLANNING

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

- i) 3/01/22/005 Erection of 1 No. dwelling utilising the Class Q fallback position
Newton Farm, Newton Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EU Granted 24.10.22

10.2. Responses sent under delegated powers

- i) 3/01/22/010 Conversion of barn, with erection of extension, into 1 No. dwelling with associated works, (previously approved Class Q barn conversion ABD/01/22/001)
Barn located off Newton Lane, Bicknoller Support

10.3. General Planning Update

None

11. FINANCE

11.1. To approve, bank reconciliation dated 30.10.22

Councillors resolved to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 30.10.22, of £13,523.58. Of this amount, £1,896.67 is held in earmarked reserves

11.2. Income received

None

11.3. Approve NALC pay award, backdated to April 2022

Councillors resolved to approve the NALC approved pay award, backdated to 1st April 2022

11.4. Payments to authorise

Clerk	salary, expense & reimbursements Sept & Oct 2022	£610.96
Bicknoller Village Hall	November room hire	£17.50

11.5. Items to consider when setting the 23/24 budget

- Maintenance budget for Woolston Moor
- Coronation celebrations

12. PROPOSAL FOR QUEEN ELIZABETH II MEMORIAL GATE

Councillors had been asked to promote and support for the commissioning and installation of a memorial gate in the wall between the garden of remembrance and the Churchyard.

The clerk reminded councillors that Section 8 of the Local Government Act 1894 prohibits parish councils from spending money on property of, or matters relating to, the affairs of Church. This legal perspective is supported by SALC, and the advice would be that the PC should not contribute financially to this proposed project.

Councillors resolved to support and encourage this project, but regretfully due to its legal duty the Parish Council would not be able to offer a financial contribution. Clerk to respond

13. FRAMING AND DISPLAY OF THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE SCROLL

The scroll is being recreated by its creator as the copy taken of the original is of poor quality. When the copy is completed, Cllr Warren will investigate framing options

14. BICKNOLLER VILLAGE HALL: THE PARISH COUNCIL AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE

The Bicknoller Village Hall AGM was held on Tuesday 8th November where it was resolved to apply to place the title into the hands of the Official Trustees of Charitable Lands as sole

trustee. Once actioned, this means that Bicknoller Parish Council will no longer be a custodian trustee.

15. PARISH COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESSES

The clerk reported that the new Parish Council email addresses have now been set up. The Parish Council and Councillors can be contacted on the following:

clerk@bicknoller.com	Parish Council clerk, Claire Morrison-Jones
cllrwarren@bicknoller.com	Councillor Chris Warren (Chairman)
cllrandersen@bicknoller.com	Councillor Michael Andersen
cllrrawle@bicknoller.com	Councillor Mike Rawle
cllrharrison@bicknoller.com	Councillor Andrew Harrison
cllrleggetter@bicknoller.com	Councillor Daphne Leggetter

Now that the new emails are activated, emails sent to the previously used addresses will not be considered PC correspondence

The new contact details will be placed on the notice boards and website

16. BICKWATCH COMMUNITY TRANSPORT (Cllr Harrison)

A zoom meeting was held on 8th November – the minutes are available

- Funded as a 2 year pilot, which finishes in Sept 2023. It still has a lot to do to prove its aims
- Watchet employed a coordinator. Watchet TC own the vehicle and are responsible for its running costs
- Very short of volunteer drivers (2 in Bicknoller)
- Most journeys are around Watchet so the vehicle will now be based in esplanade car park in Watchet rather than Bicknoller
- It provides the only wheelchair accessible community transport vehicle in West Somerset

At the next PC meeting councillors will consider if a short presentation by one of the founders of the group may be useful for the March PC meeting

17. ITEMS OF REPORT AND SUGGESTIONS OF MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None

18. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 11th January 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.30