

## HIGH BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Mrs Di Carter, 12 Church Meadow, High Bickington, Umberleigh. Devon EX37 9DT**

**Tel: 01769 560221 : e-mail: [highbickingtonpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:highbickingtonpc@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.highbickingtonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.highbickingtonparishcouncil.co.uk)**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 22 August 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington**

**Present:** Peter Worrall, Steve Alford, Adam Bunting, Stella Burrows, Charmaine Coxon, Steve Galliver, Jim Hutchings, Roger Keen.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor Andrew Saywell  
Di Carter – Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone and invited County Councillor Andrew Saywell to report to the meeting. Councillor Saywell said for the past few weeks things had been very quiet with not much to report. The B3217 is due to be patched and surface dressed and a schedule of work will be available shortly.

Nethergrove Lane – following concerns raised by the Parish Council that some residents felt Nethergrove Lane was being forgotten whilst Pound Lane had received considerable repair work. Councillor Saywell said this was certainly not the case and Nethergrove Lane was second on the list for patching work and resurfacing. It has been estimated that the total cost of the work required is in the region of £60,000. Following the Parish Council's e-mail he had been and inspected the Lane himself and found there were some potholes which came within the criteria required for immediate attention and had reported this.

The Chairman said that it is appreciated there is a difficult juggling act required to deal with all the minor rural roads, and it is incumbent on all residents to report faults – this can be done via the County Council website – [new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem](http://new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem). The more reports received the more likely it is that the problem will be dealt with and it is vital that the Parish Council receives support in their efforts to improve our country lanes. Councillor Saywell said he fully supported this view.

The Chairman raised the problems recently incurred following the surface dressing in Mill Road when excessive amounts of tar were left on the roadsides. An e-mail had been sent to our local Highways Engineer attaching photographs but nothing further had been done. Councillor Saywell asked for a copy of the e-mail to be sent to him and agreed to follow it up.

Regarding the cancellation of the 8.15am and 4.30pm bus service to and from Barnstaple, Councillor Saywell had provided a full report on this. The County Council withdrew funding for this service in September 2015 as it does not fund or provide for post-16 student travel expenses. Colleges receive bursary funding which can be spent on transport. The bus, however, continued to run thanks to Turners Tours who agreed to go beyond their contract commitment for providing student transport and allowed members of the public to use the service. Due to a low usage from members of the public and the removal of funding from Devon County Council, this has become unsustainable and has been cancelled.

Councillors felt the cancellation of this early morning service to Barnstaple was a further blow to rural communities who rely on public services to access work, hospital appointments etc. However, they appreciated that the service would not be viable if not well used.

The Parish Council now understands that Petroc College is planning to reinstate the early morning bus for students on a fare-paying basis, but this service will not be available to other residents.

The Chairman thanked Andrew Saywell for his report.

The formal meeting was convened at 7.50pm.

Councillor Steve Galliver tendered his resignation from the Parish Council due to an impending move away from the village. Councillors appreciated the reasons for the resignation and thanked Steve Galliver for his work on behalf of the Parish Council. They wished him the very best for the future.

**1. Apologies for absence – PFCSO Sandra Brown**

**2. Declarations of interest:**

- (a) Stella Burrows declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as a Director of the Community Property Trust Ltd.
- (b) Charmaine Coxon declared a personal interest in agenda item 11(d) – appeal re Hope Cottage.

3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 18 July 2018.** The Minutes of this meeting were agreed and adopted by Councillors present as a true record. The Vice-Chairman signed the minutes.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018**
- (a) Devon Air Ambulance – pathway. Steve Alford reported that materials are being sourced for the pathway and now that the weather has cooled down, work on the path is imminent.
- (b) Surgery opening times – Copies of the notes of a meeting held with the Practice Manager at Torrington Health Centre were circulated to Councillors. The Chairman said the meeting had raised a number of points which he felt were not generally known and in the circumstances he felt High Bickington was fortunate to have the facility of a branch surgery when a number of similar rural practices have been closed. The NHS funds three Partners - other Doctors, nurses and administrative staff have to be funded from Practice budgets, plus surgery maintenance costs. Practices receive NHS funding for patients registered. The Practice Manager said the practice had only received one letter of complaint and 99% of patients were happy with the new times. NHS funding cuts for some services previously provided locally, eg treatment of leg ulcers, now have to be treated at Hospital, which, in addition to reducing Practice income, involves inconvenience for patients. Patients choosing to access alternative medical facilities, eg flu jabs at supermarkets etc, also puts pressure on surgery income. It was noted that there are two NHS surgeries in the same area in Torrington which is not cost effective, and a number of High Bickington patients attend the Castle Gardens practice. Councillors felt that the local surgery should be fully supported in order to ensure this important service is retained.
- (Full notes of the meeting will be available on the Parish Council website)*
5. **Police Matters:**
- Stella Burrows read a report from PFCSO Sandra Brown for the period from 12 July to 20 August 2018 which showed one crime of a communication sent of an indecent/offensive nature. During the same period there were 14 calls generating logs as follows: 1 reporting criminal damage; 2 reporting road related offences; 7 reporting highway disruption; 3 reporting road traffic collisions; 1 reporting alarm. Stella Burrows said she was not aware of any other problems in the village.
- (a) Merger of Devon & Cornwall Police and Dorset Police – Councillors had considered the proposals and felt it was a matter which individual Councillors and members of the public should respond to depending on their personal views. The website for details and responding to the survey is <http://www.futurepolicing.co.uk>. Jim Hutchings said that from personal experience, the South Western Ambulance Service merger had proved successful, once initial teething problems were sorted out.
6. **High Bickington Community Property Trust Ltd**
- Stella Burrows said the Autumn newsletter from the CPT Ltd will be delivered to all households shortly. The AGM will be held on Friday 5 October 2018 – There are Director vacancies on the Board and if anyone is interested in playing a part in the management of the Centre and other facilities, details of how to apply are in the Newsletter, or contact Louise at the Community Centre. Board meetings are now held every two months.
7. **Barton Meadow and other Play Areas**
- A revised quotation for repairs to the play equipment at Barton Meadow following the annual ROSPA inspection has been received from SNC Ltd. This is now £1,365 (previously £1,474).
- Decision:** Councillors agreed unanimously to accept the revised quotation of £1,365. The Clerk was asked to arrange for the repairs to be carried out.
- The Clerk reported that Beaford Parish Council is interested in joining with us in applying for TAP funding for play equipment and details of their requirements are awaited. It was agreed that we will obtain quotations for a basket swing, new goal posts and nets and replacement fencing around the play area.
8. **Matters Raised by the Chairman –**
- (a) Directory 2018 – The September issue of Ramblings will contain an advert asking for any new businesses/clubs etc to register their interest. All those currently included have been e-mailed – if not acknowledged that they wish to continue, their entry will be removed. A notice will also go on the Parish Council website and on Facebook. Anyone not having an e-mail address who wants to be included in the Directory, please contact Sharne Worrall on 07593657286.

- (b) Celebrations to commemorate the end of World War 1: The Chairman reported that there is a national campaign to encourage Parish and Town Councils to celebrate the end of World War 1. Following Sarah Parker's suggestions for a suitable event to be held in High Bickington, a Committee has been formed to take this further. It is proposed to purchase a beacon which will be permanently located on the football ground and will be lit at a specified time. This will be followed by a hot meal in the Community Centre (beef stew/sausages). Other attractions will be 500 poppies made by local craft people, the School and local groups. It is also hoped to have a bugler, and bagpipes. David Venner is researching the history of men from the village who lost their lives in the war, and the Church is organising a service. It promises to be a memorable community event.  
**Decision:** Councillors agreed to award a special grant of a maximum of £500 towards the cost of the beacon.  
The Clerk will enquire into any possible planning issues and also insurance implications.
- (c) Bus shelter maintenance – The Chairman said the Youth Club was due to take over the maintenance of the Bus Shelter from September 2018; Jim Hutchings agreed to follow this up.
- (d) Bus service to Barnstaple – this was discussed earlier in the meeting with Andrew Saywell.

## 9. Maintenance:

- (a) Highways – all current concerns were discussed with Andrew Saywell earlier in the meeting. The Clerk reported a new schedule of works for the area – specific dates will be notified in due course.
- (b) Footpaths and Byways – Roger Keen presented a quote for a new wooden gate in Taylors Lane; Councillors voted not to finance the new gate when it transpired that it was on private land, not, as previously understood, on land on the bridleway. Roger Keen will look into obtaining a bridleway sign instead. There was nothing further to report.

## 10. General Finance

- (a) Barclays current a/c statement at 30 July 2018 **£17,458.83**  
Cheques not cleared:  
100771 Jim Harding – LBF June £80.00 **£17,378.83**
- Cheques to be issued:  
100774 D Carter – July/Aug Sal £594.02/Exp £70.98 £665.00 **£16,713.83**
- (b) End of year accounts – the external auditor report is still awaited.
- (c) Annual grants 2018 – The recommendations of the Finance Committee were approved and confirmed by full Council.  
**Decision:** Councillors unanimously agreed to the payment of the following grants in October 2018:  
HB Playing Field Association: £228.07 (insurance)  
HB C of E Primary School PTA: £200.00 (purchase of metal junior goalposts)  
William Dodds & Joshua Tucker Charities: £100.00 (gifts to local residents suffering loss, illness)  
Pyncombe Charity: £100.00 (Financial contribution to local children for educational purposes.  
Quarry Wood: £200.00 (New signs)  
HB Football Club: £100.00 ( new goal nets & match balls)  
HB Allotment Association: £70.00 (purchase of 2 green waste bins)  
HB Badminton Club: £100.00 (purchase of shuttles, league & hall fees)  
St Mary's Guild: £138.00 (Annual service of Church Clock)  
HB Community Mini-bus: £100.00 (road tax and running costs)  
(An application brought to the meeting on behalf of St Mary's Church PCC for funding towards the cost of new toilet and kitchen facilities was rejected. It has previously been agreed that, whilst the Parish Council is willing to contribute towards these important facilities, it would not be treated as an annual grant and would be considered further when costings and start dates were known.)

## 11. Planning

- (a) Applications circulated since April meeting: None
- (b) New Applications: None
- (c) Decisions: None
- (d) Appeals: In progress
- (i) 1/0472/2017/OUT  
Outline application for single, two storey dwelling with all matters reserved

**(ii) 1/0581/2017/LBC**

**Alterations to existing domestic garage to create study and store.**

**Hope Cottage, High Bickington**

The Parish Council supported this application and had no further comment to make. The application was refused following the Listed Buildings Officer's concerns regarding roof height. The concerns have now been addressed and it is hoped that with photographic evidence, the appeal will be successful.

**12. Correspondence not included elsewhere on the agenda -**

- (a) Notice of retirement of Lesley Smith MBE, Devon Association of Local Councils' Secretary in November 2018. Councillors agreed that Lesley has given a lot of support to the Parish Council over the years and will be missed.

**13 Items for information: none**

**14. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 10 October 2018 – 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington -**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.55 pm