

HIGH BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 21st August 2019 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington

Present: Neil Parker (**Chairman**), Charmaine Coxon, Roger Keen, Chris McWhirter, David Rees (Councillors) Bob Boothby (Prospective Councillor) County Councillor Andrew Saywell District Councillor Rosemary Lock, District Councillor Michael Clarke PFCSO Sandra Brown, David Venner (Presenter), 1 Member of public Jenny Baker (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for their time.

Andrew Saywell, County Councillor opened the meeting by congratulating everyone who helped on the DIY SOS project in the village. He also wanted to thank Di Carter for her many years of service to the Parish Council as Clerk and convey his personal appreciation for the excellent help provided.

Andrew referred the Council to an email from Darryl Jagger, member of the Western Highways Team, about a pilot scheme to engage with the Parish Councils to discuss roads in the Torrington Rural area. Andrew urged the Council to take up the offer to meet with Darryl and his team. The Highways Team have advised as part of this pilot they will be driving every road and making their own assessments but will also use information collected from the Parishes.

Andrew reported **good news** with regard to Foster Care in the region. There has been a reduction in the number of children waiting for suitable foster homes. A new allowance has been introduced and this has helped to increase the number of both foster parents and carers.

Fire service consultation continues to look at better ways to manage the fire service resources. No threat to rural stations in this area. Travel time to rural villages is at the forefront of the rural fire service. Torrington, South Molton and Chulmleigh continue to be fully manned. There are problems with manning levels at other stations in lower risk areas. PFCSO Sandra Brown advised that some stations may look like they have pumps available but in fact they cannot be manned and it is the recruitment of fire fighters which is causing the most problems. Andrew asked anyone who has any ideas or concerns about the fire service to write to him at the Council.

Councillor, Rosemary Lock also wanted to thank everyone in High Bickington who helped to make the DIY SOS project a success and in particular to mention that the Planning Department pulled out all the stops to ensure the plans were approved in time for the project to proceed.

Councillor, Michael Clarke advised he has had numerous calls from members of the public about parking problems in the village. Particular problem areas are Junket Street, inconsiderate parking close to the bollards at the end of the pedestrian walkway by the surgery and incidents of parking blocking driveways which have prevented residents getting their cars out. PFCSO Sandra Brown said bad parking has been addressed before and visits by fire and emergency vehicles have been arranged to highlight the situation of access to residents. One of the problems faced is from visitors to the area and although she can talk to residents it is sometimes a visiting car that may have caused an obstruction. All drivers should take responsibility for their parking and think about the consequences of any obstruction they may be causing. Andrew Saywell offered to take the matter up with the Highways team, if the Council feel it has become dangerous.

PFCSO Sandra Brown to speak to the Fire/Emergency services and see if they can visit the village again to demonstrate the access problems caused by bad parking. She would also spend time after the meeting to drive around the village to see first hand the problems which are particularly bad in the village centre.

Outstanding item, sweeping of loose chippings in village. Work has not taken place and Andrew Saywell promised to follow up again with the relevant department.

‘Declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency’ - David Venner

David read his presentation on the above topic. Proposal is to set up a working group which will produce a 6 month plan. In principle the Council support the proposal and the subject will be added to the agenda for the October meeting for a decision to be made. If the Council decides it wants to support this proposal the Council will appoint someone to sit on the working group and report in and out of Parish Council meetings. The High Bickington Parish Council website may be used as an information hub with all content being approved at the Parish Council meetings.

The formal meeting was convened at 8.36 pm.

1. **Apologies** – received from Adam Bunting.
2. **Co-option New Councillor** – David Rees, was accepted onto the Council as a new member and welcomed by the Chairman.
3. **Declaration of Interest** – none
4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 July, 2019.** Minutes agreed by all Councillors present. The Chairman signed the minutes.
5. **Matters arising from the previous minutes not included elsewhere** – none.
6. **Police Matters** – PFSCO Sandra Brown read the crime report.
 - 1 crime recorded for the month
 - 1 incident of public safety
 - 2 incidents reported but not recorded
7. **High Bickington Community Trust** – nothing to report.
8. **Barton Meadow Play Area** – no report this month

Member of public reported a loose fence at the small gate to the play area. Adam Bunting to confirm repair is being arranged.

