

Minutes of a meeting of Bridford Parish Council held at Bridford Village Hall on Monday 7th November 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs J Padgham (Chair), A Lord, J Topley, K Tucker, Mrs J P Banks (Clerk), Mrs A Mayes (Snow Warden). Cnty Cllr Brook attended for part of the meeting.

- 1 APOLOGIES – Cllrs P Marriott, S Purser, E Gallagher
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Padgham declared an interest in item 22 and Cllr Tucker in item 29
- 3 PUBLIC DISCUSSION – It was reported that some of the potholes on Pound Lane and School Lane have been repaired, thanks noted from a parishioner. Overgrown hedges on Pound Lane awaiting contractor.

MATTERS ARISING from previous meeting

- 4 MINUTES – the Parish Council resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th October 2022, as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Topley, seconded by Cllr Lord. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for accurate and straightforward minuting.
- 5 PLAY PARK - update / boundary trees – a new numerical code padlock has been attached to the vehicular gate at the Playpark, the number being given to selected residents of Butts Close and the Parish Councillors. Cllrs Topley and Tucker continue to undertake weekly checks of the Playpark and there are currently no new issues. The matter of the responsibility for the overhanging trees is currently ongoing with TDC and there is nothing further to report. The Parish Council is still looking to replace the goal post but the costs are proving to be prohibitive. Cllr Padgham will contact David Price with a view to applying for trees under the Free Trees scheme currently running
- 6 ALLOTMENTS – the annual invoices have been sent out and all tenants are paid up for the next year.
- 7 ROAD WARDEN – Dunsford Clerk is still trying to organise joint Chapter 8 training for the Parishes of Dunsford, Christow and Bridford.
- 8 BUS SHELTER The painting of the bus shelter is well underway, with a wonderful mural on the inside wall which is almost complete, courtesy of Cllr Marriott. The Clerk confirmed that there is sufficient funding from the TDC Clean Up grant to enable a small notice board containing Parish Council information and an information board about the mural, to be included inside and possibly some plants up the outside. The mural is a huge success with many people stopping to admire it and complimenting the artist at work. It has also gone down well with 100% positive comments from children who catch the school bus. Thanks were noted from the Chairman to Cllr Marriot for applying her skills to the refurbishment of the bus shelter and to Cllr Topley who assisted with the preparation.
- 9 VILLAGE GARDEN – the railings are in the process of being repainted. Thanks to Alan and Kathy Fitzjohn for volunteering to undertake this project.
- 10 20'S PLENTY FOR DEVON – the signs designed by the local children are slowly going up. Some of the original location ideas are proving not to be suitable so more locations have had to be sought. These include Stone Lane, the Woodland Park hedgerow and the junction of Hedgemoor and Moretonhampstead. The Chairman thanked Cllr Topley for organising the 20's Plenty project.
- 11 BRIDFORD WILDLIFE WARDENS report – see appendix (a). The Parish Council to contact the Wildlife Wardens with concerns over some comments in the report.
- 12 DEFIBRILLATORS – It has pointed out that the latest machine on the wall at Venn Park Garage is regularly hidden from view by vehicles parked in front of it. The

Parish Council has authorised the purchase of a glow in the dark sign to be attached to the wall above the defibrillator highlighting its location. Proposed by Cllr Topley and seconded by Cllr Lord.

13

SNOW WARDEN / GRITTER – the gritter has been moved from the back of the barn and is now accessible. The Snow Warden was present at the Parish Council meeting and gave an update. Last year it was necessary for the gritting team to go out on three occasions, compared to twenty-two the year before. With only 38 bags of salt / grit being used last year, no additional salt/ grit has been ordered as it becomes damp if stacked up and stored. Devon Highways to be contacted to ascertain if there is an allocation to be applied for this winter and to ask if bags of damp salt / grit currently in the barn can be used to refill the roadside grit bins. Volunteers are still needed to go out with the gritter during icy weather conditions, particularly drivers with a tow bar. It is not necessary to have a four wheel drive vehicle.

