

## **Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present** – Cllr. Topley (Chairman); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Marriott.; Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce, 2 members of the public; Tamsin Mowat (Clerk)

Meeting opened at 7.15am

### **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.

Maps from Parish Council records – need to be checked with West Country Records office and see if they'd like them and if not, then ask Jan Deane of the Teign Valley History Group to digitise them and decide what to do with originals – pub might like them? Cllr. Topley to bring copy of map of Bridford to each meeting for reference for planning and footpaths. Dan Tidball, Footpath Warden has walked all the footpaths in the parish in the last month and state of paths is generally poor. Formal letter of thanks to be sent to the Tuckers for help with repairs to one path. Cllr. Topley to contact West Country Records office.

Dan Tidball also reported that there are two trees down in Westcott Wood but rare birds in the woodland are preventing trimming - law is to wait until 31<sup>st</sup> August after the nesting season.

**2) Apologies For Absence:** Andy Swain, District Councillor – report sent in absence

**3) Minutes** – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Cllr. Purser proposed approval and all in agreement - Chair signed.

**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

### **5) District and County Councillor Reports**

Summarised here - see full text at end of minutes and on website

Report from District Councillor, Andy Swain - Broadband improvements in Teign Valley – Parish Council in full support – copper wire connections are archaic and many properties in Bridford and Christow and beyond are affected.

Cllr. Purser – new Chair and Deputy Chair of TDC and also new committees are in place – some have been combined. Quiet due to election process.

### **6) Chair's Report (for information only)**

Summarised here and see full report at the end of the minutes and on the website

Thanks to all those who keep the Parish running

Two vacancies for Parish Councillors currently

Thanks to Highways for mending barriers at the top of School Lane

Thanks to Seven Acres Farm for clearing the footpath near Westcott and filling gateways along the Moretonhampstead road

Village Welcome Book has been updated

Storage for Parish Council records has been put in Village Hall and an inventory created

## **7) PLANNING**

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

0196/24 – Replacement store/workshop at Higher Pooks, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JA

0211/23 - Variation of condition 2 of approved planning: loft conversion/roof rebuild, and internal/external alterations at Higher Pooks, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JA

Cllr. Purser proposed to support both and Cllr. Marriott seconded

Cllr. Gallagher - no information received as yet about Robertsacre appeal – Clerk to follow up with Dartmoor Planning to ask for an update.

## **Planning Decisions**

0123/24 - Two agricultural buildings, one for livestock and one for agricultural storage, Barytes, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JD – Conditional Planning Permission granted

Cllr. Gallagher added that it was with the condition of wastewater removal – this could be relevant to other planning applications so is worth taking note of.

## **8) FINANCE**

### **Expenditure**

Clerk's salary – £325.92 standing order

Clerk's homeworking expenses - £6 per week by standing order

Invoice for Clerk's additional hours (noted on expenditure, approved and paid in May) - £61.11 BACS

Clerk's additional hours for AGAR preparation - £112 – BACS

Internal auditor invoice – Hania Lee - £108 - BACS

Bank Reconciliation and Statement

Council to resolve to accept the accounts.

Cllr. Marriott proposed to accept accounts and Cllr. Purser seconded.

**9) Internal Audit Report** – to note no issues raised by the internal auditor. Cllr. Gallagher proposed and Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce seconded.

**10) Certificate of Exemption** – to resolve to agree the Certificate of Exemption. Cllr. Gallagher proposed and Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce seconded.

**11) Annual Governance Statement** – to resolve to agree the Annual Governance Statement is accurate. Cllr. Gallagher proposed and Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce seconded.

**12) Annual Accounting Statement** – to resolve to agree the Annual Accounting Statement is accurate. Cllr. Purser proposed and Cllr. Marriott seconded.

**13) Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Council's accounts** – to resolve to agree the dates of publication on the website from 14<sup>th</sup> June until 26<sup>th</sup> July, thus covering 30 working days and including the

first 14 days of July as required by law. Cllr. Purser and Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce seconded.

Cllr. Topley thanked the Clerk for all her work on the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

**14) Asset register** – updated and needs approval – Cllr. Gallagher proposed and Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce. Clerk to post to website.

**15) New councillor application** – discuss and agree outcome of application – Cllr. Gallagher proposed to appoint, Cllr. Marriott seconded and all in agreement. Clerk to send policies by email and sign agreement at July meeting.

**16) Locality funding from DCC** – agree if we want to apply and what the money should be spent on. Acorn interested – Cllr. Topley proposed and Cllr. Marriott seconded that we apply on behalf of Acorn – all in agreement. Support for Carers in the village has been discussed previously; could this be added in as part of the agreement? Clerk to look into this with Acorn.

**17) Play park** – fencing, hedge, goals, bench and tree planting (DCC initiative) – update from Cllrs. Topley and Ashenden-Pearce and agree actions. Cllr. Topley has followed up with TDC about the fence we were concerned about – passed it to the property department and next time they are in the area they will check and reply. Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce there on a regular basis to check safety and condition of play park. Growth of grass on the basketball court and picnic benches need replacing. Position of goal posts and netting needs to be considered. Play park gate doesn't close quickly enough – potential safety issue. Parking across the gate is still an issue – sign has been removed. Councillor visit to the park to take place to decide next steps. Children's voice needed – incorporate into the Parish Council fete stall. Clerk to contact Christow School for children in Bridford to say what they would like to see at the play park. Cllr. Ashenden Pearce to look at cost of new benches (check DCS and Solway) and report back. Cllr. Gallagher suggested we could ask Jerry Brook at DCC if the Locality Fund could be used to upgrade the play park – fencing, hedges, goals, benches and tree planting. Clerk to follow up with Jerry Brook. Cllr. Gallagher raised that parking in the village is generally a problem. Can we think creatively about how we support residents? Charging points? Cllr. Topley suggested it could be discussed at Three Parish Meeting. Plan needed for play park improvements - Clerk to put on September agenda.

**18) Road safety around the village** – 20 is plenty signs, lighting and speed warning sign – consider next steps and agree actions. Discussion over issues such as timing of streetlights, safety, speeding and possible solutions including solar lighting, reflective tape on signs, sensors for street lights, digital speed reminder sign, new speed reminder signs: 'think child' type ones for phone box and path to Oxen Gate. Cllr. Gallagher to look into cost of signs and having a canvas sign printed.

Clerk to contact DCC Lighting team to report lights that don't work, ones that are on at odd hours and potential for timers. Cllr. Topley suggested putting piece in Unity regarding speeding and ask for opinions at public consultation at Village Fete stall in July. Clerk to put lighting on September agenda to follow up.

**19) Road Warden scheme** – discuss and agree whether to pursue or not – Clerk reported no response from Unity article. Cllr. Topley proposed that we don't pursue – Cllr. Purser seconded and all in agreement.

**20) Councillor training** – code of conduct and new/refresher councillor courses – to be agreed who will attend and when. Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce to attend new Councillor training – Clerk to send dates. No current need for code of conduct training across the board as new councillor training previously attended. Cllr. Purser suggested that any Councillor who feels they would like further training can request it. Code of conduct is sensible and you can follow it. Clerk sent round NALC Good Councillor guide by email previously. Cllr. Topley recommended that new Councillors attend Being a Good Councillor sessions 1-4.

**21) Battery safety bill** for discussion and decision over whether to support – Cllr. Purser proposed and all in agreement. Clerk to reply to say in support.

**22) Meeting dates** - to discuss and agree meeting dates for 2025 – consider meetings every 2 months rather than monthly for 10 months of the year. Cllr. Topley proposes sticking to first Monday of month unless Bank Holiday and Cllr. Purser seconded – Clerk to send dates round to all Councillors and update website.

### **23) Clerk's report (for information only)**

Three Parish Meeting update – ideas for discussion at Three Parish meeting - Dark skies, EV charging points, involving young people  
Santander account update; account now closed and confirmation letter received

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

Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce – Community WhatsApp group – to launch at Fete – Clerk's new mobile phone number to be up and running by meeting 1<sup>st</sup> July

**Items for Information** - The next council meeting will be on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce sent apologies for next meeting.

### **Meeting closed at 20.59**

District Councillor's report, June 2024 - Andy Swain, TDC

*The pre-election period has now started. TDC will not be starting any new projects and the councillor's community fund is closed until after the election.*

*As a result, things are fairly quiet in TDC, though most councillors are quite busy. I am pleased to see that my colleague Cllr Suzanne Sanders from the Neighbouring ward of Chudleigh has been successful in bringing an item to the overview and scrutiny committee asking them to look at the progress of rolling out broadband in the rural areas of Teignbridge. This is an important issue especially in the Teign Valley, and I am keen to support this work and await the outcome with interest.*

*Provision of broadband is not a function of TDC, but the purpose is to assess progress, see if adequate progress is being made, and suggest any action TDC can take to improve it. I am interested to hear the Parish Council view on this issue.*

Chair's report from Councillor Topley, June 2024

*This is my first report as Chair and I am very pleased to say that some of the things I was going to report on have been covered by attendees at the Annual Parish Meeting or are on tonight's agenda for discussion*

*The Parish Council itself is small and relies very much on the knowledge, goodwill and expertise of those living in the parish. We are still in need of two more co – opted councillors so let's continue to put the word around  
Leftover from the last meeting are thanks being due to Highways for mending the barriers at the top of School Lane  
Also thanks go to Seven Acres Farm for clearing the footpath near Westcott and filling gateways along the Moretonhampstead road*

*The village Welcome Book has been updated and is nearly ready for circulation – just one hiccup with the layout to be sorted*

*I have contacted Graham Dicker re Insurance certificate for mowing the verges and am awaiting his reply  
Parish Council paperwork is now securely ensconced in the office in the Village Hall and an inventory has been made; an extra key has been cut*

*The Parish Council stall at the Bridford Fete on July 13th: a meeting will happen soon, so any ideas, please let me know by Monday June 24<sup>th</sup>. We have received a thank you letter from Jennifer Padgham which I will circulate now.*