

**Minutes of a Meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2015 at Roborough Recreation Hall**

**PRESENT**:- Councillor P W Hitchins (Chairman), Mrs L Crowe, C Ellis, Mrs C Lane,  
Mrs S Lusk, F Turner

**ALSO PRESENT**:- Mrs M Small, Clerk to the Parish Council

**APOLOGIES**:- Councillors Blake, Mrs C Bruce-Spencer, Goddard  
County Councillor J Hart  
PC Tamsyn Dingley

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The Chairman reported that Edwin Dobinson who had resigned from the Parish Council because of illness but had continued to edit the Signpost magazine, had died. Those present stood in silence in his memory.

**OPEN FORUM**

Mr Parlett stated that it was good to see Roborough Hall looking so good. He also asked if the notice board on the wall of his property in Roborough could be replaced as it is now in a poor condition. The existing board has to be taken down shortly for the wall to be made good and he would be pleased to keep a new notice board on the wall, as it was a focal point in the centre of the village.

**POLICE REPORT**

There were only two reports for December – a domestic harassment at Woolwell in which the offender was issued a PIN and a domestic misuse of communication at Woolwell (unwanted text messages) and the offender was given a WOA.

There has been a recent spate of eggings and people having milk chucked at them from cars. These incidents are under investigation and being progressed.

**DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Councillor Hitchins reported the District Council had scrutinised South West Water. Any water put into a stream which causes damage to the bank is the responsibility of the Riparian owner. The Green Infrastructure Framework has been piloted with partners and will be considered in planning. It will be used in production of the District Council's 'Our Plan'. Councillor Hitchins was disappointed that there was no mention of Plymouth Fringe in the Plan and he hopes this will be addressed in the report.

There is a new fleet of refuse vehicles which will see a re-organisation of rounds and there will be new smaller and thicker bags with handles issued for re-cycling. A paper on putting solar panels on car parks has been discussed. The feeling is that the panels should continue to be put on roofs.

There is a new Executive Director – Steve Jordan will be joining the Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> week in February. Sophie Hosking is already in post.

A paper has also been considered on South Devon and the Tamar Valley AONB, in the light that DEFRA seem to be withdrawing their funding.

The political structures report confirms that there will be 31 members from May. The structure will be 6 Members on the Executive, 12 Members on Development and the remaining 13 Members on Scrutiny. The Chairman's position will be used more effectively than in the past.

The Five Year Land Report has been challenged by the Inspector, which has consequences on policy.

## **COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

County Councillor Hart submitted a written report stating that the free school transport for most of the young people from Woolwell is to cease as Councillors walked the suggested new shorter route and found it available and safe to walk and less than 3 miles between school and home.

Councillors are now scrutinising the budget as nearly £50m has to be saved this year. Last year the County was passing over the money that they expected to spend on grass cutting in the Parish but for 2015 the County is not expecting to cut grass on any land other than visibility splays. He asked the Parish to go back to him on what is expected to be paid for grass cutting and he will see what he can do.

### **8621 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hitchins declared a personal interest in Minute No. 8625(b) as a Trustee of Roborough Recreation Hall

### **8622 MINUTES**

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014 are signed as a correct record.

### **8623 MATTERS ARISING**

Minute 8609(f) Quotation for lighting in the park. The Clerk reported that SSEC had stated that there would only be an increase in part of the quotation. The Chairman had taken the contract form to Andy Smythe at South Hams who had confirmed that it is SSECs usual contract and it was therefore **AGREED** to go ahead.

Minute 8609(g) Grass cutting 2015. Tenders have been sought from the same companies as last year with a closing date of 12<sup>th</sup> February. Nick Maker is no longer responsible for the grass cutting in Plymouth and has passed on the tender to the person now dealing with grass cutting. Chris Seymour of Plant Tech has been asked for a price to include the cutting of the verge from the 30 mph sign Bickleigh to the war memorial, in his current contract as he is already cutting the small piece of grass in Hele Close.

Minute 8619(a) The lorry is still outside Lidl. It was **AGREED** to speak with PC Dingley.

Minute 8619(c) It was **AGREED** to ask Highways if a grit bin could be placed in Tramway Road and also how to get the grit bins filled.

Councillor Ellis **AGREED** to undertake Snow Warden Training.

### **8624 PLANNING**

(a) **Consideration of applications, as follows:-**

There were no applications for consideration

(b) **Decisions taken by District Council**

There are no decisions to report

**8625 PRECEPT**

- (a) It was noted that a meeting of the Joint Property and Finance Committees had been held with the Centre Manager and Trustee James Peterson, when they presented their request for a grant of £14,394 towards maintenance operation costs. This was a 10% reduction on last year and the third consecutive 10% reduction in five years. The budget and grant was recommended to Council. It was **AGREED** that a grant of £14,394 is included in the Council's budget.
- (b) A letter was reported from Roborough Recreation Hall requesting a budget of £6,500 which could be drawn down to pump prime any bidding for external funding on a case by case basis. It was **AGREED** to include this in the Council's budget.
- (c) Councillors considered their overall budget and **AGREED** a budget of £83,038, made up of a precept of £79,703 and Council Tax Support Grant of £3,335.

