

Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 22 June 2017, 7.30pm at Roborough Recreation Hall

PRESENT: - Councillors P W Hitchins (Chairman), F Turner, I Ramsay, Mrs D Owen, Mrs L Crowe, Mrs C Lane

ALSO PRESENT: - County Councillor J Hart
Councillor Mrs N Hopwood (South Hams District Council)
Mr R Lane (Chairman, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group)
Mrs M Small, Clerk to the Parish Council
Mrs A Tamsett-White, Admin Assistant
Members of the public - Ten

APOLOGIES: - Councillors M Blake, C Ellis and Mrs S Lusk
Mr J Peterson, Chair of Trustees, Woolwell Community Resource Trust
PC Tamsyn Dingley

OPEN FORUM

- a) With reference to the Minutes of the 27 April 2017 – Open Forum (f), Councillor Mrs Hopwood, asked the Council to correct the Minute as it was not a true statement.
It was AGREED that the statement in Open Forum (f) is rescinded by the Council and they apologised to Councillor Mrs Hopwood.
- b) The lack of consistent grass cutting throughout Woolwell was raised by several parishioners. Questions asked included:
- What is the problem with payments to the contractor?
The Clerk advised that invoices are required before the Parish Council will pay and some of the contractor's invoices had not been received or had been duplicated. One payment withheld as grass cutting was unsatisfactory. All payments now made. Contractor will commence cutting in Woolwell week of 26 June. All lines of communication had ceased for a while.
 - How many cuts is the contract for?
The Clerk confirmed the contract is for 10 cuts,
 - The contractor is in breach of contract.
Councillor Hitchins reported the current contractor won't give or stick to a programme. He was the best, but now appears to be overstretched, has lost 1 member of staff and we are in the growing season. Other contractors are around, some are very expensive. The Council has been happy with him in the past. That said, if another contractor found, and issues remain, we can look to release him from contract.
 - Grass cutting was a problem in June & July 2016 (in minutes). Why was contract not cancelled as not doing the job?
Councillor Hitchins confirmed this is the last year of a 3 year contract, ending in October 2017, and there is no 'get out' clause in contract.
 - June's Signpost refers to homeowner boundary responsibility, it was voiced that this is considered a cheek as the grass verges are not being cut.
Councillor Mrs Lane confirmed that border responsibility is that of the homeowner.
 - Needs to go out to tender again with a commitment questionnaire.
Councillor Hitchins advised will look to do a yearly contract.
 - Nursing home grass verges look lovely.
Councillor Hitchins confirmed that it is the responsibility of the Home.

- Can another contractor be engaged for 1 cut?
- Cannot see oncoming traffic from Zebra crossing when exiting Woodend Road, its dangerous.
- Tree overhanging pavement opposite Vets in Roborough village, people walk in road.

Councillor Hitchins confirmed this land is Maristow Estates.

- Who has responsibility for Skylark Park, it was always cut regularly.
Councillor Hitchins confirmed that the land in question is unadopted following the developers entering administration. Plymouth City Council did take responsibility for it for a while alas this appears to no longer be the case.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported that Plymouth City Council does not own this land. It is owned by Harptree Self Build Housing Association Limited of Bristol, email from Plymouth City Council forwarded to the Clerk confirming this information. Email dated June 2017.

- Lots of areas do not get cut.
Councillor Hitchins explained that pockets of land were left after development following insolvency. Some have been adopted by councils whilst others have not. Similarly some tree belts have been adopted. The Parish Council will look to see if these areas can be brought into the Parish Council's cutting plan.

Councillor Mrs Lane asked if a meeting with Plymouth City Council could be arranged to establish what land is theirs. Councillor Mrs Hopwood will email the name of whom to contact at Plymouth City Council. The Clerk reported that land at the bottom of Pinewood Drive is 'private' as confirmed by a resident, who states that the land is on their deeds. Councillor Ramsay reported that land at Merlin Close does not get cut.

Councillor Hitchins confirmed that a statement will be published on Facebook regarding the resolution to the grass cutting problems.

- c) In respect of the temporary 40mph speed limit, Clearbrook to New Road/New Road to Clearbrook, which is in force while the water treatment works is developed, it was stated that it would be good to retain this for the future in view of proposed housing developments.

County Councillor Hart referred Councillor Hitchins to the Highways and Traffic Orders Committee.

POLICE REPORT

May

Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle in Churchlands Road, side of vehicle scratched by unknown means/person. No witnesses/evidence. Filed.

Attempted Burglary at Woolwell Fish Bar. No evidence to proceed with investigation. Filed.

Burglary at Hairotic. Still under investigation.

Criminal Damage to Motor Vehicle in Corner Brake, side of vehicle scratched by unknown means/person. No witnesses/evidence. Filed.

Criminal Damage in Campion View, domestic related. Filed.

Domestic-related Public Order in Campion View (linked to above). Suspect was charged to court.

Domestic Common Assault. Under Investigation.

Misuse of Communication, domestic related. Words of advice to both parties. Filed.

Theft from Motor Vehicle in Hedgerow Close, theft of number plates. No witnesses/evidence. Filed.

Information

Lighter evenings and warmer weather USUALLY will see a rise in Anti-Social Behaviour from young people. If anyone has any issues/information please email Tamsyn.dingley@devonandcornwall.police.uk. (See below).

There have been reports of youths gathering in the evenings in the MUGA and cannabis being smoked. Any reports/names please email. It is not always possible for Response colleagues to patrol this area but if names are provided then these can be dealt with.

It was reported that residents in the Ferndale Close area have experienced broken windows, have eggs thrown at windows, suffer noise disturbance late into the evenings/early mornings and have witnessed the shelter being used for sleepovers.

Information that there is still person/s trying to enter motor vehicles in Woolwell. Unfortunately the CCTV only shows a figure from a distance so no identifications made. LOCK vehicles and double check they are locked and REMOVE all valuables.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported:

- The 12 week pilot of walk talk and tea in Woolwell has ended; the group is now established and will continue. They meet outside the nursing home on Saturday mornings at 10.30.
- Woolwell's first fun day takes place on 19 August. For all ages, the day includes inflatable's, children's games, a film, an outside bar, cream teas, BBQ, craft stalls and a dog show all for £5. The film Grease will be shown in the evening, tickets are £5. Funding, £2,000 secured from Tesco to offset ticket prices and they will also be giving freebies to attendees. Councillor Mrs Hopwood donating from her localities budget to help keep prices down. Events open to residents and non residents. The Woolwell Centre and staff were thanked for taking over the organising. Volunteers are required to help.
- Woolwell Matters and Litter Busters have recently celebrated their first birthday. Collected over 365 bags of rubbish.
- A young Woolwell couple Sophie and Dan recently lost their baby at 31 weeks. Councillor Mrs Hopwood visited them to suggest a tree be planted in memory of their baby, Theo, and a bench put in the area by the play park at Woolwell. Plaques could be added to the bench from others who lose a loved one. A Just Giving page has been opened to raise funds to help towards the costs involving and giving residents a sense of ownership. The Just Giving page went live late yesterday and so far stands at £305. Donations can also be taken to One Stop who are acting as a collection point. Councillor Mrs Hopwood will make up any shortfall from her locality budget.
- Bickleigh Parish Council's portion of council tax is the fourth highest in South Hams out of 62 parishes. The only 3 higher are the towns of Ivybridge, Dartmouth and Kingsbridge. There have been comments made about the state of the grass in Woolwell for the past 2 years therefore a firm stance is required to sort the contract out once and for all. Residents are continually promised cuts and these don't happen for whatever reason. Residents just aren't interested in why but when.
- Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported that she is now on the Executive at District Council and has the portfolio for Customer Service, Localities, Environmental Health (including licensing) and Land Charges. District Council will have to change the way it operates when government funding ceases altogether and will have to find new ways of working to avoid having to cut services. There are challenging times ahead and some tough decisions may need to be taken on how to balance the books.

Councillor Mrs Lane asked that the Parish Council's condolences were passed onto the family and said that the bench was a lovely idea.

Councillor Hitchins advised that there is a memorial tree at Follaton House.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported that she has completed the necessary form and paid the initial fee of £250.

Councillor Hitchins reported:

- Continuation of reporting potholes, overgrown hedges and litter.
- Lots of people now use Bickleigh Down Road and there is a high risk of trip hazards as road surface is very bad.
- National Park – heavily involved with speeding and litter/fly tipping.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

County Councillor Hart thanked attendees for re-electing him for a further term. He reported that:

- County balanced budget.

- Potholes are the biggest issue for people. Patching work has/or will soon commence on Danger Hill. Surface dressing programme will continue in the area.
- A speed monitor for Woolwell Road has been ordered.
- Reported schools have said County Council have taken money away. Did not take away from education budget, it has been reshaped and adjusted to support others, all in education still.
- Land Registry may be able to assist District Councillors identify land ownership.
- Grass cutting is an issue everywhere. County Council will only cut visibility splays. Great sympathy on this issue.
- In respect of the MUGA issues, it was provided to keep youths active; however, this does not appear to be the case from what I hear. Have you tried 'Young Devon' and getting their involvement?
- Does the CCTV cover the area?
Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported the images are not good and believe youths are from outside of Woolwell. The Police are aware and involved.
- Councillor Mrs Lane reported the flooding continues by the Vicarage, water converges there; it has been reported on several occasions to Highways. **County Councillor Hart will raise again.**
- Cars parking on the road outside the Devonshire Care home in Woolwell, from the roundabout up to Skylark Rise, dangerous coming off of the roundabout and for traffic coming from the Woolwell Centre. Can double yellow lines be considered in this area?
County Councillor Hart advised whilst requests can be considered the problem just moves elsewhere such as up in to the residential streets, he will however arrange for someone to look at this.
Councillor Mrs Hopwood asked for an update as now in new financial year.
County Councillor Hart reported lines on corner of 3 turnings.

REPORTS

a) The Woolwell Centre

A written report from Mr Peterson was read:

- The external fundraising expert appointed has just provided an initial report which the trustees will consider at their next meeting.
- Still actively looking for additional trustees.
- Pension scheme (as required) for employees is now up and running.
- Working hard with others to progress the planned Fun Day.
- The survey is now out and quite a few are being returned by users.
- Plans are being put in place to make sure more junior (in terms of their roles) employees are exposed to the work of their 'line managers' so that the damage if any individual leaves the Centre (or when they are sick/on holiday) is reduced.
- Mr Peterson will, as soon as time permits, meet with Councillor Hitchins to see how best the Centre and Parish Council can work together.
- Draft lease awaited.

Councillor Turner reported that the lock for the upstairs meeting room is not working correctly and requires replacing. In addition CHUBB called out recently as PA system not working correctly, it was too quiet. Appears not included in contract, suggest arrange a meeting with CHUBB as believe it is as it is part of the fire system.

b) Roborough Recreation Hall and Playing Fields

Mr R Lane reported:

- Playing fields, trench for water pipes back filled. Soil very stony, trying to sort.
- Top soil from eco homes development being sourced for playing fields, negotiating transport and involving Plessey for access.
- Steady income from the Hall and bookings continue.
- Gents toilets to be refurbished.
- Gutters on rear replaced.

- Issue of fire door opening on its own now resolved.
- Projector and screen for Hall priced at £6,000. £4k TAP funding agreed would the Parish Council consider meeting the shortfall? TAP funding cannot be used for purchasing something different. A member of the public asked what if the public decide it is not worth its money. An offer was made to obtain a better quote, if interested, as this seems rather high.

Councillor Hitchins confirmed that the precept budget, from Council Tax, is available and the Parish Council use this as it sees fit. The Woolwell Centre receives a lot of funding compared to Roborough Hall.

Concerns raised by a member of the public that the Woolwell Centre is not maintained as follows, fire doors inadequate - no fire breaks, Lighting level and emergency lighting inadequate,

Councillor Turner reported that the Centre had been inspected by the fire brigade and is up to date with current regulations.

The Clerk reported that £10k of precept is set aside annually for the Woolwell Centre maintenance and in the last two years around £15k has been spent each year. Consideration of lighting has been carried forward to this year's budget.

8895 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.

Councillor Turner declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application 1743/17/FUL 1 Old School House, as he is the householder. All other Councillors declared a personal interest as they know Councillor Turner as a fellow Councillor.

Councillor Mrs Lane declared a personal interest in Roborough Recreation Hall as her husband is Chairman.

8896 MINUTES

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2017 be signed as a correct record.

8897 MATTERS ARISING

May Police Report - Meaning of 'Filed with no further Police action'

The Clerk read the following from PC Tamsyn Dingley:

It would mean that we are unable to continue with the investigation due to a number of reasons:

- The victim no longer supports police and wishes it not to be investigated further
- There are no further lines of enquiry that could identify the offender/s
- There were NO witnesses / No CCTV etc
- It is not in the public interest to pursue

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.

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

County Councillor Hart taking forward.

Minute No. 8841 (b) Pothole in Darklake Lane has been repaired.

Minute 8893(a) Lease for Community Centre.

A meeting will be arranged with Councillor Blake when he returns from holiday.

Minute 889(b) Cutting back of Hazel tree in Bickleigh village – take to Property meeting

Minute 8893(c) Asbestos Register Minute 8893 – the Clerk will obtain a quotation.

8898 PLANNING

Councillor Hitchins took no part in discussions and voting on planning as he will be considering applications as a District Councillor.

(NB Councillor Turner left the meeting for application 1743/17/FUL having previously declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this application).

a) Consideration of applications:-

1743/17/FUL 1 Old School House Cottages, Bickleigh PL6 7AG New Dwelling

It was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL subject to no neighbour objection.

(Councillor Turner returned to the meeting)

1708/17/POD Old Court, Tavistock Road, Roborough PL6 7BD Change of use of a building from office use class B1 to 4 no. 2 bedroom flats.

It was AGREED that a site visit is arranged. NB following site visit it was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

1845/17/POD Old Court, Tavistock Road, Roborough PL6 7BD Change of use of a building from office use class B1 to a 5 bedroom dwelling house.

It was AGREED that a site visit is arranged. NB following site visit it was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL.

1858/17/HHO 21 Churchlands Close, Woolwell PL6 7RX new conservatory to rear.

It was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL subject to no neighbour objection.

1782/17/OPA Proposed development site at Sx 4744 616 Allern Lane, Tamerton Foliot. Outline application with all matters reserved for construction of up to 65 no. dwellings together with associated landscaping, car parking and infrastructure.

It was AGREED that previous decision will stand i.e. RECOMMEND REFUSAL on grounds of: ACCESS. Including consideration for walkers and cyclist's, large vehicles visiting outlying area's i.e. other farms and local business including Parcelforce.

AONB & SSI (An Area of outstanding natural beauty and closeness to site of scientific importance)

SCHOOL PLACES. Little scope for expansion of school numbers in exiting local schools.

FLOODING. Flooding at the bottom of proposed development site.

1833/17/HHO 23 Skylark Rise, Woolwell PL6 7SN side extension and conservatory.

It was AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL subject to no neighbour objection.

b) Decisions taken by District Council:-

None

8899 WORKING GROUPS

a) Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Mr R Lane reported:

Still trying to establish the difference of what has been said by Plymouth City Council and District Council in respect of land designation and allocation. Further meeting with Consultant, will circulate update to the Parish Council after.

Mr Lane had prepared a response to letter received regarding the EIA Scoping Opinion for Land at Woolwell, Plymouth.

The response was AGREED.

b) Property and Finance

There was no Property and Finance meeting in June and the next meeting will be held on Thursday 13 July, Roborough Recreation Hall at 7:30pm.

Mr Lane asked on behalf of Roborough Recreation Hall if the Parish Council would consider a grant of £2,000 to meet the overall cost of a screen and projector.

The Clerk confirmed that there is still £4,000 in the budget for Roborough Recreation Hall. Councillor Mrs Crowe stated that it is a lot of money and would need regular cinema events to cover, could the equipment go in a kitty to share with The Woolwell Centre and that this be discussed at the next Property and Finance meeting in more detail. Councillor Mrs Lane requested that Mr Lane attend and this was AGREED.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood said there would be no debate or discussion. Residents had voiced that they did not want their Council Tax contributing to the purchase of the projector and screen. Councillor Hitchins AGREED that the matter would be discussed at the Property and Finance meeting and brought back to the full Council meeting.

c) Signpost and Facebook

It was **AGREED** to proceed with July's newsletter and to add in an article regarding the Woolwell fun day on 19 August.

Councillor Hitchins thanked Councillor Mrs Hopwood for sharing the Parish Councils Facebook page on her Woolwell Matters Facebook Group.

8900 FINANCE

a) Receipts

None

b) Payments

	£ p	£ pp Excl VAT	
D Stockton	95.00		New mixer tap, Woolwell Centre
Chubb Fire & Security Ltd	183.60	153.00	Maintenance contract
Staff	320.00		Salaries
HMRC	76.00		Tax
BT	130.94	109.12	Broadband
RAE Services Ltd	1097.75	914.79	Lighting at Woolwell Centre
Came and Co	4473.59		Insurance
Mrs M Small	96.25	80.21	Reimburse laptop review/Norton
Plant Tech	667.50	556.25	Grass cutting April
Plant Tech	1702.50	1529.00	Grass cutting
HMRC	304.55		Tax

8901 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Email received extending an invitation to attend a meeting on 7 July regarding Neighbourhood Policing.

Councillor Mrs Hopwood advised it is her intention to attend this meeting and will report back. Councillor Hitchins asked if Councillor Mrs Hopwood is unable to attend that she advise the Clerk.

b) Email received regarding a Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders for Alcohol. It was AGREED to carry forward to next meeting on 27 July.

- c) Dartmoor National Park local plan review.
The Clerk will forward to Councillors and the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

8902 CHAIRMAN'S TIME

- a) Councillor Hitchins asked if Councillors were in support of maintaining the 40mph speed limit from Clearbrook to New Road/New Road to Clearbrook.
Support for this was AGREED and the Clerk will write to Devon Highways.
- b) Councillor Turner reported the pothole on Danger Hill.
County Councillor Hart has suggested that work will commence soon.
- c) Councillor Turner reported following a meeting with Devon Highways that they do not consider the path on New Road to be a footpath as it is not 1 metre in depth.
Councillor Hitchins reported that the issue is the hedge growth. Devon Highways can arrange for it to be cut back and to invoice the landowner.
Councillor Turner has witnessed people walking in the road including kids and asked if the Parish Council can adopt the land?
Councillor Hitchins will look to resolve the issue and if necessary will add to the existing cutting contract.
- d) Councillor Turner reported that the speed limit needs to be imposed, not necessarily servicemen speeding, he had witnessed women drivers with children in their cars speeding.
- e) Councillor Mrs Crowe reported that when she mentioned the speed signs to the National Grid in respect of the grants they offer, they thought it a brilliant idea. The grants however do need to be claimed by charities, The Woolwell Centre has an application form.
Councillor Hitchins suggested that Roborough Recreation Hall, as it is a charity, also submit an application.
- f) The Clerk reported HGV traffic using New Road and getting stuck. A 'No HGV traffic' sign requested at the junction of Roborough Recreation Hall and New Road.
Councillor Hitchins asked the Clerk to raise with Nick Colton of Devon Highways.
- g) The Clerk had received a request for litter to be picked up from around the phone box in Roborough Village. A bus stop sign to be removed by the Vets as Roborough Village is no longer a bus route.
Councillor Hitchins wondered what usage of the phone box is.
Councillor Mrs Hopwood reported that the bus stop sign does not cause an issue and could therefore be left.
- h) The Clerk had been notified of weeds growing on pavements and kerbsides in both Bickleigh and Roborough.
- i) It was reported that the minutes on the Parish Councils website are still shown as draft when they have been agreed in subsequent minutes.
The Clerk will look into this.

8903 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27 July 2017, 7:30 pm, at Roborough Recreation Hall.