

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Council Offices, The Woolwell Centre, Darklake Lane, Woolwell, PL6 7TR

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Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 7.30pm at the Woolwell Centre, Darklake Lane, Woolwell

Present: Cllr Brian Hill (Chair), Cllr Paul Blight, Cllr Wendy Haymes, Cllr Nicky Hopwood, Cllr Geoff Pithouse, Cllr Lindy Scott, Cllr Lynn Tamsett-White, Cllr Jackie Taylor.

In attendance: District Cllr Chris Oram, 3 members of the public and Mrs H Broughton (Clerk)

Open Forum

The Chair welcomed members of the public.

It was requested that the Council provide a letter of support for the Jubilee Path project, required as part of a funding application, and consider future funding. There were some questions asked regarding the surface of the path and if cheaper alternatives could be used. It was explained that a multi surface path was required so those who were partially sighted, using wheelchairs etc could access it and for insurance purposes. It was suggested that larger organisations held community funds and that they be approached. Cllr P Blight agreed to contact a major contractor working in the local area regarding this.

A resident spoke regarding concerns previously raised with trees overhanging her garden in Leat Walk and requested that they be cut back. The resident provided some photographic evidence highlighting the issues with trees around her property. Some discussion followed on establishing ownership of the trees in question, actions that can be taken by the house owner and also the planning process involved if required. The Chair advised that this was also an item for consideration on the agenda and any actions agreed would be followed up as a matter of urgency.

The new Church Warden at St Marys Church introduced himself to the Council. He had been in contact with the Parish Council Clerk for the reasoning behind a grant being rejected last year for grass cutting. He explained that St Marys was in arrears to the Church and that the basic upkeep of the Church was a five-figure sum. He was made aware of the grants policy on the website and he stated that he would follow this up and submit a new grant application in due course. He had also been in contact with the Clerk and Chairman regarding Remembrance Day and the laying of wreaths.

2023 120 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Larry Taylor, due to emergency work commitments.

2023 121 **Pecuniary and other interests:** there were none.

2023 122 **Dispensations**

Dispensations were granted for Cllr L Tamsett-White and Cllr W Haymes to speak on items relating to the Woolwell Centre, these were noted.

2023 123 It was agreed that the **minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th July 2023 be signed by the Chair as a true record.

2023 124 **County and District Councillors reports**

District Cllr Chris Oram reported on the following:

- He was liaising between the County Council and District Council on issues with sewage in Alan Road as there was disagreement as to who had responsibility to undertake the work.
- Vegetation build up on New Road had been reported to the County Council. Cllr Hopwood advised this was the responsibility of the landowner and not the County Council. Cllr Scott added that she believed the work has already been completed.
- New bins were to be installed in the area and the removal and replacement of bus stops continues.
- He has agreed to contribute £500 for a new defibrillator to be installed in Roborough Village (this item was on the agenda).

Cllr Nicky Hopwood had nothing further to report other than that the new administration was generally continuing with the work of the old administration.

2023 125 **Clerks Report**

The Action List was noted. Cllr Hopwood would progress a sleeve being fitted on the Roborough Green posts to enable contractors to gain access to cut the hedges this Autumn. Cllr Hopwood had been in discussions with the County Councillor regarding a grant from the Locality Fund.

2023 126 **Finance and Admin**

- a) Bank reconciliations as at 31st August 2023 were noted
- b) Receipts and Payments as at 31st August 2023 were noted
- c) It was agreed to arrange a meeting of the Finance Committee to begin considering the 2024/25 budget. Cllr Haymes was not available until after 17th October.
- d) Members noted the conclusion of the external audit and that all documents required have been placed on the website.
- e) Receipt of the 2nd half precept was noted and the transfer of £50,000 from the current account to the savings account was approved.
- f) The 2nd half grant of £10,000 to the Woolwell Centre was approved.
- g) It was agreed that Cllr Hopwood liaise with the County Councillor regarding an application for Locality Grant funding and report back.
- h) The following payments were approved. It was noted that the Woolwell Centre room hire invoice would be paid in advance of the meeting in future. *(Invoices had been sent electronically to Councillors)*

Pre-paid

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET	NOTES
Ideal Heating	Woolwell boiler	855.97	142.66	713.31	Delegated
Cutec	Hosting fee Aug	52.00	10.40	62.40	Regular
Cutec	Hosting fee Sept	52.00	10.40	62.40	Regular
James Hallam	Insurance fee	3117.5		3117.50	Delegated
PWLB	Loan repayment	940.24		940.24	DD – final payment
Brian Hill	Refund for laptop	319	53.17	265.83	
James Hallam	Insurance	60.00		60.00	Additional premium

For approval

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET	NOTES
Woolwell Centre	Room hire Sept	60.00	0	60.00	
Security Mgmt	Keyholding response	52.80	8.80	44.00	
GasJacks	Boiler fitting	600.00	120.00	720.00	
PKF Littlejohn	External audit	504.00	84.00	420.00	
H Broughton	Salary - August	637.74		637.74	
HMRC	Quarterly tax and NI	989.38		989.38	

2023 127 Environment

- i. Correspondence from residents regarding overhanging trees in Blackeven Close and Leat Walk was noted and considered. It was agreed that the Clerk contact South Hams District Council to establish which trees had TPOs.
- ii. The 2020 tree survey had been circulated and a quotation received. It was agreed that the Clerk try to obtain 2 further quotations as per the financial regulations and then be delegated authority to proceed with a tree survey, in consultation with councillors.
- iii. It was agreed that Cllr L Tamsett-White contact the community payback scheme to enquire if they could remove weeds growing at the edge of the roadways in the parish.