**8626 REPORTS**

(a) **The Woolwell Centre**

In the absence of Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer, there was no report. However, it was noted that Mrs Spencer had stated that the Hall is now open 7 days a week, which is reflected in the labour costs.

(b) **Roborough Recreation Hall**

Councillor Mrs Lane reported that the Trustees have nearly completed their first year of management of the Trust. Time and money has been spent on major safety work with some improvement to the fabric and decoration of the Hall. Apart from the fixing of two external signs, all fire signage is now complete. The Fire Risk Adviser has visited the site and is happy that all the works required have been satisfactorily carried out.

The coming year will see a greater input of time and energy on the playing fields. It is hoped too re-organise and re-brand the sports club with the current teams in order to create a Community Sports hub. Survey documents have been submitted to the Football Association and a visit is awaited so that the Trustees, along with the football and cricket teams, can consider a programme of improvement to ensure that appropriate bids are made to the various funds that are available. There are already two senior teams, a thriving youth programme and a wish to create a veterans team. The cricket team would benefit from having an all-weather wicket.

Enquiries and bookings are still steady and the Hall is proving a popular venue for children's parties. Successful monthly table top sales continue to bring a steady income. The Committee is looking to attract more daytime bookings during the week.

## 8627 WORKING GROUPS

- (a) Mr Lane stated that there was nothing new to report on Neighbourhood Plan and that a meeting is being held next week.
- (b) Councillor Mrs Crowe reported that with the death of Edwin Dobinson, there would be no magazine in January and advertisers were being advised of this. The deadline for the next magazine will be 13<sup>th</sup> March.

## 8628 FINANCE

(a) <u>Income</u>			
Roborough Church	30.00		Advert Signpost
Bickleigh PCC	40.00		Advert Signpost
National Grid	14.24		Overhead lines
(b) <u>Payments</u>			
Staff	357.80		Salary
Roborough Recreation Hall	4308.00		Grant
Minerva Accounting	18.00		Payroll Services
HMRC	89.60		Tax
HMRC	89.40		Tax
Grant Thornton	480.00		External Audit
ASG Security	475.62		Lightening strike
Security Management SW	38.55		
ASG Security	337.04		
Drain Care SW	102.00		Investigate smell
Future Cooling Solutions	50.44		Repair hot water tap
Future Cooling Solutions	54.07		
The Woolwell Centre	65.00		
The Woolwell Centre	35.00		
PA Weston	3000.00		Consultant Neigh. Plan
Minerva Accounting	9.00		Payroll Services
Staff	358.00		Salary
HMRC	89.60		Tax
Plant Tech Garden	300.00	250.00	Roborough Green
Future Cooling Solutions	251.60		New tap/urinal flush
Roborough Recreation Hall	65.00		Hire x 2
The Woolwell Centre	20.00		Office hire
The Woolwell Centre	30.00		Room hire
The Woolwell Centre	1333.33		Grant
Future Cooling	126.50		Maintenance contract

## 8629 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Leaflets are available from the District Council on Local Homes for Local People – A brief Guide to Housing.

- (b) Dartmoor National Park is holding a workshop for Parish Councils on the 11<sup>th</sup> March. It was **AGREED** that Councillors Hitchins and Turner will attend.
- (c) An e-mail was read from the Woolwell Centre Trustees thanking Councillors for allowing them to attend the finance meeting to present their grant application. They went on to say that a good working relationship between the Centre and Parish Council is paramount to ensure that the Centre continues to be successful. An invitation is extended for a nominated Councillor to attend Centre meetings. It was **AGREED** that the Council accepts the same broad invitation as is extended to the Trustees by the Council.
- (d) A letter was received from Councillor Goddard stating that he will be 79 in February and that he wished to resign before this date. His resignation was accepted with regret.

#### **8630 CHAIRMAN'S TIME**

- (a) Councillor Mrs Crowe reported that the Church Warden had thanked the Parish Council for their grant.
- (b) Concern was expressed at cars/vans parking on Hawkers Corner and it was **AGREED** to raise this with the cycle people.
- (c) It was **AGREED** to raise reducing the speed limit to 40 mph on New Road from the junction with the A386 to Bickleigh village with Nick Colton of Highways when the next meeting is held with him.
- (d) Councillor Mrs Lusk reported that she had received a letter from Bickleigh Church Warden asking her to give £12.50 a week to help maintain the Church and asked if the Parish Council was able to make a contribution. It was understood that the Parish Council did not have the power to make a donation to the Church but it might be able to consider a specific issue, ie maintenance of the clock for the village.
- (e) It was noted that repair to the manhole cover in Woolwell Road had not been undertaken and the bollards have been around it for some time. It was **AGREED** to refer to Plymouth City Council.

#### **8631 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at The Woolwell Centre at 7.30 pm  
 Apologies for February and March meetings were submitted by Councillor Mrs Lane.

It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council should meet at Roborough Recreation Hall quarterly. This would be the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.