

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Council Offices, The Woolwell Centre, Darklake Lane, Woolwell, PL6 7TR

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Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7.30pm at the Woolwell Centre

Present: Cllr Brian Hill (Chair), Cllr Paul Blight, Cllr Lindy Scott, Cllr Geoff Pithouse, Cllr Wendy Haymes.

In attendance: Mrs H Broughton (Clerk), County Cllr John Hart and 3 members of the public

Open Forum

A representative of Woolwell in Bloom requested permission to hold displays on Saturday 15th June as part of events to mark 40 years of Woolwell being occupied. This would be a temporary display, made of pallets with flowers, by the Woolwell Well. There would also be a display at the Woolwell Centre as part of the wildlife stand. Councillors had no objections.

An application for S106 money had been applied for to go towards the cost of a Jubilee path and, although Bickleigh PC supported the application, the available funds had already been allocated to 3 projects in the Parish. This was disappointing and Woolwell in Bloom would have appreciated being informed earlier.

Issues with weeds growing at kerb edges were raised and there has been discussion at a seminar regarding personal injury claims from people tripping and falling. This was a Devon District Council responsibility and they would be made aware.

It was asked if the Parish Council were aware of a CCIL fund. The Clerk had not heard of this and would make enquiries.

The Woolwell Centre manager thanked the Council for successfully applying for a Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loan to upgrade the Woolwell Centre and was grateful for the community support for this project. She understood that there were issues with the lease. She was hoping for some clarity as to why planning permission was required for a canopy when not required for the pump track. The Chair advised that he has asked the District Council for some clarity but has had no response as yet.

2023 203 **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Nicky Hopwood, Cllr Larry Taylor and Cllr Jackie Taylor.

2023 204 Cllr Wendy Haymes declared a **pecuniary interest** in the Woolwell Centre, the nature of her interest being that she was an employee of the Woolwell Centre.

2023 205 A **dispensation** granted for Cllr W Haymes to speak on items relating to the Woolwell Centre was noted.

2023 206 **Minutes**

- i. It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd February 2024 be signed by the Chair as a true record.
- ii. The Woolwell Centre Working Group minutes were not yet available.

2023 208 **County and District Councillors reports**

There was no report from the District Councillor.

A report was received from the County Councillor and included an update on the current financial situation at the County Council, the budget being on target. Highways and educational issues were noted and discussed. He was asked how Bickleigh school attendance compares with the rest of the country as there appeared to be an increase in the number of children who are being home educated. He replied that attendance was the same as other areas of the country. He was also asked about SEN schools in Devon and there was a discussion regarding issues around SEN education.

2023 209 **Clerks Report**

The action list was noted. Quotations had been received for tree works and the clerk had delegated authority to appoint a contractor. The Council agreed to apply for works to TPO trees.

2023 210 **Finance and Admin**

- i. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve a grant request from the Woolwell Centre for £20,000 to be paid in 2 instalments in April and September. Cllr Haymes did not participate due to an interest.
- ii. The asset register was reviewed and approved.
- iii. Bank reconciliations as at 29th February 2024 were noted and approved.
- iv. Receipts and Payments v budget as at 29th February 2024 were reviewed. The Clerk advised that transfer of funds from the general fund to earmarked reserves would be recommended for approval at the April meeting.
- v. The following payments were approved (*invoices sent electronically to Councillors*)

Pre-paid

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET	NOTES
Cutec	Monthly MS fee	70.32	11.72	58.60	
Woolwell Centre	Room hire March	60	0	60.00	

For approval

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET	NOTES
H Broughton	Salary	652.71		652.71	
Nest	Pension payment	62.24		65.27	7% council 3% clerk contribution

HMRC	PAYE mnth 11	148.00		148.00	
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2023 211 Woolwell Centre

- i. It was noted that the Public Works Loan Board loan for the upgrade to the Woolwell Centre had been approved.
- ii. It was agreed to go out to tender for PV array, roof cover and replacement windows. Cllr Blight would forward information to the Clerk to enable the tenders to be placed on the government tender finder website.
- iii. It was agreed to appoint Neil Freeman to draw contracts for any works over £25,000 at cost of up to £1,000.

2023 212 Planning

It was agreed to make no comment on application [0633/24/FUL](#) - Plessey Semi-conductors Ltd, Tamerton Road, Roborough PL6 7BQ. Installation of new solar shading to the south elevation and reduction in amount of glazing to reduce overheating.

2023 213 Roborough Green

Communication was received from a football club requesting permission to donate and place plastic goalposts on Roborough Green, for the Spring, Summer, Autumn months. This was discussed but unanimously agreed by the Council that, as this was a Village Green, it would be unfair on all other users who make use of this recreational area. The offer will be declined.

2023 214 Neighbourhood Plan Standing Item: No update.

2023 215 Roborough Village Hall: Cllr Pithouse had nothing to report as he had been unable to attend the last meeting.

2023 216 Co-option

- i. Mr Gary Stewart informed the Council of his background and reasons for wishing to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.
- ii. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Gary Stewart as a Parish Councillor to fill a casual vacancy following the resignation of Lynn Tamsett-White.
- iii. Mr Stewart signed his declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Chair, as the Clerk was working remotely.

2023 217 The **date of the next meeting** was noted as 25th April 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm