

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 3rd July 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Padgham (Chairman); Cllr. Topley; Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Marriott; 1 member of the public; Penny Clapham (Locum Clerk).

1) PUBLIC DISCUSSION

An opportunity for members of the public to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business on the agenda, or any matter of interest to the parish. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed 15 minutes. (Standing Orders 3e and 3f).

Reminder that members of the public are not allowed to raise issues when Council is in committee.

2) Apologies For Absence: District Cllr. Swain.

3) Declarations Of Interest: In accordance with the Code of Conduct, members are required to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have, in items to be considered at this meeting. Members are also reminded that any change to their Declaration of Interests must be notified to the Monitoring Officer at District Council within 28 days of the change. None declared.

4) District and County Councillor Reports – report received from District Cllr. Purser by email. Briefly, There is a satisfaction survey on the Teignbridge website for completion should any one wish to do so; Teignbridge are running special courses for teachers and lifeguards reference swimming; they are also refurbishing tennis courts and have retained their ‘Investors in People’ accreditation.

5) Chairman’s Report (for information only) –

The Fete on 8th July, marquee and table will be provided. Ann Mayes MBE has accepted invitation to open the proceedings. Cllr. Topley updated Council on what will be on the stall; promoting the parish council and what the Council does as well as asking for ideas from parishioners going forward.

Footpaths and identifying an overgrown path. Rather than councillors walking the footpaths annually, perhaps it would be better to leave this to be referred to Parish Council and Dartmoor wardens by regular walkers. The floors of footpaths (DNP responsibly) are not cut before 1stJuly and the sides, not cut until 1 September, are the responsibility of the landowner.

Footpaths on September agenda.

Pound Lane roadworks, road closed from 24th July, unknown length of time.

Citizens Advice contacted Council requesting a grant – they informed that 12 people from Bridford had been in touch in the past year requesting information. A grant has not at this time been awarded.

One expression of interest in becoming a councillor....followed up.

Judging of the allotment competition, no judge as yet.

Anne Mayes says that Mowers and Strimmers are not interested in repairing the gritter. Mike Harding has also checked the strimmer – it would be costly to repair. A new gritter on Glasdon website is £7,000, but there are other makes. September agenda.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 5th June 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

County Cllr. Brook arrived at 7.28pm. Cllr. Brook was invited to present his report.

Devon under pressure to come in on budget next March. Locality budget, awarded half the amount of £5000. The Locality budget has to be used to benefit as many people as possible. Cllr. Padgham mentioned the gritter that basically is unrepairable.

Devolution – aware that County in collaboration with the districts, as well as Plymouth and Torbay for devolution powers. Devolution could allow a more local strategic development of Devon as a whole. Highways have no money for road repairs, still. Conversation ensued around the state of the roads locally.

7) Village Hall – registration with the land registry; to receive an update; Cllr. Padgham.

There is a very strong deed trail. December 1949 noted the parish council agreed to purchase the village hall for £500. August 1950 the council applied for grant aid. March 1951 conveyance of the school to become the hall to the parish council. 1951 solicitor's letter regarding completion. September 1951 public meeting when village hall trustees were appointed. December 1952 to put together a declaration of trust when the council was described as custodian trustees. So in 1921 there was a sale of a triangular parcel of land which extended the school playground. January 1984, the village hall committee put in a planning application for change of use of this piece of land to have 1 dwelling. The planning authority wrote to the council as owners for a view on this proposed change of use. The change of use did not go ahead.

Cllr. Padgham contacted 5 firms of solicitors for registering the ownership of the village hall with the land registry, 3 replied. Quotes received varied from £650, to £700 to £2500. Land registry and search fees are likely to be on top of these quotes. Cllr. Padgham has been in touch with the chair and secretary of the village hall and offered to attend the recent meeting. A conversation was held with the chair who was reassured when told that registration was a regularisation of a situation that already exists. The chair of the village hall would like to set up small sub-committee of hall and council to work to keep them informed of the progress being made to register the village hall's ownership with the land registry.

Cllr. Purser proposed Gilbert Stephens be appointed solicitors to act on behalf of the Council. Resolved. All in favour by show of hands. Cllr. Padgham will action this with the solicitors. Councillors thanked Cllr. Padgham for the work she has put in finding the history of the village hall

Cllr. Topley attended the hall meeting. It is likely that the fees for hall hire are to be raised.

8) Asset Register – to consider further updates to the Register. Phone box £1 and the Council's printer to be added. Clerk to action.

9) PLANNING

Planning Applications - Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:

- i. 0281/23 Retention of existing temporary agricultural track, track between Plaston Green and Westcott, Bridford.
Supported

Planning Decisions

10) FINANCE

Expenditure	Locum Clerk expenses	£391.29 inc. Microsoft 365
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Bank Reconciliation and Statement – to be advised at the meeting if available. Not available.

Council resolved to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Topley. All in favour by show of hands.

11) VAT reclaim for 2022/23 – this stands at £447.21. As Council are changing banks, it seems best to wait until this is in place and then the new bank details can be supplied to HMRC. To agree actions. Agreed to wait until the new bank account has been set up.

12) Clerk's report

- a) No response yet received from Highways regarding Church Lane.
- b) Locum Clerk will be taking a third week off after foot operation on 28th July.

Councillor's reports and External Meetings attended (for information only)

Cllr. Topley regarding the address list to be put onto the noticeboard. Agreed to include the Clerk's phone number and Councillor's email addresses.

Cllr. Gallagher parishioner expressed concerns about a planning application that had been re-submitted.

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Monday 4th September 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.37pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Emails received in the past month

DALC Newsletter 24 (sent 07/06)