

## **HIGH BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**Mrs Jenny Baker, Homewell Cottage, High Bickington, UMBERLEIGH. Devon EX37 9AY**

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### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 17 July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington**

**Present:** Neil Parker (Chairman), Adam Bunting (Vice Chairman),  
Charmaine Coxon, Roger Keen, Chris McWhirter, Di Carter  
District Councillor Michael Clarke  
2 Members of the public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Chris McWhirter, new Councillor and Jenny Baker, Clerk for accepting their new roles and gave a warm thank you to Di Carter for her many years of service to the Parish Council and for attending the meeting and assisting with the handover.

In the absence of Andrew Saywell the Chairman read the following report:

#### **“New Parish Clerk**

A big welcome to Jenny and also a big **thank you** to Di. Can I please put on record my thanks to Di for all her hard work as Clerk and for her help and support during the past two years I have been your County Councillor. Di has made my life as a County Councillor much easier by always keeping me up to date with what is going on in the Parish and always responding to emails! My thanks and best wishes to Di for the future. Jenny I look forward to working with you in the coming years!

#### **Highways ‘Pilot’ to be rolled out across Torrington Rural**

We should soon see the Highways ‘pilot’ looking at different ways of working get rolled out to all of the rural parishes in Torrington Rural. All of the Parish Councils will be invited to meet Highways at one of the Depots to discuss their local priorities with them directly. An email should be going out to the Parish Clerks soon... so watch this space!

#### **Fire Service Consultation**

You will probably have seen the media coverage over potential fire station closures. There is no threat to the stations at Torrington (which is fully crewed and has excellent availability rates for the pump) or Chumleigh or South Molton. Rural coverage in Torridge/North Devon could actually get strengthened if the ‘roving appliances’ policy is adopted. There are ‘drop in’ sessions being held in Bideford and Barnstaple over August and more information about the consultation can be found online here -

<https://www.dsfire.gov.uk/SaferTogether/ServiceDeliveryConsultation//TakePartInTheConsultation.cfm?siteCategoryId=18&T1ID=211&T2ID=460>

#### **Ash Dieback**

I have emailed the Clerk about this so you may have already seen it but DCC has launched a new campaign to help tackle Ash dieback. More information can be found here - <https://www.devonnewscentre.info/my-tree-my-responsibility-campaign-launched-to-tackle-ash-dieback/> “

Roger Keen asked if Torridge District would be adopting the policy of converting the grass verges into wild flower meadows in the future.

The Chairman commented that he had noticed some of the verges are being left uncut with a small amount, at corners reduced in height to aid visibility.

Adam Bunting reported that there had been an amount of tarmac dumped on a verge, near Whitebridge Kennels, following recent road repair work.

Councillor Michael Clarke reported that he has received a complaint about parking too close to bollards which are at the end of a walkway, near the Old Bakery opposite the Post Office. The problems are mainly at school drop off and pick up times and particularly impact on residents with mobility scooters and families with small children in pushchairs/prams etc who cannot get passed the bollards because of the parked vehicles. Suggestion is for markings on the road to show it is a no parking area. The Chairman confirmed the matter will be referred to the Highways Department.

1. **Apologies** – Andrew Saywell, Sandra Brown, Dave Rees, Rosemary Lock

2. **Co-option of new Councillors and appointment of new Clerk**

The Chairman and Councillors unanimously approved the appointment of Chris McWhirter as Parish Councillor, and Jenny Baker as Parish Clerk, appointment documents signed.

3. **Declarations of interest:** Adam Bunting declared interest in Ridgeway Green Planning Application as a resident of Ridgeway Green.

4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19 June 2019.** The Minutes of this meeting were agreed by those Councillors present. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

5. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2019.**

(a) WW1 Celebrations – commemorative plaque. The Chairman confirmed that discussions have taken place with Sarah Parker and she has agreed to arrange to get the plaque engraved and installed and the Clerk will return the funds collected and currently held to High Bickington Community Fund to enable this to happen.

(b) Disabled parking space outside the school – in the absence of a reply or any further communication from the school with regard to moving the existing space the Chairman confirmed that there is no further action that can be taken at his time.

6. **Police Matters**

The Chairman read the monthly crime report for 20/06/2019 to 16/07/2019

1 Crime reported of Violence with injury

1 Incident of Public Safety – vehicle offence

7. **High Bickington Community Property Trust Ltd**

Nothing reported from the CPT this month.