Cnt Cllr Brook joined the meeting at 7.55pm

The Chairman welcomed Cnty Cllr Brook and invited him to speak

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT- Not a huge amount to report. The locality budget has been reinstated a much lower level. It has in the past been running at £10,000 but is now reduced to £6,500 in total across the ten Parishes within Cnty Cllr Brook's ward of Chudleigh and the Teign Valley. Jamie Dunbar, who has been orchestrating the facilities for Devon Air Ambulance to land in the dark, has advised that the current company will no longer be providing the Wi-Fi service which enables the lights at the Teign Valley landing site at Christow to be activated in the event of a night time landing and he has requested funds from Cnty Cllr Brook's Locality Budget to reinstate the online service with another company. Cnty Cllr Brook is asking the three Parishes of Bridford, Dunsford and Christow if they will agree to the amounts likely to be available to their Parishes from the Locality Budget, to be utilised together to finance a new provider for this vital online service, total amount to be in the region of £700. Bridford Parish Council agreed to this, proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Lord. Dunsford Parish Council has already agreed. Christow Parish Council are to discuss it. Leader of Devon County Council John Hart in his recent statement has already outlined the County Council's financial situation. What is concerning as a whole is next years' budget. The outlook is not good. The County Council is anticipating the figures from Government that will be available shortly. Savings have to be made and what will be looked at are the non statutory services that are provided even down to the supply and delivery of grit for the roads. The County Council is obliged to care for the Vulnerable, Children and Young Peoples' Services. Education benefit is ring fenced and is not affected. It is not a case of what can be done but what cannot be done to save money. Children and Young Peoples' Services have employed a commissioner from Kent to assist in trying to bring Devon County's service up to a better position which will take time. Our Stagecoach bus routes are assisted services. This is another area that may not be affordable in the future. All the money the council borrowed in 2000 / 2005 has cost the County Council £50m per year in putting back money to pay it off and to cover interest.

Cnty Cllr Brook left the meeting at 8.10pm

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ROADSIDE GRIT BOXES – Parish Councillors have been allocated grit bins to check, still in location / accessible / facing the right way around / contents need forking over / need refilling / rubbish and weeds removing. A resident on Pound Lane has inherited bags of salt when they moved in and has asked what should be

done with them. Parish Council to suggest that they retain the bags for use on the hill or their driveway when required.

15 WARM SPACES TO SUPPORT LOCAL RESIDENTS – after making enquiries and speaking to several key people, the Parish Council agreed that generally there is a lot being offered to the elderly and vulnerable. There is a warm hub at Teign Valley Community Hall. Acorn are willing to transport anyone wishing to go there. The census of opinion with regards to a facility in Bridford is that it would be the same people running it as those who organise everything else and those people do not have the capacity to do any more.

16 CHURCH REQUEST FOR FUNDING – the Church committee does not require a new light but assistance with the cost of running the existing unit at the top of the church steps. Although, there are not many Church services at night, the light does provide a service now that the Teign Valley Larder is in the porch and available twenty-four hours a day. The Parish Council to enquire as to how much the light costs to run, if it is on a sensor system and how much funding the Church Committee are looking for. The Clerk will speak with Kathy Fitzjohn.

17 MEETINGS ATTENDED / ONLINE – Cllr Topley attended an online Parish Councillor training session, details of which were deferred until the December meeting.

18 PARISH PLAN REVIEW DATE – date yet to be decided.

19 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT – Dst Cllr Purser not present at the meeting but sent in his November update:

The Local Plan is in its final stages before going to Council for final approval and then to inspection by a Government inspector.

An additional £5 million has been received by Devon to help people with the cost of living crisis and a household support package is being developed and launched soon.

You may have seen a great deal of ongoing discussion around the redevelopment of market square in Newton Abbot with a potential new cinema and proposals for the Alexandra Theatre.

The new Teignbridge lottery launches next week with £1 tickets and proceeds going to worthwhile charities, currently 35 have joined. See website to take part.

A landlord who failed to carry out essential works has been fined £10,000.

Note the bottom portion of the Teign Valley road is being closed for a week to ten days from the 7th November.

Everybody eligible is urged to have booster vaccinations for covid and flu as covid infection rates are again on the rise.

Still a number of vacancies at Teignbridge District Council in most departments especially LGV Drivers and Loaders, the shortage of whom is putting the waste collection service under considerable pressure. Anyone with any questions should contact Dst Cllr Purser.

20 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – item brought forward and minuted earlier in the meeting.

21 CIVILITY AND RESPECT PLEDGE – amendments have been made to the draft policy document. Cllrs Padgham and Topley to go through it again before the next meeting and to finalise the document which will be on the agenda for the Parish Council to adopt at the December Parish Council meeting. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for preparing the initial document.

