

Minutes of a Meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 30th October 2014 at The Woolwell Centre

PRESENT:- Councillors P W Hitchins (Chairman), M Blake, Mrs C Bruce-Spencer, Mrs L Crowe, C Ellis, R Goddard, Mrs C Lane

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

APOLOGIES:- County Councillor J Hart
PC Tamsyn Dingley

OPEN FORUM

Mr Dobinson stated that he was pleased to see that someone had come from Tamerton Foliot regarding the proposed housing as there is already a traffic problem in Fore Street.

It was pointed out that the web site needs updating with the minutes etc. The Clerk replied that she was looking into how to update this in the future.

POLICE REPORT

There was no report.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer reported that Sophie Hosking will be joining South Hams and West Devon Councils as the Service Delivery and Commercial Development Executive Director. Leading Members of West Devon and South Hams Council have been reviewing the way forward regarding the appointment of the Executive Director (Strategy & Commissioning) and Head of Paid Service role, with formal interviews being held on 25th November.

The Agenda for a Super Cluster Meeting at 6.30pm on Wednesday 26th November 2014 at Follaton House will be circulated nearer the time but it will include a budget update from County Councillor John Hart.

The deadline for comments on the Land Availability Assessment has been extended to 31st October 2014.

South Hams Council resolved last year to purchase electronic voting equipment for use (initially in the first instance) for meetings of the Development Management Committee and Full Council, with the voting breakdowns subsequently being recorded in the published minutes. There have been an unbelievable amount of hurdles but the equipment will be launched at the Development Management Committee meeting on 5th November 2014.

Torrige has voted not to develop the future model with South Hams and West Devon. As a consequence attention can now be focused on the delivery of the Councils' own very ambitious programme to create an entirely new way of working, providing a sustainable future for the two councils.

Councillor Hitchins moved a motion at Council to request the Government to improve the A303 into the South West and to push for a better train system in the South West. South Hams District

Council has pulled out of the business rate pool because of potential liabilities, thereby limiting the District Council's liability.

Councillor Hitchins reported on the functions he had attended as Chairman of the District Council, which were many and varied. This included his own Civic Service held at Cornwood.

Dartmoor National Park – the annual grant remains in place from DEFRA for the coming year.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

A written report was submitted by County Councillor Hart. He has asked the School Transport Appeals Panel to walk the new suggested route between Woolwell and Tor Bridge High School (Estover) as he feels the route is unsafe. There are 31 pupils from the Estate who would live under 3 miles between home and school if this route were deemed safe to walk who would lose their school transport.

The mileage issue of 3 miles for Secondary pupils and 2 miles for Primary pupils in the only part of the 1944 Education Act still in force. Devon County Council does bus some 22,000 young people to school daily at a cost of nearly £22m a year. A number of other pupils live over 3 miles and would continue to get free bus passes. The results should be known within a few weeks.

The County Council is now looking at its budget for 2015-16. There is a need to reduce the budget by a further £50m next year and another £34m for 2016-17. This will mean that the County spend on services will have reduced by over £200m over 7 years, from £600m in 2009 to £400m in 2017 at a time when inflation has been running at over 2% and there has been an increase in both young children and in the retired population needing support.

Having reviewed Day Care services, Residential Homes, Libraries, Youth Services and Children Centres, the County is now looking at highways, weeds, waste disposal and shortly will be consulting on public transport services. The County spends nearly £6m supporting rural bus transport and it costs an extra £5m over and above the Government Grant to fund the over 60s bus pass. All subsidised bus routes are being reviewed to see just how many passengers they are carrying and at how much per passenger.

County Councillor Hart will be doing a tour of the County holding Super Parish Council meetings explaining these tough choices at the end of November and early December.

Councillor Hart hopes that this information will help the Parish Council better understand the comments made by the Cabinet Member for Highways, that they need Parish Councils to start thinking about Parish Resilience and Parish self help. The County Council has offered Chapter 8 training so that Parishes can do more for themselves. Some Parishes are coming together into Parish Clusters, pooling some money and getting help from the TAP Fund to do small works and repairs which realistically will no longer get done by the County Council.

He stated that this is a rather bleak but honest assessment of the future of Local Government. Devon County Council will be doing less as they will have little money after supporting that which is mandatory – looking after the old, the young and the vulnerable in the County.

8601 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Hitchins and Mrs Lane declared a personal interest in Minute No. 8605(b) as Trustees of Roborough Recreation Hall

Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer declared a personal interest in Minute No.8605(a) as a Trustee of The Woolwell Centre.

8602 MINUTES

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 25th September 2014 are signed as a correct record subject to:-

- (i) delete “the” in the first line of Minute 8589
- (ii) delete “an” in the third line of Open Forum (a) and insert “and”
- (iii) In the District Council report, delete “Chief Executive” and insert “Executive Director (Strategy and Commissioning) and Head of Paid Service”
- (iv) in the third paragraph of Minute 8592 delete “objections” and insert “objector”
- (v) in Minute 8600 delete “Roborough Recreation Hall” and insert “the Woolwell Centre. The January meeting will be held at Roborough Recreation Hall”.

8603 MATTERS ARISING

Open Forum (Sept) The Chairman and Clerk had inspected Roborough Green and there were patches which had been damaged. The Clerk had contacted the contractor who stated that this was damage by blackbirds looking for chafer grubs. It was **AGREED** that he puts down the necessary chemical and grass seeds the area.

Open Forum (Sept) The condition of Woolwell Road had been raised again. It is on the County’s list for repair.

Minute 8514 Councillor Hitchins has heard nothing from Gary Streeter MP to find out what happened at the meeting with Plymouth City Council regarding lane priorities. However, it was **AGREED** to ask Plymouth City Council to re-instate the white line between the two roundabouts in Woolwell Road.

Minute 8586 The Clerk had not checked to see if any money had been withheld for the Neighbourhood Plan.

Minute 8587(c) The Clerk had not yet heard from Highways whether they could erect a legal sign at the Old School Cottages.

8604 PLANNING

(a) Consideration of applications, as follows:-

04/2435/14/F **24 Skylark Rise, Woolwell, PL6 7SN** – first floor extension over garage for bedroom with ensuite has been **RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

04/2627/14/F **43 Church Road, Woolwell PL6 7SA** – two storey side extension and extension to entrance porch. It was **AGREED** to

RECOMMEND APPROVAL in principle but to highlight that it is close to services at the front.

Decisions taken by District Council

Approved

04/2028/14/F Maristow Barton PL6 7BZ – conversion of three agricultural buildings into single dwelling for Gamekeeper. Construction of staircase link between two buildings.

8605 REPORTS

(a) The Woolwell Centre

Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer reported that the initial draft Business Plan is shaping up and is work in progress. The aim of the Business Plan is to provide a comprehensive working document that can be used as a blueprint and reviewed on an annual basis. The plan will instil confidence and evidence that the business is well structured and managed in a professional manner.

There are 9 weekends until Christmas! The Centre is going to be extraordinarily busy during this period with a variety of bookings and functions – excellent news but also a challenging time. The first tribute act - ‘Abba Forever’ – took place on Saturday 25th October with over 100 people attending. The feedback has been positive and it is hoped that this will be the start of regular monthly live music nights.

The Trustees formally approved the accounts for 2013 and these have been submitted to Companies House.

In terms of finances – the situation is much improved but this is still a challenging time.

(b) Roborough Recreation Hall

Councillor Mrs Lane reported that funding remains a priority to ensure that statutory works are carried out to both the Hall and the Pavillion. Further funds have been raised and a bid made to the Parish Council with paid invoices being submitted.

Works associated with the Fire Risk Assessment and visits from Environmental Health and Health and Safety Officers from the District Council have been implemented in the Hall along with the decoration of the wall panels and replacement of damaged ceiling tiles. New front doors to the Hall have been ordered and when fitted will address the remaining security problem. Fire signage will be complete by mid November. New flooring to the toilets has been ordered along with damp treatment to the floors.

The same procedure as above will now be put in place at the Sports Pavilion to raise standards for the players. Efforts are being made by all parties to see what funds are available to upgrade/rebuild the pavilion. A meeting with Devon FA has taken place and application forms for a site visit by a pitch expert are to be completed.

Bookings are still constant and after the first successful Table Top sale, two more have taken place boosting income. Further sales are planned. Last, but not least, energy usage is being strictly controlled and monitored.

