

**Minutes, Bicknoller Parish Council**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024, commencing at 7pm at the Village Hall**  
(in the format to be presented to the next meeting for approval)

**PRESENT:**

Councillors C Warren, M Andersen, G Withers, M Rawle, A Harrison and J Bishop

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

C Morrison-Jones (Parish Clerk)

SC Cllr M Kravis

**PARISH FORUM:**

No members of the public present

**Cllr Kravis report:**

Robust cuts proposed for executive meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> January

Cllr Kravis left the meeting after his report

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr Leggetter and SC Cllr Lawrence

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None

**3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

RESOLUTION: Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the above Parish Council meeting as a true record, and they were signed by the Chairman.

**4. MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED BY THE BELOW AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Nothing to report

**6. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

6.1. Environment (DL)

No report

6.2. Police Liaison & Neighbourhood Watch (AH)

Nothing to report

6.3. Rights of Way (CW)

- Bridleway off A358 off Merways Knap is blocked by streetworks and signage is incorrect. JB & CW are meeting with National Grid & Network Plus tomorrow to discuss it.

- 6.4. Roads (MA)
  - Pot holes at top of Chilcombe Cross have been reported and are now filled in
- 6.5 LCN meeting (MR)
  - No report
- 6.6. Quantock Hills & Framing (MR)
  - Quarry – the Friends of the Quantocks maybe interested in adopting it from SC if devolved

## 7. **PLANNING**

- 7.1. To consider planning application 3/01/23/007  
Various internal alterations. Halsway Manor, Hill Lane, Halsway  
RESOLUTION: to support the application
- 7.2. To note the following decisions of Somerset Council:
  - i) 3/01/23/005. Erection of 4 No. dwellings and associated development  
Byways, 19 Church Lane, Bicknoller, TA4 4EL  
GRANT 24.11.23
  - ii) 3/01/23/006. Erection of a carport. Rainbows, Paradise Lane  
GRANT 18.12.23
- 7.3. General Planning Updates
  - i) The clerk had written to SC to ask why the Parish Council, as a statutory consultee, had not been advised of application 3/01/23/006 and therefore had not had the opportunity to submit an opinion before the application was granted permission. The Planning Officer had apologised for the oversight and assured the clerk that it wouldn't happen again.

## 8. **FINANCE**

- 8.1. Approve bank reconciliation, 21.12.23  
RESOLUTION: to approve the bank reconciliation, dated 21.12.23, of £13,059.86.
- 8.2. Consider grant request from BickWatch  
RESOLUTION: further information required before a decision could be Reached
- 8.3. Income received  
None
- 8.4. Payments to authorise
 

C Morrison-Jones	£489.19	November & December 2023
Bicknoller Village Hall	£17.50	January meeting room hire
JPC design	£99.58	Annual email plan and tech support
- 8.5. Consider 2024/25 budget and precept request  
Councillors considered the information received from Somerset Council explaining that it has declared a financial emergency and that it is likely

that some or all non-statutory services currently provided by them will be withdrawn in 2024/25 to enable it to set a balanced budget. Whilst it is concerning that the Parish Council is expected to subsidise the failings of Somerset Council, councillors felt that for these services not to be carried out would be detrimental to the parish and regretfully concluded that the precept for 2024/25 would have to be raised in anticipation of the Parish Council having to step up and provide some of the services likely to be withdrawn by Somerset Council.

RESOLUTION: to approve the proposed budget and set the precept request for 2024/25 at £9,500

8.6. Banking services:

- i) Consider changing the Parish Council's banking provider  
RESOLUTION: to change the PCs banking provider to Unity Trust Bank. To close the Santander business account held by Bicknoller PC and open a current account in the name of Bicknoller Parish Council with Unity Trust. Once this current account is established, to then also open an instant access deposit account with Unity Trust Bank
- ii) Consider closing existing savings account  
RESOLUTION: to transfer, with immediate effect, the funds held in the Santander savings account to the Santander current account. Once this transfer has been carried out, to close the savings account. A letter to Santander requesting this was signed by the clerk, Cllr Andersen and Cllr Rawle

9. **PARISH COUNCIL IT PROVISION**

Purchase of a laptop computer and associated software

Since May 2022 (meeting date 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022, minute number 18), BPC has had the use of the laptop, software and printer owned by Stogumber PC in return for financing the supply of consumables (paper, ink etc). This arrangement has now ceased, and BPC will need to fund the purchase of its own laptop and office software.

RESOLUTION: to authorise the clerk to purchase a laptop, mouse, laptop bag and necessary software subscriptions (antivirus & office 365). Budget limit set at £750 (inc VAT).

10. **DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING**

RESOLUTION: MA to liaise for a spring date

11. **WOOLSTON MOOR**

Consider quotation for winter brush cutting

RESOLUTION: to authorise J Ely to carry out cutting back as detailed in the received quote at a cost of £360 subject to receipt of proof of 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance

12. **TO CONSIDER RE-ALLOCATION OF SOME COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

RESOLUTION:

Environment – M Andersen

Rights of way – J Bishop  
Highways – G Withers

**13. THE BICKNOLLER INN: AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The clerk reported that Somerset Council had, on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, re-listed The Bicknoller Inn as an Asset of Community Value. This registration is valid for 5 years.

**14. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Consider 2024 meeting date

RESOLUTION: to hold the 2024 APM on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. AH and CW to organise refreshments on behalf of the PC.

**15. ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

- footpath from church lane

**16. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2024

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.00