The Chairman proposed that in view of the previous comment made by the CPT regarding plans to look at future development it would be appropriate to ask one of the Parish Councillors to attend the CPT meetings and have a regular dialogue with the committee in order to provide updates at the Parish Council meetings. He asked the Councillors to consider whether they would be prepared to take on this role to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Councillor Michael Clarke reported that as part of his role with the Council looking at affordable housing and homelessness, he attended a conference in Bridgewater where he collected information from South West Housing Association who provide low cost rental properties. A brochure has been given to the CPT for their possible interest and a copy circulated to the Parish Councillors.

8. **Barton Meadow and other Play Areas**

(a) Sale of strip of land – progressing but Solicitors have highlighted that a piece of the land being sold is currently owned by Pearce Construction. Discussions have taken place with a representative from Pearce who confirmed that a small piece of land was retained by them when the site was completed. This land is no longer required but it would be at the discretion of the Pearce Board whether it could be transferred to the new ownership. It was also flagged that the land being sold was originally gifted to the Parish by Pearce for the purpose of providing a children's play area so their approval should be sought prior to the sale. The Chairman explained that the proceeds of the sale of the land had been ring fenced for new play equipment and no financial benefit would be gained by Parish Council. With this information the representative from Pearce has said he will put the

proposal to the Board for agreement to be given for the additional land to be included in the sale in return for some recognition that the new equipment as partly been funded by Pearce Construction. Charmaine Coxon suggested that if this agreement is obtained then a plaque could be added to this effect when the new swing is installed.

- (b) Update on funding for basket swing. Awaiting contract from Devon Waste Management who are providing the swing, once received order will be placed.

Adam Bunting confirmed that there were only a couple of items on the SNC ROSPA report which required attention and that included replacement of goal posts which is being arranged.

**9. Matters Raised by the Chairman –**

- (a) Annual review of Standing Orders, Policies and risk assessments – to be completed by the new Clerk.

**9. Maintenance:**

- (a) **Highways** – Refer report above from Councillor Saywell.
- (b) **Footpaths and byways** – Roger Keen reported that the gate to the bridle path at Snape Cottage needed repair and that he made a temporary fix before contacting Torridge Council to arrange a repair. In the meantime resident Mr Hedges, had arranged to have the gate repaired by a local contractor. The repair has been inspected and is very satisfactory so payment will arranged to the contractor for the work.

**10. General Finance**

- (a) *Barclays current a/c statement 28 June 2019* **£16,618.48**

Cheques not cleared:

100831 D Jones – grass cutting March/April	£105.00		
100832 HB CPT Ltd – room hire	£18.00		
100833 Devon Waste Management Ltd -	£504.00		
100835 Brewer Harding & Rowe – Solicitor	£50.00	£677.00	<b>£15,941.48</b>

Cheques to be issued:

100836 Alan Smale – maintenance June	£152.75		
100837 D Jones – grass cutting May	£70.00		
100838 DALC – New Councillor guides	£16.86		
100839 DALC – Chairmanship course	£36.00		
100840 D Carter – June Sal £304.77/Exp £51.18	£355.95	£631.56	
100841 High Bickington Community Fund	£500.00		<b>£14,809.92</b>

- (b) New cheque mandate – New mandate forms to be completed by the Clerk.
- (c) Award of Parish Grants – One grant application received so far. Reminder to all clubs and societies that all grant applications should be received by the 16<sup>th</sup> August to be considered at the August Parish Meeting.

**11. Planning**

- (a) **Applications circulated since June meeting:**

**1/0580/2019/FUH**

**Erection of side extension and garden room**

6 Ridgeway Green, High Bickington

PC Decision: Approved

- (b) **Decisions:**

**1/0444/2019/FUH**

Conservatory

White Bridge House, High Bickington

PC Decision: Approved

TDC Decision: Granted

**12. Correspondence**

- (a) Notice of road closure – Wednesday 7 August – Friday 9 August: A377 Long Meadow Wood to Weirmarsh Farm for resurfacing.

**13. Items for information**

Chris McWhirter advised that if additional overflow parking is required during the Ridgeway Green, DIY SOS project he would be happy for cars to be parked in his nearby field as long as he is contacted direct to make arrangements.

- 14. Date of next meeting** – Parish Council Meeting – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington.

**Jenny Baker**  
**Clerk to the Parish Council**