

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 13th November 2023, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Padgham (Chairman); Cllr. Topley; Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Marriott; 2 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Clerk). County Cllr. Brook. District Cllr. Swain.

1) Co-option to Council to fill two vacancies – no applications received.

2) 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 30 minutes. (Standing Orders 3e and 3f).

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

Anne Mayes enquired as to the cost of the gritter repair. No new volunteers have come forward for snow clearance during the winter. Currently there are 3 to 4 active volunteers. A request to keep asking for volunteers through the parish magazine. Bridford is not on the primary gritting route so to keep the roads open it is essential to have volunteers to help all in the parish.

Parishioner informed that the tree at Woodlands has now been removed. The fence near Pynes is in danger of collapsing onto the footpath.

3) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Purser (unwell). Apologies accepted.

4) 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.

5) District and County Councillor Reports – to include an update on the mobile library service if available. Cllr. Purser's report attached to this agenda.

County Cllr. Brook arrived at 7.22pm.

County Cllr. Brook reported that there is a paper to discuss the self-help scheme to look at the possibilities of groups taking on the filling of potholes, on Devon County Council's agenda for this Thursday. Also on the agenda is the installation of EV chargers throughout the County of Devon with some Government funding available towards this. Ofsted and Childrens' services – some improvement in these services. These services are heavily in debt and the County have to provide a business plan very soon with the how to manage this debt. The mobile library service will be closing at the end of February 2024. Book exchanges have been suggested. Asked about the recent roadworks in Pound Lane. Cllr. Padgham informed that the works have been completed. Cllr. Brook requested to know if/when Council have any projects going forward.

6) Chairman's Report (for information only) – attached to the minutes.

7) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd October 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

8) Village Hall – to receive an update. Cllr. Padgham's report. -

- 1) Solicitors, Gilbert Stephens are currently preparing a Client Care letter. Signatories will be Stephen Purser, Deputy Chair of Bridford PC and TDC District Councillor and Jennifer Padgham, Chair, Bridford PC.
- 2) Bridford PC Chairman met with Ray Spurr VH Chairman. The Chairmen worked jointly on a position statement pertaining to the ownership and management of Bridford Village Hall. The purpose of the statement was to get a common understanding between Bridford PC as 'custodian trustees' (owners) and the Trustees of the VH (management committee). To ensure equity between the PC and VH Committee, the statement will be issued jointly.

9) PLANNING

Planning Applications - Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications: none received. Include planning in Unity.

District Cllr. Swain arrived at 8.02pm. Highlighted the good position of Teignbridge working towards the climate emergency.

10) FINANCE

Expenditure	Glasdon UK Ltd – gritter service & repair	£918.96	BACs
	Locum Clerk expenses – October	£254.74	BACs
	A. Williams – refund allotment deposit	£15.00	BACs

Bank Reconciliation and Statement

Council resolved to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Marriott, all agreed by show of hands.

11) Budget – initial discussions for setting the budget for 2024/2025. Agenda January for final decisions and precept setting. Further updates on spending to be circulated prior to the January meeting by the Clerk.

This item was taken after agenda item 2.

12) Gritter volunteers – to consider expenses for those who volunteer to tow the gritter during icy conditions. Snow warden scheme and to request names of snow volunteers and to find out if any of the volunteers have undergone the required training through Devon County Council.

Cllr. Padgham informed councillors about contacting the Devon Assoc of Local Councils with regard to volunteers for the snow warden scheme, insurance and liability. The liability is with the volunteers. The gritter is covered by Council's insurers whilst static in the barn. The volunteers are covered for public liability through Devon County Council's Snow Warden Scheme as the lead, Anne Cronin, has undergone the required training. Anne Mayes will be having a meeting with the volunteers to go through requirements of towing and gritter maintenance. Time, date and venue to be advised.

13) Twinning Road Signage – Highways Officer cannot offer any funding for such signage but is happy to meet and discuss locations. Cllr. Padgham will arrange a meeting with the Highways Officer in the new year in order to take this project forward.

14) Policies – to consider and approve. January agenda.

- a. A grant giving policy with criteria and a proposed application form for grants – circulated prior to this meeting.
- b. A reserves policy – circulated prior to this meeting.

15) Replacement Clerk – to receive an update on progress for a permanent clerk.

Cllr. Padgham has checked availability of the hall in order to facilitate council meetings. Council have agreed to advertise the position of clerk in DALC and Unity Magazine. Locum Clerk to raise an application form and to receive any applications.

16) Clerk's report

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

Cllr. Gallagher reported that the road at the bottom of Neadon Lane is so bad that a taxi has refused to use the road.

Cllr. Topley with a suggestion that the ex-doctor's surgery within the hall could be utilised as a library, once a month at chat in before the post office.

Cllr. Padgham attended a seminar on standards of conduct for elected members.

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Monday 15th January 2024 at 6pm in the Village Hall.

Email information received

DALC bulletin 42 (sent 05/10)

Meeting closed at 8.58pm

Signed.....

Date.....

District Cllr. Purser's report dated 2nd November 2023

Hopefully the storm will have passed but please see Teignbridge, Environment agency and Devon cc websites for severe weather information and reporting process for damage.

The controversial plan to build a new cinema in Newton Abbott has now been abandoned. Proposals likely to be put forward to refurbish modernise the Alexandra theatre and market hall.

Road changes in Queen Street subject to a lot of objections but still planned to proceed.

Doddiscombsleigh railway bridge will hopefully be repaired this week but this bad weather may delay repair.

Further roadworks planned for Teign valley road from 6 to 10 November at / near Venn park garage.

Still significant budget pressures for the coming years.

20 mph speed limit campaign gathering pace but Devon cc indicates quite large legal costs to implement on any scale and some local resistance.

Teignbridge 6th out of 168 councils in tackling climate change in drive for nett zero.

Still plenty of Tdc jobs available.

Chairman's Report

1 Pound Lane. Road works completed and offer of taxis provided by DCC with 24 hours notice for booking.

2 Constituent raised concerns re flooding on Moretonhampstead Road out of Bridford towards Burnicombe. Chair to ask Clerk if this could be raised with TDC Highways Officer, Ines Pfister. Thank you.

3 Penny Clapham / Locum Clerk unable to continue on first Monday of the month. Marie Free, who runs the weekly choir, generously agreed to swap on any Monday in the month. Currently PC meeting on 2nd Monday in the month.

Marie has also invited Councillors to the Choir's Christmas celebration on Monday 11 December at 7pm.

4 Housing consultation completed and sent. Thanks to Stephen Purser for compiling responses and sending this.

5 TVCH Bridford representative. Many thanks to Judy Topley for finding a willing volunteer to represent the interests of Bridford on the TVCH committee. And huge thanks to Joseph Dunkley for being that willing volunteer.

6 Outreach Post Office hours have been reduced from 2 hours per week to one.