

## HIGH BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 11 December 2019 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington**

**Present:** Neil Parker (Chairman) Councillors: Adam Bunting, Charmaine Coxon,  
 Roger Keen, Chris McWhirter, Bob Boothby  
 District Councillor Michael Clarke, Jenny Baker (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **County Councillor Andrew Saywell sent the following report:**

Main thing that is happening at DCC at the moment is the start of budget preparations, however because of the General Election we have yet to receive our settlement from Central Government (normally due in December!), making budget preparations more difficult. However work on draft budgets will go on and the figures should be clearer in January.

On Highways 'Doing What Matters' trial, I had a meeting with Darryl Jagger and the team to discuss the Parish findings and also did an exercise where we prioritised works based on the A, B and C roads first, then minor roads, etc. There was actually a broad correlation between what the Parishes wanted and by prioritising by main road which is good. High Bickington's main priorities should hopefully be accommodated, though work on the costings still need to be done – so no promises yet! The other theme that also came out was that the majority of priority works were for drainage schemes. Think that reflects that we have been able to get a lot of patching and resurfacing done in Torrington Rural in the last 2 years, now we need to focus on getting the water off the road.

#### **Councillor Michael Clarke reported:**

Two signs have been produced to be displayed near the disabled parking space at the school. Signs have been supplied free of charge by Councillor Clarke.

A full Council meeting was held to elect a new High Councillor and Deputy due to the incumbent stepping down. Ken Jones moved up and Clare Hodgson was appointed as the Deputy.

The Homeless Reduction Policy for 2020-25 was presented to the meeting and unanimously accepted. The policy will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

Councillor Clarke advised he is now on the Sub-Climate Change Committee and work will start next year.

As reported by County Councillor Andrew Saywell, budget preparations have been hindered by the elections but pre-budget preparation has been done and will be finalised once the election is out of the way.

The Safe Sleep Programme is now in place and covers the Northern Devon area and will be held this year at the Salvation Arm Hall in Barnstaple. This will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> January - 31<sup>st</sup> March. If the temperature drops significantly before the 1<sup>st</sup> January, plans are in place for shelter to be provided in Churches and other public buildings.

#### **Councillor Clark left the meeting and the formal meeting commenced.**

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

County Councillor Andrew Saywell and PCSO Sandra Brown sent apologies as they were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

2. **Declarations of interest** – no declarations of interest received.

3. **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

All Councillors confirmed they had read the minutes and accepted them as correct.  
The Chairman signed the minutes.

4. **Matters arising from the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> November not included elsewhere on the agenda.**

No other matters raised.

5. **Police Matters** – nothing specific to High Bickington Parish to report.

6. **Barton Meadow Play Area**

Councillors Adam Bunting, Charmain Coxon and the Clerk met TK Play Ltd at Barton Meadow to discuss installation and location of the new swing. Subject to the weather and the ground being firm enough, work will commence at the end of January / early February.

Replacement of the existing fencing was discussed and quotes will be provided. Suggestion was made by TK Play that the fencing could be replaced by hedging. This is something the Council are interested in looking at once the quotes are received.

Council have agreed that dual sport, football and rugby posts would be a good idea. TK Play to look at manufacture of suitable goal posts that meet the Rospa certification standards and working within the existing price quoted for standard football goals.

7. **Matters raised by the Chairman -**

(a) **Website and Facebook Page**

Penny from Penimagic has asked the Parish Council to find another administrator for the Website due to her current workload being more than she anticipated. The PC Geek, Andrew Carnegie has agreed he would be prepared to take this on and for the first year will keep the fee in line with that previously charged by Penimagic and will review this after one year when he has a better idea of the amount of work that is required. This was accepted by the Parish Council.

It has been suggested that the Parish Council should have it's own Facebook Page and the Council have confirmed they are in agreement with this. The new page will be used to share information about the Parish Council and other information as and when received. The Council would also like to encourage other clubs/groups/committees within the village to share their news and photographs on the page.

The Council will look at a Social Media Policy which can be agreed at the next meeting.

(b) **The Copse**

No progress on appointing a project lead on this. The Chairman will now speak to the leader of the Woodland Committee to see if it is something they could incorporate into their existing working group and report at the next meeting.

8. **Maintenance**

(a) **Highways** - Councillor Roger Keen reported problems with blocked drains in the road between Silver Hill and Little Silver, Nethergrove Lane and Deep Lane, nr Snape Farm. Both to be reported to Devon County Council for action.

(b) **Footpaths and Byways** – nothing to report this month

**9. General Finance**

(a)	Barclays current a/c statement as at 29 November			£18,225.60
	Cheques not cleared:			
	100863 TK Play, Swing & Goal Posts	£8,325.60		
	100864 J Baker (Clerk Sal. & Exp.)	£334.10	£8,659.70	£ 9,565.90
(b)	Cheques to be issued:			
	100865 D Jones (Maint. Sept/Oct)	£140.00		
	100866 H.B. CPT Ltd Room Hire	41.25		
	100864 J Baker (Clerk Sal. & Exp.)	£323.40	£504.65	£9,061.25

**10. Planning**

- (a) No new planning applications received.

**11. Dates for the Parish Council Meetings 2020 were agreed as follows:**

Wednesday 8 January	Wednesday 8 July
Wednesday 12 February	Wednesday 12 August
Wednesday 11 March	Wednesday 14 October
Wednesday 8 April	Wednesday 11 November
Wednesday 13 May (AGM)	Wednesday 9 December
Wednesday 10 June	

- 12. Correspondence** – letter from the Fire Department with flier about free fire safety checks available. Details can be found on the website and Facebook page.

**13. Items for information:**

Councillor Roger Keen confirmed he had spoken to a member of the family who donated a bench to Nethergrove Lane some years ago and they have agreed that they can cover the cost of repairs that are now required. Arrangements will be made to have the bench repaired.

The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and the formal meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Date of next Parish Meeting, Wednesday 08 January, 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington.