

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 4th March, 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Padgham (Chairman); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Marriott; Cllr. Topley; 5 members of the public; Tamsin Mowat (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 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 raised - Neadon Lane; road dropping away and puddle and pothole causing water – member of the public to send photos and details.

Parishioner raised Bridford Hill – seems to be in a good state - why is it being re-marked for repair? (See Highways update below)

Parishioner asked about April road closure 12th-16th – will they be working overnight and at weekends? (see Highways update below)

Parishioner raised village roads unsuitable for heavy farm and timber vehicles on road up above Village Hall (unnamed road) – cracks appearing on roads and deteriorating, and water supply runs underneath so vulnerable.

Parishioner queried verges – can we agree to do the same thing this year? Needs to be an agenda item for a decision to be made. Needs to be agreed in April – formal decision to be made and sent to Lucy. Graham needs to know for cutting to start in the next few weeks. Butts Close – daisies to be planted to enhance the area.

Parishioner reported that the signpost at Sevenacres has been repaired – Woodland Park undertook the work.

Cllr. Purser updated on Parishioner query from last meeting - fence on the footpath at the back of Pynes - Dartmoor National Park to sort out repair

2) Apologies For Absence: District Cllr. Swain, County Cllr. Jerry Brook and Ines Pfister from DCC Highways. 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) Ines Pfister from DCC Highways to update on Highways – apologies sent

From Highways Community liaison – Pound Lane to be closed for up to 2 days w/c 11th March to patch and full redressing due in April as part of countywide programme of repairs (see details below at end of minutes).

Issues raised to report back to Ines at DCC Highways:
Lights and fingerposts around village need to be fixed

Spring plate at bottom of the hill on Pound Lane
Higher Spring on Pound Lane opposite the quarry – near Kiln House
Smithacott Cross – sign needs repairing
Laployd Cross – sign broken and needs repairing
Hole Hill – outside Poole Farmhouse – bridge with a hole in
Question: is there a statutory duty to keep the roads clean from mud? Hole Hill very muddy. Three field shelters in the field on Hole Hill (halfway up on the right, before Lower Hole). Raise query for enforcement officer.
Openreach closure of the village Road 19th-21st March
Notice needed for people to know about Openreach and Highways updates – Cllr. Topley to create posters with details to be put up on the Parish Council noticeboard.
Cllr. Padgham to report issues back to Ines at DCC Highways.

5) District and County Councillor Reports –

District Councillor Swain’s report (in his absence) - at end of minutes

One Teignbridge Strategy – details of how to contribute to shaping the approach of the District Council

District Councillor Purser’s report – at end of minutes

Also, Cllr. Purser has reiterated to TDC that Bridford Parish Council would like to take over ownership of the play park

6) Chairman’s Report (for information only) – attached to the end of these minutes.

7) Minutes –the Minutes of the meeting held on the 29th January 2024 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

PLANNING

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

None this month

Planning Decisions

None this month

FINANCE

Expenditure

Locum Clerk expenses January £281.25 – BACS

Clerk/RFO Salary February £325.92 – BACS

Bank Reconciliation and Statement circulated prior to this meeting.

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

8) Co-option of potential new councillor

Discussion about application. All agreed strong application and would add value to the Council. Cllrs. Topley and Gallagher proposed and all in agreement. Clerk to contact candidate officially and invite to next meeting in April.

9) Discuss posting minutes as draft or final copy to website and Parish noticeboard

Discussion around when is best to post minutes after each meeting and whether to post as draft or final.

Decision: Cllr. Purser proposed and all agreed – update website and Facebook with top three items of public interest and then send final minutes out once agreed at following meeting. Post final approved minutes to website and noticeboard after next meeting. Keep Facebook and website as Parish Council info, turn commenting off, clerk only to post with updates from meetings.

10) Village Hall update

The PC received a request from the VH Management Committee regarding the wording in respect of registration of the Village Hall. The request was considered by the Councillors, along with VH Meeting Notes provided by Councillor Topley, further information from ACRE and alternative information available online referred to by Councillor Purser. It was agreed the Solicitors are the legal experts, they have all the paperwork pertaining to this specific situation including the purchase documentation and Trustee deeds. Therefore, the Parish Council feels they should be guided by them. A response was decided upon and this will be sent to the VH Chair.