8606 WORKING GROUPS

- (a) There had been no meeting of the Joint Property and Finance Group but it was **AGREED** to hold a meeting on Monday 10th November at 4.30 pm
- (b) Mr Lane reported that a local evidence document of over 40 pages has been produced. This document tries to bring together all the information about the Parish. He asked Councillors to read the document and let him know if anything is missing. There is a meeting on the 11th November to go through this.
- (c) Councillor Mrs Crowe reported that Edwin Dobinson is to produce the next magazine. She is waiting to hear from 2 main advertisers as to whether they will continue their advertisements. The deadline is 14th November.

8607 FINANCE

(a)	<u>Income</u>		
	MDB Carpet	65.00	Signpost Advert
	Co-op	16.47	Interest
(b)	<u>Payments</u>		
	E Hosting Ltd	93.44	E-mail support
	Appleby Westward	462.00	Signpost printing
	The Woolwell Centre	25.00	Delivery of Signpost
	GMC Projects	8838.41	Fire proofing/fire door
	Staff	358.00	Sept Salary
	HMRC	89.40	Tax
	ASG Security	87.24	72.70
	Plant Tech	300.00	250.00
	Bickleigh PCC	1000.00	Grass cut Roborough
	PWLB	6833.66	Churchyard Maintenance
	02	29.20	Re-pay loan
	Concorde Copiers	268.80	Telephone
	The Woolwell Centre	20.00	Copier
	The Woolwell Centre	30.00	Office hire
	The Woolwell Centre	1333.33	Room hire
	Future Cooling	126.50	Grant
			Maintenance contract

- (c) The Clerk had received invoices from Roborough Recreation Hall for the work undertaken. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will e-mail them to Councillors prior to payment being made.
- (d) The audited annual report and financial statements for the year ending 31st December 2013 were received from the Parochial Church Council. The cost was £2,210, therefore it was **AGREED** that the maximum grant of £1,000 is paid.

- (e) The Council reviewed the arrangement for a grant for the upkeep of the churchyard for the coming year. It was **AGREED** that the grant remains the same, ie 50% of the actual costs involved, up to a maximum of £1,000.

8608 CORRESPONDENCE

The District Council has made some changes to the way in which they collect cardboard. It is now only collected in the blue recycling bag or folded alongside if it is too bulky. This is to achieve a higher quality compost that will make the end product more marketable. Cardboard should not be placed in the brown bin.

8609 CHAIRMAN'S TIME

- (a) A proposal for the employment of an admin assistant was submitted. It was **AGREED:-**
- (i) that the Clerk will reduce her hours to 34 per month..
 - (ii) an Admin. Assistant is employed for 20 hours per month at £7.50 an hour.
 - (iii) the duties of the Admin. Assistant will include the setting out and typing of Signpost magazine.
 - (iv) the future duties of the Clerk and Admin. Assistant will be split as contained in the proposal.
 - (v) the above can be achieved within the current budget.
 - (vi) a second laptop is purchased.
- (b) The Clerk reported that two applications had been received for the vacant Councillor positions – Frank Turner and Sheila Lusk. It was **AGREED:-**
- (i) by six in favour and 1 abstention (Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer) that Frank Turner is invited to join the Council.
 - (ii) by 4 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention (Councillor Mrs Bruce-Spencer) that Sheila Lusk is invited to join the Council. **(Councillor Ellis declared an interest as a family member and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon)**
- (c) Councillor Mrs Crowe brought some of the re-cycling bags which were unusable as they are so thin and rip easily. Councillor Hitchins will take them to the District Council.
- (d) Councillor Goddard referred to the lack of lighting in the Centre car park and asked if quotations had been received for repair. This will be raised at the Property Working Group meeting.
- (e) Councillor Goddard reported that there had been a set of cones on the A386 for months. It was **AGREED** to advise Plymouth City Council.
- (f) The Clerk will follow-up the quotation for the lighting in the park.
- (g) A reply was awaited from the County Council as to whether the Parish Council would receive funding for grass cutting next year. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will follow-up.

- (h) Councillor Blake reported that he had toured the building with the Centre Manager to look at the fire doors and there were several issues to take back to the Trustees, particularly the emergency lighting escape routes.

8610 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Preliminary budget meeting to be held on 10th November at 4.30 pm

Meeting on 27th November to be held at the Woolwell Centre

Apology: Councillor Mrs Lane