DNPA PLANNING FOR DISCUSSION

22 THE OLD PARLOUR, ROBERTSACRE FARM, BRIDFORD – re proposed change

of use of part of agricultural building to create an agricultural dwelling (DNPA ref. 0414/22). Discussed at length by the Parish Council who agreed that DNPA should apply the appropriate rules and regulations when considering the application. The Parish Council does not consider that there is sufficient additional information since the last planning application, or the necessity to provide accommodation for agricultural purposes. The Parish Council opposes this planning application

23

LAND TO THE SOUTH OF NEADON LANE, BRIDFORD – re proposed alteration of an existing road or highway (DNPA ref. 0411/22). The Parish Council agreed to support this application

DNPA PLANNING FOR INFORMATION – none

24 ANY PLANNING DECISION NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA – none

FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

25 ACCOUNT BALANCES 1st October 2022

Current account	9,375.58
Investment account	<u>3,771.57</u>
	13,147.15

26 INCOME

Chilcorn Ltd re contents of Clothing Bank	52.00
Annual allotment rentals:	
R Clark	15.00
F Leversedge	15.00
I Lucraft	45.00
L Bornemisza	30.00
L Bird	15.00
A Williams	<u>15.00</u>
	187.00

27 EXPENDITURE

Mrs J P Banks re October Salary	304.38
Mrs J P Banks reimbursement re Play Park padlock	14.99
Mr A Fitzjohn reimbursement of paint/materials for V/Garden railings	30.00
DALC re training course for Cllr Topley 15.00 + 3.00 VAT	<u>18.00</u>
	367.37

28 ACCOUNT BALANCES 1 November 2022

Current account	9,195.21
Investment account	<u>3,771.57</u>
	12,966.78

Balances include earmarked funds (636.76): £150 refundable allotment deposits / £126 Village Garden / £360.76 Clothing Bank

Cllr Purser, designated by the Chairman had, prior to the meeting checked and agreed the bank reconciliation and the invoices to the agenda. The Parish Council agreed the accounts and authorised the expenditure. Proposed by Cllr Tucker, seconded by Cllr Topley. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for preparing the expenditure and accounting figures and Cllr Purser for checking and confirming accuracy.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

29 MUCK SPREADING – complaint from local resident. Enquiries confirmed that organic manure can be spread in the autumn. The land owners have a plan which is followed to make sure that they manage effectively, where organic manure is deposited and if a field was deemed risky it would not be used. This plan is reviewed

and inspected annually. It would be of no benefit to the landowner to spread slurry when it is raining as it would just run off the ground. Response to be sent to complainant.

30 CLERK'S SALARY / NALC NATIONAL 2022/23 SALARY AWARD – the Parish Council resolved to authorise payment of the Clerk's salary increase of £1 per hour to £15.67 per hour, backdated to 1st April 2022 as per NALC guidelines. Proposed by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Topley.

31 CLERK'S SALARY ANNUAL INCREMENT – the Parish Council resolved to authorise the Clerk's annual pay increment from SCP 23 to SCP 24, £16.16 per hour with effect from 1st April 2023. Proposed by Cllr Lord, seconded by Cllr Topley.

32 VILLAGE HALL HIRE CHARGES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS – the Parish Council has been asked if it would consider using the Lower Hall. The Parish Council would be happy to use the Lower Hall except for the Annual Parish Meeting when the upstairs room would be needed. Details of hire charges for 2022/23 have been received but as the Parish Council has always received a special rate for its meetings enquiries will be made to establish what the cost will be.

OTHER ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

33 ROAD CLOSURE TEIGN VALLEY B3213 – the Teign Valley Road is scheduled to be closed from 7th – 16th November for repair work.

34 BLOCKED BUDDLE HOLES have been reported to Highways to clear standing water at locations in the Parish.

35 PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Coronation Celebrations - Cllr Lord confirmed that Bridford's Coronation tea party will be held on Sunday 7th May either in the Woodland Park or the Village Hall depending on the weather. A raffle will be held with all proceeds going to the Parish Church. Looking for volunteers to assist with food preparation and the organisation of the event.

Broken directional road sign – reported at the road junction at Seven Acre Farm, post has rotted through and is on the ground. Highways to be advised.

Other issues recently advised to Highways – Bridford sign on the B3193 at the bottom of Pound Lane broken and on the ground / directional road sign by the junction to Heckland also broken off and on the ground (it is understood that this has now been replaced) / potholes in School Lane / Kerb stones in Scattor View / Potholes and repairs on Pound Lane.

36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Monday 5th December 2022 at 7.00pm at the Village Hall.

.....Chairman2022