11) ROSPA play park annual safety check – time for the annual check – last year's was 9th March

Clerk to contact Rospa – see details from Cllr. Topley

Cllr. Purser raising ownership of play park with TDC – Bridford Parish Council would like to take over ownership

Replacement bin queried – wait until ownership of play park determined

12) Parish Council printer

Printer not working properly despite running maintenance programmes and currently unable to print; Clerk looking into possible repair at Cartridge World or cost of a replacement if not repairable.

Cllr. Purser has proposed Clerk to buy a new one and all agreed – HP monitor and get supplies sent; re-supply of ink and paper £100 budget and ink and paper costs monthly

13) Email hosting cost increased from £18 to £20

Not clear from email whether annually or monthly – Clerk to check. Carry over to next month for approval.

14) Street naming survey from Teignbridge – survey closes 11th March

Traditionally TDC have followed the recommendations of Town and Parish Councils in street naming in their area. Changes to the policy can be found on TDC website along with the survey. Town and Parish councils have been asked for their input.

Cllr. Padgham to complete survey on behalf of Parish Council.

15) Free portrait of King Charles III for Town and Parish councils – need to apply by 28th March

Cllr. Topley proposed and all agreement. Clerk to order.

16) Devon devolution deal - public consultation running until 24th March – see DCC website for more information

Clerk's report (for information only)

- a. Website – updating of Parish Council pages to be taken on by Clerk rather than Jarrod. Jarrod has sent invoices for third party hosting fees; invoices to be presented at next meeting in April. Check where email on website goes to – currently Jarrod but will this be clerk? Clerk to check.
- b. Parish Council Facebook page
We currently don't have one; would we like one or are we happy to post directly to the Teign Valley page? Clerk to set up for information only and direct people to it – no commenting – contact Clerk directly for any queries – at email address not private messaging

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

Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Email information:

- Councillor application form
- Village Hall ownership notes
- Street naming survey
- Devon Devolution Deal
- DALC Bulletins (08 and 09) sent by email 2/3/24

Meeting closed at 8.54pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman's Update for Parish Council Meeting on Monday 4 March 2024:

*1 The query from a resident re the status of the road at EX6 7HS was taken up with Highways who confirmed it was a highway and maintained by them. Therefore all rules and regulations pertaining to highways were relevant. Access needed to be kept clear and the road could not be blocked by parked cars.
PC Chair visited the resident to discuss and provide written feedback.*

*2 The PC footpath warden reported a broken road sign near Seven Acres. Unfortunately the Chair and Councillors were unaware of the exact location so Highways were unable to visit. PC intention was to find out the exact location and make a re-referral to Highways. However, the good news is this has been repaired by the Bridford Trust. Many thanks to them.
Highways followed up on the broken lights in Scattor View and a delighted resident contacted the PC to say the lights were now all working.
Thanks have been passed on to Highways.*

3 the process of closing the Santander Corporate Account hit another delay as the dormant account is so old few of the current Councillors were recognised as signatories. However, the Deputy Chair and Chair were able to sign. We are just waiting for news now that the funds can be accessed and transferred to the PC's new account with Unity Bank.

4 Two more people were contacted re the ongoing PC vacancies and one responded favourably.

The other person was very kind, expressed their appreciation of the work the PC undertook on behalf of the community, but said they were not currently in a position to be able to give up the necessary time.

5 Councillor Topley liaised with an anonymous donor who wanted to make a gift of a colourful bench to the playpark. The bench is much appreciated by the PC and will be enjoyed by many families who visit the playpark. Many thanks to the donor for their thoughtful and generous gift.

6 On behalf of the PC, the Chair was invited to attend an open day on Saturday 2 March at TVCH. It was interesting to meet many of the groups and organisations that use the TVCH. It was also delightful to see Joan Banks, a previous Bridford PC Clerk, who played the piano during the afternoon.

7 Storage of PC paperwork and items (commemorative mugs, book of condolences, etc) is an issue. It would make sense to have a central storage location and avoid storage being linked to an individual. With this in mind maybe 'PC storage' should be a future agenda item, possibly linked to a request the PC ask the VH for a place to locate a secure cupboard?

8 Bridford Chapel is coming up for auction. One resident got in touch to explain she is keen to purchase the Chapel for use as a community asset and turn it into a Community Art Space for All. The resident is seeking financial pledges to help her achieve her goal. Information is available on how you can pledge at [www.kickstarter.com / projects / bridford chapel](http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/bridfordchapel) and will be available at Joan's Coffee Morning in the Village Hall on Saturday 9th March from 10am to midday. The PC are also aware that there are other interested parties with a variety of plans and ideas for how the Chapel can be used going forward.

9 Next to the Chapel, is Bridford Village garden, the location of the newly unveiled Normandy Boy. This was a gift from St Vaast sur Seulles to the village of Bridford and symbol of the enduring friendship, fostered through a thriving Twinning Association, between the two villages. The Normandy Boy is a delightful and welcome addition to the garden.

District Councillor Swain's report dated 2/3/24 for information:

TDC are reviewing the council strategy, the priorities that underpin all decision making. I think there is a need to improve engagement with the community and we are working to become more of a "Community powered council".

TDC are running a series of workshops to hear from the community how this can best work including one at Tedburn St Mary Village Hall on Tuesday 16 April from 10am - 12pm.

The 10 two hour workshops are an opportunity for local people to help shape the One Teignbridge strategy and TDC is offering a £25 Love2Shop gift voucher as a thank you.

If you can, please complete the availability survey by next Friday (8 March). We want to hear your views.

There is also the business specific One Teignbridge survey which runs until 29 March.

TDC Purser's report for information

Queen street pedestrianisation in Newton Abbot with the row still going on with several heated meetings. Full council did vote for the scheme to continue but watch this space.

Teignbridge council voted to petition government directly to save Teignmouth hospital from closure.

More information on the Devon Torbay devolution deal which now with the detail does not look beneficial to the Disticts with little or no say or vote on what happens with yet another layer of bureaucracy.

Changing places fund has provided £200,000 for disabled toilet upgrades at three sites in Newton Abbot and Dawlish.

And on the lighter side Teignbridge is running a competition for children to name the new recycling baler. See website for details and also for job opportunities.

DCC Highways report from Ines Pfister for information in her absence:

Please can you let the Parish know that Pound Lane patching works are occurring this month as per One.Network. I have requested that the road is ploughed and cleaned before hopeful (weather dependant) surface dressing in April. Our public liaison officer is aware of the works, and is hopefully working with residence, bus companies and business to mitigate potential disruption.

DCC Highways further information on road patching work from Highways community liaison officer:

Early next week, (w/c 11th March 2024) Pound Lane will be closed for a maximum of up to 2 days to allow some Post Winter Patching to take place. These works will involve gate people to allow access for residents directly affected and there will be a fully signed diversion via the lower road in Christow, as per the works in 2023. These works do not appear to be large in terms of area and we will try to keep disruption to a minimum. These post winter works are being completed ahead of the surface dressing programme which will commence in early April countywide.

Looking at Kiely our contractors latest schedule, they plan to use the largest machinery available to them called the "Maintrain". Kiely have applied for a 5 day closure, however, works can be done much quicker than that, and this 5 day window allows for any bad weather. Looking at the latest schedule, the works are programmed in for 12th April as the middle site of the day (starting in Ogwell and moving to north of Okehampton afterwards). Obviously a lot depends on the weather in April, and if the schedule which starts on 2nd April moves I will be in touch accordingly. Once completed it is actively encouraged to be driven on. Once completed this will prolong the life of the road for up to 20 years and should mean that we don't have to return anytime soon.

In terms of buses, despite all the efforts of last year, the taxi service was not a success and not used and will not be implemented this time. School buses I will arrange for the same location as before with that team for collection and drop off on the Teign Valley Road.

Cllr. Topley

Parish Plan in hand but delayed

Defibrillator – battery has been replaced but out of action due to pads – due to be replaced – Clerk has this in hand

VILLAGE HALL MEETING – MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2024

NOTES REGARDING VH OWNERSHIP FOR INFO AND TO INFORM DISCUSSION AT NEXT PC MEETING

1. VH Committee agreed to contact PC Chair prior to PC meeting on Monday March 4th 2024 with feedback from meeting to inform discussion
2. VH Chair has been in touch with ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) for guidance and advice on the matter
3. This is the reply from ACRE:

The Parish Council are the Custodian Trustees and hold the legal title as a corporate body. They do not own it in the sense that we understand home ownership for instance. If the Parish Council go ahead with the Land Registration then they must ensure that the entry is clear. There are many cases where the registration has been done incorrectly by the Parish Council and caused problems with matters of ownership in the future. Solicitors have had to be engaged to make the necessary changes. So the entry must state: Bridford Parish Council as holding (or custodian as appropriate) trustee(s) of Bridford village hall.

Notes by Judy Topley (Bridford Parish Council councillor) –
February 27th 2024

No other reports from Councillors