

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 29th January, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Padgham (Chairman); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Marriott; 4 members of the public; Penny Clapham (Locum clerk); Tamsin Mowat (new Clerk).

Welcome to Tamsin who will be the new parish clerk from the 1st February.

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

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

Parishioner regarding lack of parking round by the old post office. Sometimes there is very little parking for visitors at the ned and breakfast. Gritting, wondering if this could extend from New Park to the top of Neadon Lane past Butts Close.

Anne Mayes, snow warden, received another grit delivery, now in the barn. Water issues still not sorted. Can ensure that the request for Neadon Lane from the village can be gritted when required.

Parishioner regarding the footpath at the back of Pynes. Cllr. Marriott updated council regarding the fence falling across the footpath. This belongs to DNPA and Cllr. Marriott will follow this up.

2) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Topley. Apologies accepted.

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 –

District Cllr. Purser mentioned the citizens advice bureau who are keen for new volunteers. District budgets are being finalised. Devolution deal that has been agreed by Government with new funding to come. Finally a programme called Lets Talk has been very successful; it is basically for parents with teenage children. This could benefit from more publicity.

5) Chairman's Report (for information only) – attached to these minutes.

Standing orders suspended for parishioner to speak about the fence. It will be reported on the DNPA website.

Standing orders resumed.

6) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th November 2023 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

7) Village Hall – to receive a progress report. Both Cllr. Padgham and the Chairman of the village hall are working together to issue a joint statement. Cllr. Padgham reported

1 PC Chair and VH Chair worked closely up until 12 December when VH Committee met to discuss the joint statement issued by both Chairs.

The VH Committee sought clarification on some points and the VH Chair was able to provide this.

2 There have been further discussions on the VH Committee re the VH and both Chairs (PC and VH) have continued to work closely.

3 Gilbert Stephens solicitors have advised the PC they are progressing the application to register Bridford VH with the Land Registry.

8) PLANNING

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

- i. 0017/24 Establish lawful use certificate of caravan as dwelling at West Down Farm, Moretonhampstead.
Cllr. Purser declared an interest.
NO COMMENT

Planning Decisions

- i. 0361/23 Erection of temporary agricultural workers dwelling with associated works, Westcott Dairy, Bridford.
GRANTED
- ii. 0506/23 Demotion and rebuilding of chimney, Bridford Barton.
GRANTED

APPEAL – 0223/23 Appeal lodged against the siting of temporary rural workers dwelling, erection of agricultural building and yard, Coombeshead Farm, Bridford.

9) FINANCE

Expenditure	Locum Clerk expenses December	£135.00	BACs
	J. Padgham – refund legal expenses + volunteers expenses	£68.20	BACs
	Hall hire Council and Post Office Q3	£141.00	BACs
	Aadefib.com – new battery	£354.00	BACs

Bank Reconciliation and Statement circulated prior to this meeting.

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

10) Reserves and estimated expenditure – as circulated prior to this meeting for consideration. Noted.

11) Budget – to finalise the budget workings as circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr. Marriott proposed Cllr. Purser's additions be included. Resolved to set the budget at £13,462 for the year ending 31st March 2025.

12) Precept – to resolve to set the precept based on the agreed budget. Cllr. Purser proposed a precept of £12,220. Resolved; all in favour by show of hands.

13) Internal Auditor – to resolve to appoint Hania Lee of Lee Accounting as Council's internal auditor for 2023/2024. Resolved and Hania Lee has been appointed.

District Cllr. Swain arrived. Informed Council that the backlog in planning at Teignbridge is now being addressed.

14) Policies – to consider and approve.

- a. A grant giving policy with criteria and a proposed application form for grants – circulated prior to this meeting. Cllr. Purser proposed this is not considered at this time. All agreed.
- b. A reserves policy – circulated prior to this meeting. Resolved to adopt.
- c. Internal Control Policy – to agree this policy is fit for purpose. Agreed.

15) Replacement Clerk - To appoint Tamsin Mowat as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Bridford Parish Council from 1st February 2024. Cllr. Gallagher proposed acceptance; all agreed by show of hands.

16) Santander bank account – to resolve to change the account operator on the business account in order for the parish council to access the monies held in this account. Cllr. Padgham has been in touch with the relationship team on this matter and progress could be made within 2 to 6 weeks.

17) Clerk's report (for information only)

- i) The Village Hall committee are hiring in 2 hour slots from now on, with the exception of the post office booking which will remain at 1 hour – noted.

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

Pippa asked about the twinning sign and whether the current one could be used – possibly not.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed.....

Date.....

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

Email Information

DALC Bulletin (sent 11/01)

DALC Bulletin 03 (sent 25/01)

1 PC Chair arranged a meeting on 19 January 2024 with Ines Pfister from TDC Highways, and Trudy Cronin and Pip Morrison, Presidents of the Twinning Association to look at Highways approved locations for a commemorative road sign to mark 50 years of Twinning between Bridford and St Vaast sur Seuilles.

This was a useful meeting. The Twinning presidents will be following up on Ines' suggestions and keep PC informed of progress.

There will be no funding available from TDC towards the cost of the Twinning sign or installing it.

There was no response from the Liaison Officer at DCC to an email requesting help towards costs but TDC confirmed DCC did not have any money to offer either.

2 Meeting with Ines Pfister, TDC Highways, also covered the following...

a) Highways were contacted re dangerous situation at the top of Church Lane where there is currently no light and the temporary barrier is broken.

Andy Swain, District Councillor, expressed concern and offered to follow up with Jerry Brook. Andy did not hear back from Jerry and reported no progress on 5th January.

TDC Highways indicated the work on the barrier is scheduled for financial year 2024-25. No funding is available before this date.

b) Chair contacted TDC Highways separately re the broken light. Reassurance was given this would be followed up. Cllr Topley reported last week the light had been fixed.

c) TDC Highways would like to attend March PC meeting to talk about further planned roadworks on Pound Lane.

d) TDC Highways reported 2 grids and the chamber at the bottom of Pound Lane have all been cleared. Hopefully there will be no further flooding in this location.

Chair let Highways know about the damaged 'spring flap' also at the bottom of Pound Lane.

e) The finger post opposite Neadon Lane exit onto the valley road is due for repair.

f) The serious potholes on Swanaford Road are caused by water running off surrounding land. TDC Highways have made local land owners aware.

g) TDC would like info re hedge cutting included in Unity under the PC report...Ines Pfister to contact PC when she has drafted info.

h) Highways suggested it is good practice to swap the '20s plenty' signs around every 12 months to prevent sign blindness.

3 The planned meeting on 10 December 2023 with Anne Mayes, snow warden, and some of the snow team volunteers including Dave H, Jarrod, Andy H, Andy B, Nige and Mike went ahead at the farm. Most of the snow team and Anne were happy to head to the Bridford Inn after the meeting and enjoyed a well earned 'thank you' drink provided by the Parish Council. Unfortunately Dom, Matt

and Joe were unable to join us at the pub but the PC would want them to know just how much their efforts, to keep the roads of Bridford clear of frost, ice and snow, are appreciated by the whole community.

Mike found two spare parts for the gritter and feels these parts will be sufficient to keep the gritter going for now. He no longer needs extra parts to be ordered from Glaston.

Anne has ordered some more grit for the gritter.

At the beginning of January, with encouragement from Anne, another snow team volunteer stepped forward...James. Many thanks James.

4 Bridford PC advertisement for a new clerk attracted considerable interest and a couple of strong applications.

PC Chair and Deputy Chair held interviews for the post on 19 January 2024.

Tamsin Mowat was offered and accepted the post.

Penny Clapham, Locum Chair, very kindly offered to support Tamsin and ensure a smooth transition.

Huge thanks to Penny for stepping in when Bridford PC needed a Clerk and supporting the PC for a considerable period of time.

And warm welcome to Tamsin. We are delighted Tamsin accepted the offer to join us.

5 Wildlife Wardens' report has been received but too late to be included on the agenda for January's meeting. Report to be included on March agenda so PC can make a decision re proposals for managing the verges.

Wardens' very positive comments re Graham's mowing and verge maintenance are welcome and noted. Chair and Lucy Smerdon are liaising re possible tree planting project in Playpark to involve local residents and replace the silver birch that failed to survive in 2023.

6 The Parish Plan meeting has been arranged for 1st February 2024 at 7pm at the Bridford Inn. Judy Topley has kindly offered to lead the review and update the PP.