 - (a) Sale of strip of land – letter has been sent to Pearce Construction asking for consideration with regard to removal of covenant on land and asking if they will 'gift' the corner of the bank which is currently owned by Pearce to the Parish Council. Response is awaited, end of the month.
 - (b) Update on basket swing and new goal posts – funding for this work is ring-fenced from sale of land above.
9. **Matters raised by Chairman**
 - (a) Annual review of Standing Orders, Finance Orders, Policies and Risk Assessments. Documents updated and in circulation pack for Councillors to read and notate any additional amendments. To be agreed October meeting.
 - (b) Replacement Defibrillator – Review of options to purchase or lease new equipment completed. Agreed South West Ambulance 4 year lease package at £1,800.00excl. VAT. Charmaine Coxon to apply to the Community Fund for grant to assist with the cost of the replacement unit.
 - (c) Collection of bins – allotments. Tuesday 6 August, bins were not collected and non-collection form was completed. Torridge claim bins were not put out in time but this not true. Councillor Lock will follow up but suggested the Council should contact Richard Haste direct if there are problems with waste collections in future.

10. Maintenance

- (a) Chris McWhirter and Roger Keen will arrange to meet Darryl Jagger and team to discuss High Bickington road priorities and requirements. All Councillors are requested to obtain as much information as possible on local road issues and send information to the Clerk who will collate for Chris and Roger to take to the meeting.
- (i) Update on highways covered earlier
 - (ii) Loose Chippings – covered above with Andrew Saywell.
 - (iii) **Village Speed Detector** – speed detector was out of action due to a battery connection problem. This has now been fixed. Suggested that speed detector could be connected to the street lamp thus negating the need for batteries. Option is being investigated.
- (b) Footpaths and Byways – still awaiting sign for bridleway at Snape Farm. Repair of gate completed to very good standard, invoice received.

11. General Finance

| | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------|------------|
| (a) Barclays current a/c statement 30 July 2019 | | | £16,169.53 |
| Cheques not cleared: | | | |
| 100833 Devon Waste Management Ltd | £504.00 | | |
| 100836 A Smale | £152.75 | | |
| 100838 DALC | £16.86 | | |
| 100839 DALC | £36.00 | | |
| 100841 HB Community Fund | <u>£500.00</u> | £1,209.62 | £14,959.91 |
| Cheques to be issued: | | | |
| 100842 Paul Stewart -repair picnic table | £20.00 | | |
| 100843 D Jones – grass cutting June | £70.00 | | |
| 100844 D Carter – July Salary £297.01/Exp £110. | £407.01 | | |
| 100845 IAC Audit & Consulting (2019 Year End) | £180.00 | | |
| 100846 Robin Lewis – repair gate Taylors Ln. | £40.00 | £717.01 | £14,242.90 |

- (a) Bank Mandate new cheque mandate has been submitted.

- (b) Award of Parish Grants:

Finance committee met on Monday 19th August and agreed the following awards:

| Name of Organisation | Amount of Grant | Purpose of Grant |
|---|-----------------|--|
| HB Playing Field Association | £230.00 | Awarded to cover cost of insurance 2019/20, paid direct to Insurance Company by Parish Council. |
| HB CofE Primary School PTA | £150.00 | To assist PTA with cost of arranging educational trips for school children. |
| The William Dodds & Joshua Tucker Charities | £100.00 | Charitable gifts for families who have suffered illness, misfortune or bereavement during the year. |
| Pyncombe Charity | £100.00 | To support purchase of gifts for school leavers from High Bickington school, moving on to their next school. Gifts such as books and certificates awarded at end of year ceremony. |
| Quarry Wood | £200.00 | Awarded on proviso that money is used towards safety training and protective clothing for additional users of tree cutting equipment |

| Name of Organisation | Amount of Grant | Purpose of Grant |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|
| HB Badmington Club | £50.00 | New equipment one year only. |
| HB Football Club | £50.00 | Chain fencing around car park |
| St Mary's Guild | £180.00 | Support upkeep of church clock |
| Historical Society | £200.00 | Cover cost of framing historical photographs to create a display in the Community Centre |
| Total Amount Awarded | £1,260.00 | |

12. Planning

(a) **Applications circulated since July meeting:**

1/0544/2019/FUL

Reduction in the height of a stone wall to 0.6m on the edge of playground

High Bickington Church of England Primary School

PC Decision: Approved

TDC Decision:

13. Correspondence – no new correspondence received

14. Items for information – Insurance Renewal will be received whilst Council is on recess, cheque to be issued for 3 year renewal prior to the October meeting.

15. Next meeting of the Parish Council – Wednesday 9 October 2019 at 7.30 pm.