

Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 28 September 2017, 7.30pm at Roborough Recreation Hall

PRESENT: - Councillors P W Hitchins (Chairman), F Turner, Mrs S Lusk, Mrs L Crowe, M Blake and C Ellis

ALSO PRESENT: - Councillor Mrs N Hopwood (South Hams District Council)
Mr J Peterson, Chair of Trustees, Woolwell Community Resource Trust
Ms L Gilmour (Secretary, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group)
Mrs M Small, Clerk to the Parish Council
Mrs A Tamsett-White, Admin Assistant
Members of the public - 8

APOLOGIES: - County Councillor John Hart
Councillor Mrs D Owen
PC Tamsyn Dingley

OPEN FORUM

- a) The Parish Council was asked to put pressure on the County Council regarding the flooding by the Old Vicarage, over hanging tree branches and hedges on New Road? Transport from Bickleigh village for secondary school children has been withdrawn and they have to walk up to the main road. Evenings are getting darker and with no lighting it is an accident waiting to happen. An update was also requested on the proposal to reduce the speed of traffic on New Road.

Councillor Hitchins acknowledged the issue which has been an agenda item for many months. He will contact the County Councillor again and suggested that residents also write to or email County Councillor Hart copying in the Parish Clerk. (john.hart@devon.gov.uk parishclerk@bickleigh.gov.uk). In respect of the signage there is reluctance by County Council due to the cost. Councillor Mrs Crowe reported that on a dark rainy evening you don't see the water until you're in it. Councillor Ellis agreed the issue had been like it for a long time.

- b) The report on the Property Working Group refers to grass cutting and it was asked as there had only been 2 cuts to the lower part of Woolwell this season, why is the contractor being paid if he is not cutting?

The Clerk confirmed that no payment has been made for August or September. The Council is currently preparing a list of people who want to tender for the contract. There will also be a proposal to Council later in the meeting for one cut at the end of October.

Councillor Hitchins reported that he has a meeting next week with a contractor to go round the entire Parish to get a price for the end of season cut. He acknowledged that the current contractor is not doing a good job however finding an alternative contractor in the main growing season had proved difficult as they already have contracts in place. It is also hoped to include the unadopted land in the new contract so that everything is cut. The Parish Council will also look at numbering the areas of grass to be cut in order to avoid issues in the future.

A parishioner stated that it was understood the contractor had not been paid.

The Clerk confirmed that the contractor had been paid up to the end of July. No invoices had been received for August or September.

A further question was asked as to whether the contractor had been paid even though he has not done cuts?

The Clerk advised that he has been paid for work undertaken. The payments made relate to the whole of the Parish. Councillor Hitchins stated that he is sure that he had not been overpaid.

Woolwell Matters Facebook reported grass cutting being undertaken; only it was not the Parish Council contractor is was District Council, with some verges cut it makes the area look even worse.

Councillor Hitchins said social media is not always correct.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood took exception to the comment made by Councillor Hitchins as the Facebook page in question is administered, therefore all comments are deemed appropriate when published. Councillor Mrs Hopwood said Woolwell residents would welcome a grass cut before the end of season and welcome drawing a line under this and getting a new contract in place.

- c) Mrs Thurlow stated that a letter had been sent to the Parish Council following an independent tree surgeon looking at the tree in the hedge bordering their property. It reported the tree as dangerous and needed to come down urgently, the next branch to fall will land on their property.
Councillor Hitchins confirmed he had received quotations and these would be discussed later in the meeting.
- d) It was noted that in July's minutes the projector purchase for Roborough Hall went through, £4k from precept and £2k requested from Parish Council but the parishioner still felt that this was too much.
Councillor Hitchins reported that it is not just a projector but also other purchases.
- e) A question was asked as to what the District Council grant of £2,709 is and whether it is for a specified purpose.
The Clerk confirmed this is Business Rate relief; it has to be recorded as a grant not precept. This grant will eventually finish as it is reducing over the next two years. It can be put to any use.

POLICE REPORT

August

Roborough. Harassment known persons but victim did not want to pursue. Crime filed with no further action
Merlin Close, Woolwell. Vehicle interference. Person located going through victim's unlocked vehicle, loose change stolen. Victim unable to identify the suspect and no other evidence i.e. cctv/forensics/witnesses. Crime filed with no further action.

Woolwell. Domestic Incident. Both parties separated and words of advice passed. Crime filed.

Roborough. Dog not under control, all parties agreed to 'Voluntary Dog Order' and for dog to be muzzled in public spaces.

Woolwell. DV Common Assault. Victim did not want to pursue. Crime filed with no further action.

Information

PC Tamsyn Dingley is now back at work following a work-related car crash and is undertaking office duties so will not be seen on patrol but always contactable via email or work number.

Parking around the junctions of Ferndale Road, Woodend Road & Bumblebees is still an issue. County Council is raising a traffic order for double yellow lines. Jurisdiction for these falls to Traffic Enforcement Officers,. PC Dingley suggests diverting frustrations to the school/pre-school for better education for the parents/carers who drive there. This issue is happening elsewhere schools everywhere have the same parking problems.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Mrs Hopwood, District Councillor for Woolwell Ward reported:

- Pinewood Drive planning application refused via a delegated decision in July.
- Woolwell's first fun day was an outstanding success.
- Tree planting and Woolwell memory bench blessing a few weeks ago. All residents of Woolwell can now have a plaque put on the memory bench for a loved one they have lost as long as that person lived in Woolwell.
- Attended the Woolwell Business and Community awards and was awarded Resident of the Year. Woolwell Litterbusters also won an award for excellence in the Best Local Group Category.
- Woolwell residents Christmas lunch to be held over 2 days in December, tickets will go on sale in October.
- Woolwell Christmas tree light switch on will be on Sunday 10 December at 5pm.
- Parking around Bickleigh Primary School was discussed on BBC Radio Devon and Councillor Mrs Hopwood took part in the debate.
- On behalf of residents Councillor Mrs Hopwood asked for an update on grass cutting in Woolwell. District Council happy to quote for the contract when it goes out to tender.

- Councillor Mrs Hopwood reminded the Parish Council that Woolwell is the ward she represents and therefore when communicating her District Councillor report the issues refer to her ward only.
- The consultation for One Council is ongoing until 8 October. This has to be one of the most singularly important decisions that District Council have ever taken and if it goes ahead it will shape the future. South Hams. District Council is hoping for formal responses from all councils. Councillor Mrs Hopwood urged the Parish Council to discuss the issue and send a collective response as well as individual responses. Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed she was happy to answer any questions in relation to this subject.

Councillor Hitchins, District Councillor for Bickleigh Ward reported:

- Time has been spent on fly tipping incidents, burnt out cars and speeding.
- Councillor Mrs Hopwood has covered other topics in detail.

As Councillor Mrs Hopwood expressed she was happy to answer questions, Parish Councillors were invited to ask their questions regarding the One Council proposal.

Councillor Mrs Crowe was interested to learn if anyone had received a telephone call?

The Clerk was able to confirm that she had received such a call.

Councillor Mrs Crowe asked if West Devon Borough Council (WDBC) have the same waste and recycling measures as South Hams.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported that WDBC have contracted this service out whilst the District Council is in-house. There are no plans to change waste management at the current time.

Councillor Blake asked what increase in salaries will go to senior members regarding increased workload.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported there will be no increased workload as already share offices.

Redundancies from T18 which saw workforce reduce by 30%. It is envisaged that the new council will require 8 less staff.

Councillor Blake enquired who will be in charge of the new council.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed it will be Steve Jorden and Sophie Hosking.

Councillor Blake asked why two are still required.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood explained the positions are already in place and both have different responsibilities.

Steve Jorden is Executive Director, Strategy and Commissioning and Head of Paid Service.

Sophie Hosking is Executive Director, Service Delivery and Commercial Development.

Councillor Blake asked how much has the consultation to merge the two councils cost.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood advised that the two councils are not merging; it would be a new council. Cost circa. £325k.

Councillor Blake enquired if that was the cost inclusive of the consultation.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood did not know and will get back to Councillor Blake.

Councillor Blake said a consultation is only necessary if the process is necessary. Having attended an open day he was not sure there is a gain for District Council, it is only WDBC.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed that the budget deficit in 2020 for the District Council will be 800k and 1.1m for WDBC.

Councillor Mrs Crowe had read that WDBC were borrowing £25m for property acquisitions.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed that the borrowing was on hold until the decision regarding the One Council proposal was finalised.

Councillor Blake enquired why there is a proposal of 2 years and 10 years for bringing council tax in line.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported that the government required council tax equalisation and the rationale was affordability. The longer period has less impact on District Council residents.

Councillor Hitchins thanked Councillor Mrs Hopwood for answering the questions raised and congratulated her on her achievements over the last few months.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

There was no report; however County Councillor Hart had reported to Councillor Hitchins that he needed to find £30m to close a budget gap.

REPORTS

a) The Woolwell Centre

Mr Peterson, Chair of Trustees, Woolwell Community Resource Trust, reported:

- One of the biggest challenges remains the recruitment of additional trustees to the board.
- One of the two main events since the last report was this year's Local Business and Community Awards. The event is now well established in the local calendar as it has happened annually for 4 years. The goodwill and the joy on the faces of the local residents and business people, who are nominated and attend, even if they don't win, is fantastic to see. There has been really good feedback from those that attended as well as great coverage in the Plymouth Herald about the event and the local area. There is going to be further coverage about some of the winners. The strength of the team at the Woolwell Centre was shown as they had to put on the event in the absence of Mrs Spencer, Centre Manager.
- The other main event was the Woolwell Community Fun Day on Saturday 19 August. Again, this was a massive success with huge amounts of positive feedback from local residents and a lot of the credit needs to go to Councillor Mrs Hopwood as well as the staff at the Woolwell Centre. Given that it was the first one there was a lot of uncertainty over numbers and how it would be received, if anything, we were overwhelmed by the volume of people that attended.
- Work is progressing on getting a formal Underlease in place for the Centre to effectively reflect what has been happening informally for many years.
- Regarding the reported damage to the floor in the Centre, after liaising with the User they have paid for the damage and the repair has started.
- The report from the last Council Property Working Group meeting was received and these will be discussed at the next Trustee meeting and the trustees will then come back to Council.

b) Roborough Recreation Hall and Playing Fields

Councillor Hitchins reported:

- The Hall is being transformed thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers to whom he expressed his thanks.
- The playing field and cricket square are being decimated by badgers. Cannot spray, one solution was to erect a fence around the perimeter of the land burying it deep however this would be very expensive. National Grid and Water Treatment works appear to be moving badgers down. Grubs are virulent. Situation exacerbated by magpies digging for grubs too. Grubs are usually a five year cycle. Cannot play on the grounds and hiring other pitches is expensive. It's a dilemma facing the Hall Trustees at this time.

Councillor Blake stated that when considering the planning requests it must have been known that the works would disturb the badger sets.

Councillor Hitchins thought possibly and asked if anyone had ideas they would be welcomed.

Could a badger cull be undertaken as there are farms around?

Councillor Hitchins said it would be a difficult decision and DEFRA would not take forward as the land is for sport rather than agriculture.

Had the use of high frequency sonic sounds been considered?

Councillor Hitchins had considered this however based on past experience it was not an option. The sound can affect children and dog walkers who use the field as there is public access.

8913 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Hitchins declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in any discussions on future development at Woolwell as a land owner in the area.

Councillors Mrs Lusk, Hitchins and Turner all disclosed a personal interest in Roborough Hall.

8914 MINUTES

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2017 be signed as a correct record, subject to;

Amending Minute Reports b), Delete "Alternatively and if preferred" and substitute "***The choice is***"

8915 MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 8818 (c) Signs for Leat Walk/direction sign to Roborough village.

Councillor Hitchins reported that signage is only prepared when a number/batch are required.

28/9 Roborough sign, take to next Property Working Group meeting, Parish Council can tidy up sign possibly. Leat Walk sign, the Clerk will chase again.

Minute No. 8818 (f) Collapsed pavement opposite Old Vicarage.

County Councillor Hart taking forward.

28/9 Councillor Turner reported that as the water drains away after a certain amount of time no work will be undertaken by County Council (Devon Highways).

Councillor Hitchins reiterated the need for further representations to be made yet again by letter addressed to Nick Colton, Devon Highways and copied to County Councillor Hart and the Highways Safety Officer.

What happened regarding the mobile speed signs? County Council were buying more but no update.

The Clerk will chase.

Councillor Hitchins asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Nick Colton.

Councillor Mrs Crowe referred back to the purchase of a projector and related items for Roborough Recreation Hall as the equipment cost a lot of money and asked if the funds should come from the trustee's pot. Precept should be used for capital investments such as the gent's toilet refurbishment. Councillor Mrs Crowe also asked why no Declarations of Interest regarding Roborough Hall were noted in the minutes of 27 July.

The Clerk confirmed none were spoken.

Councillor Blake requested clarification. When the Woolwell Centre requires works to be undertaken quotes or tenders are required, why is this not the case for Roborough Hall?

Councillor Hitchins confirmed this to be the case as the Parish Council are not the landlords of Roborough Hall.

The Clerk is awaiting an invoice to pay for the projector and related items. This will need to be in the name of the Parish Council if VAT is to be reclaimed. If the invoice is not in the Parish Councils name only £1k will be contributed as this was the sum AGREED.

8916 PLANNING

a) Consideration of applications:-

2290/17/HHO 6 Long Park Drive Woolwell PL6 7QE

Householder application for two storey extension to side.

No decision made as revised plans are awaited.

2819/17/HHO 19 Ferndale Close Woolwell PL6 7HJ

Householder application for two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

It was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL subject to no neighbour objection and noting the Parish Councils concern at the overdevelopment of the site.

b) Decisions taken by District Council:-

0475/17/FUL Development site at SX 499 629 South East of Roborough Farm Tamerton Road Roborough., Phased development of 8no. Commercial units and 3no. dwellings

Conditional Approval

1858/17/HHO 21 Churchlands Close Woolwell Devon PL6 7RX

Householder application for erection of new conservatory to rear

Conditional Approval

1708/17/POD Old Court Tavistock Road Roborough Devon PL6 7BD

Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of a building from office use (Class B1 (a)) to 4no. 2 bedroom residential flat units (Class C3)(Class O)

Prior Approval Given

1845/17/POD Old Court Tavistock Road Roborough Devon PL6 7BD

Prior approval for proposed change of use of building from Office use (Class B1(a)) to a single 5 bedroom dwelling house (Class C3) (Class O)

Prior Approval Given

1833/17/HHO 23 Skylark Rise Woolwell Devon PL6 7SN

Householder application for side extension and conservatory

Conditional Approval

2169/16/OPA Development site at Sx 513 609 Pinewood Drive Woolwell Devon

Outline application (appearance, layout and scale reserved) for erection of No. 46 dwellings with parking, associated access roads, pedestrian access and provision of public open space

Refusal

1943/17/ARC Tren crom Bickleigh Down Road Roborough PL6 7AD

Approval of Details Reserved by Conditions (discharge). Approval of details reserved by condition numbers 3 and 4 of planning consent 1063/17/FUL

Discharge of condition Approved

8917 WORKING GROUPS

a) Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Ms L Gilmour, Secretary, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group reported:

The Bickleigh Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Pre-Submission version was put to Regulation 14 Consultation.

The Parish Clerk sent letters and emails to a long list of businesses that need to be informed according to the rules. Volunteers from the Working Group and the Council posted letters and forms through doors of residents around the Parish. The website was updated with the Plan, the letter and the comment form and hard copies were made available at the Woolwell Centre and Roborough Hall. There has been noticeable interest at the Woolwell Centre, with people reading the Plan in the cafeteria. Although the end date is 13 October, as there has been little in the way of feedback so far, it has been suggested that reminders be sent out to the key businesses, this will be actioned on 3 October. The Consultant is anticipating that it may take him time to collate the feedback and offer suggestions as to any changes to the Policies and so we will not re-convene until the start of November.

b) Property and Finance

The Clerk reviewed the Property Working Group notes of the meeting on 14 September.

1c) A quotation was received from RA Electrics to put heating into the meeting room and back toilets. It is RECOMMENDED to Council that the quotation in the sum of £744.98p +VAT is accepted.

It was AGREED to proceed with the quotation received.

1d) Councillor Hitchins reported on a letter from the Solicitor regarding the lease.

It was AGREED that the Council will arrange to visit the Centre with the Manager/Trustees to consider what responsibilities each has.

6) Councillor Hitchins reported that the Hall Committee had agreed to the small room becoming the Parish Council Office and also storage of their records and use as a small meeting room. It is RECOMMENDED that Council pay a monthly contribution of £50 for the office and hall for the main Council meeting.

It was AGREED, 5 votes for and 1 abstention, to proceed.

In respect of holding Parish Council meetings in Woolwell, the Scout Hut has an established booking on Thursdays that finishes at 7.30pm. Meetings therefore could not start until 8pm or the day of the meeting could be changed to Monday as it is free. The Woolwell Centre can accommodate the meeting on other days than Thursdays.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed that 4 meetings a year in Woolwell would be appreciated.

Councillor Hitchins suggested Parish Councillors think about this ready for discussion of the pros and cons at the next Property Working Group meeting.

7b) It is RECOMMENDED to Council that 4 additional hours are paid to Mrs A Tamsett-White for the additional work undertaken on the Neighbourhood Plan business consultation.

It was AGREED, 5 votes for and 1 abstention, to make payment.

7c) It is RECOMMENDED to Council that the Clerk re-claims the cost of the 3 advertisements regarding the consultation.

It was AGREED, 5 votes for and 1 abstention, to proceed.

c) Signpost and Facebook

It was **AGREED** to proceed with October's newsletter.

8918 FINANCE

a) To report on Parish Council receipts and payments

Receipts

None

Payments

Soc. LCC	93.00	Subscription
P Ide	50.00	Plumbing – emergency call-out
BT	86.67	Telephone
Plant Tech Grounds Maint	667.50	Grass cutting July
RAE Services Ltd	62.40	External Emergency Light
Chubb Fire & Security Ltd	1500.48	
Mrs A Tamsett-White	20.00	Reimburse bus shelter cleaning
Rossendales (HMRC)	220.00	Tax
Staff	464.29	Salaries August
BT	182.41	Broadband
Mrs M Small	424.12	Re-limburse N.P. Adverts
D Stockton	45.00	Plumbing
Mrs A Tamsett-White	295.20	re-imburse filing cabinets
Staff	464.29	Salaries September
HMRC	76.00	Tax

b) To consider quotations for maintenance of trees on Roborough Green

The Clerk read a letter received from Mrs Thurlow and Mr Mait regarding an unsafe tree in the hedge bordering their property. Two quotations for the tree surgery works were discussed.

It was AGREED to proceed with the quotation received from Arborcure Ltd. in the sum of £800

plus VAT The Clerk will arrange and update Mrs Thurlow and Mr Mait with the date for works in due course.

8919 **CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) Response required for the One Council consultation.
Councillor Hitchins asked the Parish Councillors if they were in favour of the proposal or not.

Councillor Ellis said it would be costly to unpick what has already been done.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported the cost of splitting the two councils would be circa. £3m. Could go to one council or carry on as it is presently set up however every two years councils have to set a balanced budget. District Council can do this for 4 years. WDBC would not be able to do so in 2 years and would advise government that they cannot. Auditors would be brought in to WDBC and their Councillors would be suspended with District Council being handed the keys. One Council gives the opportunity to plan for 2020 that is more beneficial than being handed the keys, there is more control. Would become the biggest council in Devon. The balance of power would lie with District Council. District Council currently have 31 Councillors reducing to 28. WDBC have 31 reducing to 21.

Councillor Blake believed there is no evidence that the new council will be any better than now.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed that the situation at WDBC is not through mismanagement, the area is sparsely populated and local government is underfunded.

Councillor Hitchins said it is not an easy decision.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed that Plymouth City Council do not want any part of the Parish.. Woolwell residents at the open day once all information received were quite positive compared to Ivybridge residents who were quite aggressive in their questioning. Ivybridge Town Council has agreed to support the One Council concept.

It was AGREED by 3 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions to support the proposal for one Council.

8920 **CHAIRMAN'S TIME**

- a) Councillor Ellis has looked at the Pick Pie Drive bus shelter graffiti and reported it does need removal.
- b) Councillor Ellis confirmed that the contractor has been instructed to cut the hedge on New Road.
- c) Councillor Ellis reported the pot hole on Leigh Lane is getting bigger.
- d) Councillor Mrs Lusk reported much litter but has not seen any fly tipping.
- e) Councillor Mrs Crowe had collected blue recycling sacks however they were plain whereas previous sacks advised on recycling content for the bag.
Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported that the plain bags are a temporary measure following the company who used to provide them going into liquidation.
- f) Councillor Turner expressed his ongoing concern with the flooding by the Old Vicarage and the fact that there is no white line in the middle of the road on New Road following resurfacing. The road, however, does not accommodate two cars passing in certain areas.
- g) Councillor Blake asked if an update had been received in respect of the Tamerton Foliot development appeal.
Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed no decision had been made as yet.

- h) Councillor Hitchins reported that a music festival had been planned on social media in Tamerton Foliot. Emergency Services were against the event. It did rain on the day therefore only a few people turned up.
- i) Councillor Hitchins had received a call from a Woolwell resident regarding the proposed fee of £51 to be charged by District Council to remove a mattress.
Councillor Mrs Hopwood confirmed her awareness of this and has suggested to District Council that better communication from the team is required. The £51 fee is for a whole transit van that can be filled with all waste. That said fees are being reviewed as it is recognised as a high cost.

8921 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 26 October 2017, 7:30 pm, at Roborough Recreation Hall.