2023 128 Playpark

Cllr Hopwood had requested that the Council to consider a grant of £30,000 towards the update of the playpark at the Woolwell Centre which is owned and maintained by South Hams District Council. £30,000 was being allocated towards this from S106 monies from the Pinewood development and

the District Council would be replacing safety mats at a cost of circa £15,000. Cllr Hopwood noted that the parish council had previously given a grant of £25,000 to the Cann Wood View Playpark. It was suggested by Cllr Haymes that the District Council should contribute more than £15,000 as they owned the playpark and that a parish council grant of £30,000 seemed disproportionate to the rest of the parish. It was agreed that the Finance Committee consider this as part of the 24/25 budgeting process and precept and make recommendations to Council.

2023 129 **Defibrillator**

Cllr Hopwood reported that the landlady of the Lopes public house had agreed to pay for the fitting of a defibrillator and for replacement pads and had recently signed a new 10-year lease. District Cllr Chris Oram had agreed to contribute £500 from his locality fund. It was suggested that the County Councillor be asked to contribute £1,000 to this from his fund. It was agreed that:

- a) Cllr Hopwood liaise with the County Councillor regarding a grant of £1,000 towards the defibrillator.
- b) That the Clerk complete a locality fund application for the District Councillors grant of £500.
- c) That subject to the above funding being agreed the parish council fund any balance for the defibrillator and purchase it.

2023 130 **Bus Shelters**

The council considered selling advertising space on the Bickleigh parish owned bus shelters. There was some uncertainty regarding the viability of this and it was agreed that Cllr Pithouse make further investigations on the costs etc and bring to a future meeting.

2023 131 **Woolwell Centre**

The Centre Manager requested that Woolwell Centre Working Group meetings be resurrected as they had not been held for some time. She also requested an SLA with the Parish Council for an agreed timescale of action when defects are identified

It had been reported that the front porch was still letting in water despite the replacement door and was now a risk to the public as well as looking unsightly. The cost of a new porch was £22,000 and would need planning permission. It was suggested that it could, in the short term, be clad with timber and the glass removed to make it safe. A contractor would be asked to attend the site, give his opinion and a quotation. A replacement porch would be considered by the Finance Committee, which it was agreed should meet as soon as possible. As Cllr Haymes was unavailable until 17th October it was agreed to appoint Cllr Paul Blight to the Committee and that a meeting be arranged by the Clerk.

Members had been copied in on correspondence with the District Council regarding S106 monies being allocated for the Woolwell Centre and were asked for their views. The Centre Manager went on to further explain the revised plan and outlined the proposed use of the covered area including the additional groups who were expected to benefit from the facility. Cllr Hopwood had some reservations as this was not the original scheme discussed but offered her support for the project if the proposed fencing was changed from that shown in the drawings to an alternative which allowed a view of the playpark and pump track.

The Centre Manager reported that she had secured a Covid 19 walk-in booster session on 27th October from 10am to 5pm for those who meet the current published criteria.

2023 132 Planning

A response to the following planning application was agreed:

1619/23/FUL - Land At Sx 5083 6341. Construction of a ground mounted solar PV array & ancillary infrastructure (extension to deadline requested)

The Parish Council objects on the following grounds:

The application does not comply with the following neighbourhood plan policies:

Policy No. Bick01: Where appropriate, development proposals should protect sites of ecological and/or geological importance and protect and enhance local biodiversity and wildlife to include

- i. the safeguarding or protection of designated sites, protected species, priority species and habitats, ancient or species rich hedgerows, grasslands and woodlands;
- ii. the provision of appropriate buffer zones around designated sites or features and/or the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures;
- iii. the safeguarding and preservation of ecologically sensitive areas and ecological corridors;
- iv. the safeguarding of important geological sites;
- v. the protection of trees and tree groups of arboriculturally or amenity value;
- vi. the appropriate planting of new native trees and hedges; and
- vii. the provision of appropriate measures to avoid and reduce potential recreational impacts to ensure there is no adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites.

Policy No. Bick07: Development proposals should:

- respect the local character within the locality of the site and help to reinforce local distinctiveness;
- respect local landscape quality and ensure that views and vistas are maintained wherever possible;
- help conserve and enhance listed buildings, archaeological sites, and other local heritage assets;
- respect open spaces, trees, hedges and character features;
- be of a density that is in character with the local surrounding area and respects the semi-rural nature of parts of the Parish;
- ensure a 'soft' transition e.g. reduced density and vernacular construction, to reduce impact where new developments are contiguous with greenfield or rural area; and
- be of a mixed and diversity of styles that is in character with the local surrounding area and respect the rural nature of parts of the Parish.

ii. The following recent planning decisions were noted:

0444/23/HHO - 6 Woodend Road, Woolwell PL6 7RQ. Householder application for demolition conservatory & construction of single storey rear extension. *Conditional approval*

1575/23/FUL - 1 Old School House Cottage PL6 7AG. Proposed erection of replacement dwelling (resubmission of 3698/22/FUL). *Refusal.*

1865/23/HHO - 5 Pinewood Drive, Woolwell, PL67SP. Householder application for 2 storey extension. *Conditional approval.*

2648/23/PHH - 11 Leat Walk, Roborough PL6 7AT. Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed single storey rear extension with pitched roofs measuring 3.48mtrs (H) & 2.52mtrs (height at eaves). *Prior approval refused.*

2023 133 **Neighbourhood Plan Standing Item:** It was agreed that Cllr L Taylor be asked to email the Clerk who would then arrange a date for a meeting.

2023 134 **Roborough Village Hall:** Cllr G Pithouse had not been sent meeting dates so had been unable to attend a meeting but had requested minutes of meetings.

2023 135 **Correspondence received**

Correspondence had been received regarding peacocks in Bickleigh village and it was agreed to contact the resident advising him that this was not a parish matter.

2023 136 It was agreed that the **date of the next meeting** was 26th October 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm