

Minutes of a Meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 26th June 2014 at The Woolwell Centre

PRESENT:- Councillor Mrs C Bruce-Spencer (in the Chair)
Councillors M Blake, Mrs L Crowe, R Goddard, Mrs C Lane

ALSO PRESENT:- PC Tamsyn Dingley

APOLOGY:- Councillors B Spencer (Holiday), PW Hitchins (Holiday), R Ivey
County Councillor J Hart

NOT PRESENT Councillor C Ellis

OPEN FORUM

- (a) Mr Dobinson referred to the minutes and the report on parking difficulties in Roborough Village. He will speak to the pre-school and ask them to ensure that they park in a safe place. PC Dingley will also speak to the Pre-School and monitor.
- (b) Mr Shawcross referred to the state of the grass cutting in Woolwell. The Clerk explained the current position for this year.
- (c) Mr O'Carroll of The Heathers was undertaking a study on the public perception of road safety and asked if anyone would fill out a questionnaire. A number of questionnaires were taken and PC Dingley referred him to the Police web site for further information on statistics.

POLICE REPORT

PC Dingley reported that there had been four crimes reported during the month – a common assault in School Drive for which 2 thirteen year olds have been given restorative justice; a common assault in Hawthorn Close, which is still under investigation; an assault of ABH on Roborough Down for which an appeal has been launched for witnesses; criminal damage in Roborough Village where car tyres have been damaged and there are no witnesses.

Three new volunteers have come forward in Woolwell to undertake Speed Watch. The next Police surgery will be on 23rd July from 10am – 12 noon.

PC Dingley warned of a fraud where home owners are being targeted on the telephone by a fraudster claiming to be from your bank or the police, who says that your bank card details have been used fraudulently and suggest you hang up and ring back. PC Dingley said that if you are contacted you should not ring back as the fraudsters stay on the line and tell you to read out or key in your PIN or instruct you to withdraw cash. They then send a courier to collect the bank card or cash.

A question was asked regarding switching off street lighting. PC Dingley stated that there have been a few requests to get street lights left on. The Police can ask for lights to be switched on if it is related to crime.

Councillor Mrs Crowe referred to parking problems in Bickleigh when weddings are taking place at the Church. PC Dingley stated that she will speak with Father Simon.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer reported that the District Council's external auditors have recently praised both West Devon and South Hams District Councils as being 'Leaders in the field'. They advised that South Hams were among a number of other authorities who were undergoing a transformation and are at 'the forefront of bringing all the initiatives together'.

The Council has approved that the principle of 'Our Plan' is the single, over-arching strategic plan for the South Hams setting out the vision, long term priorities and planning policies that are in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. 'Our Plan' will be supported and informed by partner and community plans, helping to run and commission services in a more efficient way.

The County Council is consulting on changes to future library provision across Devon. In South Hams the key proposals involve larger libraries being developed as 'Devon Centres' and smaller libraries being managed through a 'Community Led Model' website.

The County Council is working to deliver a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (civic Amenity Site) for the Ivybridge area which will meet the needs of local users with much improved access and contribute to its recycling initiatives. The existing site is too small, suffers from significant congestion and queuing, and is no longer fit for purpose. A site has been identified for a new facility and the County would like to seek the views of local stakeholders and the local public as part of the design and planning process

A Totnes affordable housing project has won an award as the best social housing or affordable housing development in the South West. Phase 2 of 'Culverdale' was announced winner of the award in the South West local authorities annual Building Excellence Awards.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

There was no report.

8568 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Lane declared a personal interest in Minute No. 8572(b) as a Trustee of Roborough Recreation Hall

Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer declared a personal interest in Minute No.8572(a) as a Trustee of The Woolwell Centre.

8569 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th May 2014 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

8570 MATTERS ARISING

Open Forum (May) The need to trim the hedge on the path from Village Drive to the A.386 has been reported to the County Council.

Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer stated that she had undertaken a litter pick around the bus shelter on the A.386 near Village Drive. The

walkway and steps opposite the area of green in Village Drive to the A.386 also needs trimming. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will report this to the County Council.

Open Forum (May) A reply was awaited from County Councillor Hart regarding the grass on the pavement from the Gas Station to Dartmoor Diner. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will follow up.

Open Forum Councillor Hart had stated that a copy of the new Strategic Plan would be e-mailed to the Council. It was **AGREED** that as this has not been received, the Clerk should follow-up.

Minute 8307(b) County Councillor Hart has stated that the gritter may be sold without paying back the grant. The Clerk reported that in the first instance, an approach will be made to a Parish Council who could possibly be interested.

Minute 8393(b) The litter is still present under the flyover. It was noted that an article is to be put in the Signpost for volunteers and this could be one of the jobs undertaken by volunteers.

Minute 8514 Councillor Mrs Crowe will speak with Gary Streeter MP and raise the issue of a meeting with Plymouth City Council when she sees him on the tour of the Houses of Parliament.

Minute 8550 The Clerk **AGREED** to draw up some bullet points regarding Beating the Bounds.

8571 PLANNING

(a) Consideration of applications, as follows:-

04/0943/14/F Retrospective application for change of use of field to equestrian use and erection of stable building. Proposed erection of new stable and tak room (re-submission of 04/3037/13/F) **Field at SX507620, Bickleigh Down Road, Roborough. It was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL.**

04/1324/14/F **Maristow Barton, Maristow, Roborough, PL6 7BZ** Conversion of three agricultural buildings into single dwelling for Gamekeeper. Construction of staircase link between two buildings. **It was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL.**

04/1382/14/F **17 Woodend Road, Woolwell, PL6 7QR** Single storey rear extension. It was **AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL, subject to no objection from neighbours.**

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

04/1050/14/F **Pound Farm, PL6 7BY** Erection of covered dung store.

04/1049/14/F **4 Coppers Park, Woolwell, PL6 7SJ** Conversion of integral garage to room

- (c) A request to meet developers was received and it was **AGREED** to suggest the 10th July. Councillors Mrs Crowe, Goddard and Blake would be free to attend.

8572 **REPORTS**

(a) **The Woolwell Centre**

Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer reported that:-

Although 'Inflatadays' were not originally planned for May Half Term a change in the weather instigated a session on the Thursday. Advertising was solely through 'facebook' and the response was amazing with 178 children attending. Woolwell Junior Football Club has held a presentation evening and many local people attended the event having not visited the Centre for 3-4 years and were very impressed with the changes that had been made.

A complaint was made at the Parish Council meeting concerning the lack of grass cutting around the building. Very many thanks to Cllr Roger Ivey and Cllr Barrie Spencer for taking on the challenge and getting the grass down to a manageable level – which was no mean feat! In the future the District Council will cut the grass.

Completion of 'Stage 1' of the bar is almost complete. Staff members Debbie & Jo have decorated the bar and it looks a lot tidier & brighter as a result. Unfortunately during the makeover one of the coolers has broken so we are down to just one. We are using our connections with St Austell Brewery to see if we can receive a replacement.

Gas / Electricity – both of the long term contracts expire in October and 2 brokers are investigating the market but the first indications are an increase of £450 per year.

The new all singing/ all dancing copier is now in place.

(b) **Roborough Recreation Hall**

Councillor Mrs Lane reported that the Roborough Hall continues to flourish. The Committee held their first Table Top sale on 21st June at the Hall in order to raise money for funds. Considering all the other events on that day in the same area, it was every successful. They all thought the Hall was a good and pleasant venue. The Committee felt that they could now start to hold further events.

Estimates have been received for all the essential work requiring to be carried out. The long outstanding Gas Account of approximately £2,500 has still to be resolved. There is a further outstanding utility bill for the water usage at the Hall in the sum of £195 approximately which has just come to light.

Bookings are on the up thanks to the new web site and committee member responsible for publicity.

The playing fields are still being used by Plymouth Civil Service and Roborough Cricket Club, South West Football Academy (incorporating Roborough Youth Football Club) and Nova Homes A and B teams.

The lower part of the field has now been cut in order to create two football pitches for the juniors. They are now called Roborough Youth Football Club and have a thriving membership.

8573 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

- (a) Councillor Mrs Crowe reported that the Newsletter Working Group has met and the two new Councillors have joined the Group. Councillor Blake is to make contact with Mr Dobinson with a view to learning the package used for the newsletter. The next deadline is 18th July.
- (b) A meeting of the Joint Property and Finance Working Groups was held on 12th June. Note 5(g) should be corrected to read “Stage I of the bar work has been completed”. There were no recommendations to Council.
- (c) Mr Lane reported that the report of the survey can now be published. He has been chasing an application made by the Chairman for grant funding and it appears not to have been received. Therefore, he proposes to meet with the Clerk and submit another application. It was felt that the Chairman should be informed and the Clerk will contact him by e-mail.
- (d) The Youth and the Policies Working Groups have not met.

8574 FINANCE

- (a) The Clerk stated that she had looked at a review of the statement of internal control but had not been able to complete the review as it needed the input of the Committee. Therefore, it was **AGREED** to defer this item for consideration by the Joint Property and Finance Working Group.
- (b) The Clerk reported that the internal audit had been completed and no issues were found, apart from two Direct Debits had not been reported in the minutes. The Council was now asked to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 31st March 2014 prior to sending to the external auditors. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer signs the statement on behalf of the Council.

(c)

<u>Receipts</u>		
M Walkey	140.00	Signpost Advert
Co-op	21.99	Interest
Devon County Council	1000.00	Grass cutting
 <u>Payments</u>		
R Barber	80.00	Refurbish seat,Bickleigh
Quality Office Supplies	102.49	Ink and stationery
Drain Care SW Ltd	174.00	Blocked drains
Appleby Westward	516.00	Newsletter printing
The Woolwell Centre	75.00	Delivery of Newsletter x 3
1466		

Staff	357.80	Salary
SW Audit	340.00	Internal audit
HMRC	89.60	Tax

8575 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) It was **AGREED** that no comments are submitted to the District Council on “Our Plan”.
- (b) An e-mail was received from the District Council regarding Lights Out which is taking place in the UK to mark 100 years since the outbreak of World War I. Concern was expressed at the potential cost of switching of street lights and therefore it was **AGREED** to speak with the County Council and the Police.
- (c) The District Council is organising a workshop on 11th July regarding the role of renewable energy. Anyone able to attend should contact the Clerk.
- (d) The Greater Dartmoor LEAF is seeking views on the main areas to support in the Dartmoor area for 2015-2020. There is an online survey to be completed by 4th July.
- (e) A request was received from the Roborough Recreation Hall Committee for a grant towards urgent work required to the Hall following a Fire Risk Assessment. The total work is around £8,500. It was **AGREED** that the budget of £4,308 is made available to be drawn down as required.

8576 CHAIRMAN’S TIME

- (a) Councillor Mrs Crowe asked if the Slimming World sign could be removed from the building as discussed at the Property Working Group. The Clerk stated that this should wait until the return from holiday of the Centre Manager, as it was not known if Slimming World had been advised. Councillor Mrs Crowe stated that she will have a word with the Deputy Manager.
- (b) Councillor Goddard reported that he has drafted an article for Signpost regarding overhanging hedges. If this has no effect then letters will be sent to individuals. It was **AGREED** to send a letter to Bambinos asking if they intend to cut their grass, as the other businesses have done so.
- (c) Councillor Blake asked who had undertaken the Fire Assessment Plan for Roborough Recreation Hall and if he could see a copy of the Plan. After discussion with Mr Lane, it was **AGREED** that the Clerk would write a letter in order that Mr Lane could take the request to his meeting.
- (d) Councillor Mrs Lane reported that she had been contacted by the owners of 12 Leat Walk asking if the Parish Council could trim a tree on the edge of their property as it was preventing them getting a television signal. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will follow-up the request.

8577 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 24th July 2014 at 7.30 pm
 Apologies: Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer