

HIGH BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 10 October 2018 at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, High Bickington

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

In Attendance: Di Carter – Clerk

In the absence of any representatives from the County Council, District Council, Police or the public, the Chairman opened the formal meeting at 7.30pm.

- 1. Apologies for absence** – County Councillor Andrew Saywell – holiday; PCFSO Sandra Brown.

The Chairman said he was disappointed that our District Councillor was not in attendance again. A number of efforts to contact Councillor Morrish have proved unsuccessful and in the absence of any report for some time, he will be writing again to Jane Whittaker, Leader of Torridge District Council to register his concerns. He will also be contacting PCFSO Sandra Brown as her visits to the village have diminished greatly. It is appreciated that her workload has increased and written reports are received monthly, but personal contact is important.

- 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 22 August 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 22 August 2018**

(a) Councillor Vacancy – Following the resignation of Steve Galliver, all required notices regarding the vacancy have been displayed and if Torridge District Council receive no request for an election by 19 October 2018, we will be able to co-opt a new Councillor.

(b) Devon Air Ambulance – pathway. Steve Alford confirmed that this work is due to take place on Friday 19 October, weather permitting. Once completed publicity for the new night landing service will be organised by Devon Air Ambulance.

- 5. Police Matters:**

The written report received before the meeting was incorrect – following the meeting the report below was provided by PCFSO Brown:

“Report from 10.9.18 – 9.10.18.

1 report of criminal damage.

1 call reporting concern for welfare

1 call reporting suspicious circumstances

8 calls reporting highway disruption

3 calls reporting road traffic collisions”

It has been reported that the merger with Dorset Police will not now go ahead. Stella Burrows had nothing further to report, but did raise the continuing problems with parking in the village; the Pound Lane junction is dangerous and some parking in North Road does not comply with highways safety rules.

The Chairman said that it is appreciated the village has a parking problem and much of this is due to inconsiderate parking. He will be raising this with PCFSO Brown when he contacts her.

Jim Hutchings reported that a pedestrian was knocked over on the entrance to the Community Centre; luckily she was not injured but it does raise serious questions about general safety in this area, and questions were asked about what measures are being taken to safeguard children attending the school.

A discussion took place on the problems which are becoming evident with parking at the Centre now that it is being well used; if the new school is built this will only add to the problems. The Chairman said he will be writing to the CPT Ltd and the School as he feels this is a matter which needs to be addressed.

6. High Bickington Community Property Trust Ltd

Stella Burrows reported on the Annual General Meeting of the CPT Ltd held on Friday 5 October. Annual reports were circulated and David Venner gave an excellent presentation on the Community Woodland. There are still vacancies on the Board. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 November 2018.

7. Barton Meadow and other Play Areas

The Clerk reported that SNC will be carrying out the necessary repairs in the next two weeks weather permitting. Quotations are being sought for new fencing, basket swing and new junior goalposts. There was nothing further to report.

8. Matters Raised by the Chairman –

(a) Directory 2018 – The Chairman said arrangements for the updated Directory are well under way with a few entries needing confirmation. The Clerk reported that following several attempts to obtain a quotation for printing from our regular printers, it was confirmed today that they have sold the premises and will not be trading after 31 December 2018. It may not be possible to get a final draft ready to meet this deadline; if not we will seek other quotations.

(b) Update on celebrations to commemorate the end of World War 1 – Steve Alford reported that RGB have kindly donated the timber and with the help of Simon Copp and John Reeves, 15 soldiers have been carved in memory of those men from High Bickington who lost their lives in the War. They will be placed around the village.

The cost of the beacon, pole and a sign to record the names of local men lost in the war will be £1,013. Fundraising events are being organised to cover some of this cost and the Parish Council has pledged to purchase the beacon. The Chairman said he is very gratified to see how many people in the village are coming together to make this event a memorable one – it is proving to be a true community event.

Decision: Councillors agreed to purchase the beacon, pole and sign at a cost of £1,013; any fundraising monies received will be deducted from the Parish Council commitment.

(c) Bus Shelter maintenance – Jim Hutchings reported that the Youth Club is now carrying out the bus shelter cleaning; he has asked Tim Halpin to contact the Clerk regarding payment which is being made as a donation towards the running costs of the Youth Club.

(d) Parish Council car park – The Chairman reported vehicles being parked on a permanent basis. One is a Nissan van without tax or insurance since 2016 and a BMW car. He has traced the owners and spoken to the owner of the Nissan van; as a result it was removed, but has now returned together with another van belonging to the same person. The BMW car was removed but has also now returned. The car park is in the private ownership of the Parish Council and is designated for temporary use only by those visiting the village. It is not provided as a permanent parking facility and is causing difficulty for legitimate users. The Chairman will speak to both vehicle owners again and if the vehicles are not removed within a given period, he asked for Councillors' approval to take further action on behalf of the Council. A discussion followed on possible ways to combat inappropriate use of the car park.

Decision: Following a discussion Councillors agreed that the Chairman be authorised to take any appropriate action to remove permanently parked vehicles.

9. Maintenance:

(a) Highways – Notices of forthcoming road works are being circulated and put on the website.

(b) Footpaths and Byways – Roger Keen had nothing to report.

The Copse – Mill Road; The Chairman reported a request from a neighbouring property owner to remove the existing hedge adjoining his property and replace it, together with a new fence on his property. The current hedge is becoming overgrown and needs attention. A discussion on the copse followed and it was agreed that it does need attention. The Clerk was asked to contact David Venner for some advice on the work required to ensure the future environmental wellbeing of the copse. It is hoped to get a volunteer work party together to carry out any work.

10. General Finance

- (a) Insurance renewal – the Parish Council and Playing Field Association insurance is due for renewal. A quotation from our current provider for a further 3-year contract is £780.05 against an annual premium of £821.11; this reflects a small reduction on the previous contract. The PFA element is £225.00 and the Parish Council agreed at the August 2018 meeting to pay this as the annual grant to the PFA.

Decision: Councillors agreed to accept the 3-year contract at £780.05 per annum to include the PFA element of the premium.

- (b) Barclays current a/c statement at 28 September 2018 **£22,008.83**
(Includes 2nd instalment Precept - £5,295)
Cheques not cleared: none

Cheques to be issued:

100775 Jim Harding – Jul/August	£160.00		
100776 Came & Company – Insurance	£780.05		
100777 PKF Littlejohn – Audit	£240.00		
100778 D Jones – August	£70.00		
100779 Jim Harding – September – final	£40.00		
100780 D Carter – Sal £297.01/Exp £45.38	£342.39		
100785 HB C of E Primary School PTA:	£200.00		
100786 Wm Dodds & Joshua Tucker Charities	£100.00		
100787 Pyncombe Charity:	£100.00		
100788 HB Football Club:	£100.00		
100789 Quarry Wood:	£200.00		
100790 HB Allotment Association:	£70.00		
100791 HB Badminton Club:	£100.00		
100792 St Mary's Guild:	£138.00		
100793 HB Community Mini-bus:	£100.00	£2740.44	£19,268.39

Councillors agreed to the release of the cheques listed.

- (c) End of Year Accounts: A final certificate is awaited, but confirmation of the finalisation of the accounts has been received.

11. Planning

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

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:

- (b) **New Applications:**

1/1074/2018/DIS

Part-retrospective application to discharge Conditions 3 (existing access closure), 4 (landscaping) and 6 (fencing) of planning permission 1/0731/2017/FUL

Smallmarsh Farm, High Bickington

PC Decision: No objection.

- (c) **Decisions: None**

(d) Appeals:

(i) 1/0472/2017/OUT

Outline application for single, two storey dwelling with all matters reserved adjacent 1 Cross Park, High Bickington.

Decision: Appeal dismissed.

(ii) 1/0581/2017/LBC

Alterations to existing domestic garage to create study and store.

Hope Cottage, High Bickington

Decision:

12. Correspondence not included elsewhere on the agenda - none

13 Items for information: none

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.28pm