

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

Website: www.highbickingtonparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 14 November 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington

Present: Peter Worrall, Steve Alford, Stella Burrows, Charmaine Coxon, Jim Hutchings, Roger Keen.
In Attendance: County Councillor Andrew Saywell
Jacqui Pateman-Jones – Burrington Councillor
1 member of the public
Di Carter – Clerk

The Chairman welcomed everyone and invited Councillor Saywell to report to the meeting.

Councillor Saywell said the High Bickington Primary Academy School is consulting on a proposal to lower the school's age range from 4-11 to 2-11 years of age from January 2019. Further information is being circulated to all Councillors in the information pack.

The A3124 will be re-opening on Friday 16th November, two weeks ahead of schedule. Councillor Saywell thanked everyone for their patience and forbearance during the lengthy closure.

Patching work is taking place in High Bickington and Atherington, re-surfacing work in Atherington has been postponed until the new financial year. The work required in Nethergrove Lane has been priced at £84,295; it has been put on the list of works to be carried out, but no date has yet been fixed.

Steve Alford raised the problems the Parish Council is experiencing with the Planners at Torridge District Council; it seems little notice is taken of our comments and as our District Councillor does not attend meetings very often, we have no means of contact to discuss issues. Councillor Saywell said he is not a Councillor at Torridge and is limited as to what he can do to help, but he would speak to the Head of Paid Services, report our concerns and endorse our letter.

Stella Burrows reported an unannounced call from Ordnance Survey and queried whether such cold calls could be stopped; she wanted to make everyone aware of these calls. Councillor Saywell said he cannot help with this.

There were no representatives from the District Council or the Police present and the formal meeting was convened at 7.45 pm.

1. **Apologies for absence** – PCFSO Sandra Brown, Adam Bunting.
2. **Declarations of interest:**
 - (a) Stella Burrows declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as a Director of the Community Property Trust Ltd.
3. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 10 October 2018.** The Minutes of this meeting were agreed and adopted by Councillors present as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2018**
 - (a) The Chairman reported that a letter was sent to Councillor Jane Whittaker, Leader of Torridge District Council regarding the lack of attendance at meetings of our District Councillor. A response has been received explaining that Councillor Morrish is extremely busy with work and suggested that we try to contact him via his business e-mail address. This was not felt to be very satisfactory.
 - (b) Councillor Vacancy – we have received confirmation that we can co-opt a Councillor to fill the vacancy following Steve Galliver's resignation. The Chairman will speak to possible candidates.
 - (c) Devon Air Ambulance pathway – Steve Alford reported that this work has been completed; most of the labour was given free of charge and the final cost was £876. Councillors agreed the work was excellent and expressed their gratitude to everyone involved. Letters of thanks will be sent to them. The Clerk will chase up Devon Air Ambulance regarding publicity for the new service.
 - (d) Parking at Community Centre – As a result of the recent accident at the Community Centre, the Chairman reported responses from both the School and CPT Ltd following our letters expressing concern about safety and insufficient parking. The Headteacher had responded very positively and made a number of suggestions for improvement; he shared our concerns.

A letter from the CPT Ltd had pointed out that there was little that could be done regarding parking; the recent accident had been unfortunate but it was felt to be a matter for the School to ensure pupil safety.

5. Police Matters

The Chairman had written to PFCSO Sandra Brown expressing concern at the diminishing Police presence in the village. In her response, PFCSO Brown said that patrols do regularly take place and she is always willing to attend meetings if a specific concern is raised and if her shifts can be arranged accordingly. Stella Burrows had nothing to report.

6. High Bickington Community Property Trust Ltd

Stella Burrows reported that Louise Burnage has been appointed as Company Secretary to the CPT Ltd. The next Board meeting will be held in January.

7. Barton Meadow and other Play Areas

The Clerk reported that three quotations have been received for a basket swing, new goalposts and fencing. A comparison of costs was circulated and Councillors agreed the costs were higher than expected. At just over £7,000 for the fencing, this was felt not to be achievable at the present time. A member of the public present offered to arrange for the goalposts to be made locally and he will let the Clerk have a quote for this. A discussion took place and Councillors agreed to aim to purchase a basket swing and the goalposts; the Clerk was asked to follow up possible funding avenues to help with finance. The repair works have been carried out.

8. Matters Raised by the Chairman –

- (a) Directory 2018 – The Clerk had obtained a design and printing quotation from a local source – Peter Worrall said he felt the suggested design was excellent - an example was put in the circulation pack for Councillor comments;
- (b) Commemoration of the end of World War 1 – The Chairman said the whole day had been extremely successful and so many village people came together to help in a variety of ways. Letters of thanks will be sent to those who made the soldiers and to organisers. The soldiers will be taken down at the end of November.
- (d) Parish Council car park – The Chairman reported that a neighbouring resident had written to complain about the BMW car which has been permanently parked there and the fact that its alarm can be heard regularly at night. The Chairman will follow this matter up.

9. Maintenance:

- (a) Highways – Highways work had been discussed with Councillor Saywell earlier in the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that Peter Tucker is willing to continue as Snow Warden; grit bins will be checked and if necessary further bags of salt will be ordered. We have been asked by the County Council to draw up a bad weather/salting plan; the Chairman is dealing with this.
- (b) Footpaths and Byways – Roger Keen reported that Derek Herniman will provide the new signposts in the new year.
The Copse – Mill Road. A proposed plan from the neighbouring resident for hedge and fencing work had been received and details were circulated. It was felt to be acceptable and the resident will carry out the work. David Venner is inspecting the copse shortly and will report what other work he recommends.

10. General Finance

(a) Barclays current a/c statement at 28 September 2018			£19,938.39
Cheques not cleared:			
100778 D Jones – August	£70.00		
100786 Wm Dodds & Joshua Tucker Charities	£100.00		
100787 Pyncombe Charity:	£100.00		
100788 HB Football Club:	£100.00		
100789 Quarry Wood:	£200.00		
100791 HB Badminton Club:	£100.00	£670.00	£19,268.39

Cheques to be issued:

100794 Alan Smale – maintenance Oct.	£195.00			
100795 WM Ironwork Ltd – Beacon	£1293.60			
100796 SNC South West – Play repairs	£2700.00			
100797 HBCPT Ltd – hall hire	£68.75			
100798 HB Youth Club – bus shelter cleaning	£125.00			
100799 D Carter – Sal £297.01/Exp £44.32	£341.33	£4723.68		£14,544.71

Councillors present agreed to the release of the cheques listed.

- (b) Budget 2019/2020 – the Clerk circulated copies of a first draft of next year's budget; there are a number of items of expenditure which need consideration before a final budget and Precept can be agreed. Following a discussion, Councillors were asked to let the Clerk have their comments and recommendations; a final budget will be brought to the meeting in December.

11. Planning

(a) Applications circulated since August meeting:

(i) 1/1097/2018/FUL

Erection of double garage - Pows Cottage, High Bickington

PC Decision: Awaiting decision.

(ii) 1/1123/2018/FUL

Conversion of former rural building to one dwelling - Woodrow, High Bickington

PC Decision: Approved

(iii) 1/11454/2018/FUL

Conversion of redundant barns to 3no dwellings - Yelland Farm, High Bickington

PC Decision: Approved

(b) New Applications:

1/1143/20148/FUL

Erection of a replacement garage and utility

1 Sunnyside, Ebberry, Torrington

PC Decision: Approved

(c) Decisions:

1/0862/2018/FUL

Garage, Pows Cottage, High Bickington

PC Decision: The Parish Council strongly objects to this application as it is contrary to item 3 of the decision notice for application 1/0408/2015/FUL which states “the accommodation hereby permitted shall be used solely for residential purposes ancillary to the existing dwelling known as Pows Cottage and not as an independent dwelling”
The attached floor plans are the same as for the original retrospective application for a home office, and show nothing to support the change of use to a holiday let.

TDC Decision: Approved

Following this change of Torridge's previous decision conditions and their failure to take the Parish council comments into consideration, the Chairman had written to the Head of Paid Services asking for an explanation. An acknowledgement has been received and following discussions with Planners, a full response will be sent.

(d) Appeals:

(i) 1/0581/2017/LBC

Alterations to existing domestic garage to create study and store.

Hope Cottage, High Bickington

Decision: Refused.

12. Correspondence not included elsewhere on the agenda -

- (a) Letters of thanks for grants received from Allotment Association, Badminton Club, Football Club, HB C of E Academy PTA, Playing Field Association, St Marys Guild, Woodland Group, Community Mini-bus

- (b) TDC – e-mail re combined strategic plan of the Conservation and Economic Development teams for use of Section 215 (untidy sites) powers. Requesting details of properties which need remedial work to improve their appearance.
- (c) Consultation document to extend the age range of High Bickington C of E Primary Academy from 3-11 to 2-11 year olds. Copy of proposals in circulation pack for comments.

13 Items for information:

- (a) The Christmas Fayre will be held on 9th December
- (b) Carols round the tree will be held outside the School on 24th December.
- (c) Christmas Tree Festival in the Church on 21st, 22nd and 23rd December.

14. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 12 December 2018 – 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington -

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.08pm