

## **Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

**Present** – Cllr. Topley (Chair); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Marriott, Cllr. Symons; 1 member of the public; Tamsin Mowat (Clerk)

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

### **1) PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Parishioner raised issue of Bridford's water supply, after the recent contamination issue in Brixham, and would like South West Water (SWW) to be contacted by Parish Council as the water supply is in a corner of a field surrounded by cattle. Clerk to contact SWW and report back by next meeting in September.

Parishioner also raised that Pound Lane hedges are growing so fast. Clerk to email Ines Pfister at DCC Highways to ask for safety cut for Pound Lane again.

Parishioner reported that, after a conversation with local waste contractors, compostable bags are not helpful for compostable waste as they get stuck in the composter; alternatives such as newspaper, etc should be used. Clerk to add to Unity magazine piece for August.

**2) Apologies For Absence:** Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce, Cllr. Gallagher and Cllr. Swain – all apologies accepted.

**3) Minutes** – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 and the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 also. Cllr. Purser proposed and Cllr. Marriott seconded.

**4) Declarations Of Interest:** None.

**5) Welcome to Sean Symons as new Parish Councillor** – Cllr. Topley welcomed Sean and he joined the meeting, having signed the declaration of acceptance before the meeting. Clerk to send Cllr. Symons new Councillor training dates, email details to set up and add to Councillors mailing list and Cllr. Marriott to add to Councillors' WhatsApp group.

**6) District and County Councillor Reports – summarised here and full text available on the website**

District Cllr. Purser reported on the proposed refurbishment of Queen Street in Newton Abbot. Otherwise all relatively quiet due to the election.

County Cllr. Brook arrived at 7.13pm

Devon County Council (DCC) report on concerns over Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) overspend and impact on children and young people. Highways issues around resurfacing on B3193 Valley Road. Clerk to meet with Ines in September to discuss all outstanding Highways issues.

**7) Chair's Report (for information only) - summarised here and full report available on the website**

Cllr. Topley reported on fete preparations, plans for the play park and lighting issues

### **8) PLANNING**

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

## Applications:

0236/24 - Retrospective application to retain engineering works associated with existing farmyard at Westcott Dairy Road from Plaston Green to Plaistow Green, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7EJ – no objections noted

0250/24 - To retain an existing mobile home as permanent accommodation for an agricultural worker at Seven Acre Farm, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7AR – no objections as long as retained for an agricultural worker and if need for this was no longer there it should be removed – should be tied to this as a condition

## Decisions:

Robertsacre appeal decisions - appeals against enforcement notices:

C/22/3311960 – The Sheep Shed, Land at Robertsacre Farm, Bridford, EXETER, Devon, EX6 7HH - allowed

C/22/3311959 - The Sheep Shed, Land at Robertsacre Farm, Bridford, EXETER, Devon, EX6 7HH – allowed

C/22/3311610 - The Old Parlour, Land at Robertsacre Farm, Bridford, EXETER, Devon, EX6 7HH – dismissed

C/22/3311609 - The Old Parlour, Land at Robertsacre Farm, Bridford, EXETER, Devon, EX6 7HH – dismissed

## **9) FINANCE**

### **Expenditure**

Clerk's salary – £325.92 standing order

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

Clerk's mobile phone – retrospective approval £99.99 The IOulet - BACS to Clerk as paid on CC

Clerk's SIM and data plan - £0.49 x 3 months then £3.99 per month thereafter – SIM only and Lebara plan per month – set up Standing Order to Clerk as paid on Credit Card

Microsoft renewal £59.99 – BACS to Clerk as paid on Credit Card

Key for safe storage box in Village Hall – to Judy Topley BACS £5.95

Printer ink to Judy Topley – £43.69- BACS

Bank Reconciliation and Statement

Council to resolve to accept the accounts.

**10) A year in the life of Bridford – 2025 celebration book suggestion** – decision to be made with regards funding for book – a huge undertaking – who will do the pieces and photos? How much funding is needed? Could potentially support in principle with a reimbursable contribution. We need further information in order to make a decision. Cllr. Topley to contact Corinna Medland to discuss details. Clerk to carry over to September agenda.

**11) 20 mph speed limit campaign for Dartmoor towns and villages** – Moretonhampstead Chair's letter – decision to be made whether to support campaign – Cllr. Topley found draft resolution from 2022 which was sent to DCC – issue has been previously raised with DCC. All agreed happy to support again – Clerk to let Clerk at Moretonhampstead know and send previous letter.

**12) Clerk's working hours and contracted hours** – decision to be made with regards contracted hours and additional hours. Cllr. Topley proposed that we agree to 30 hours per month, as recommended by the Society of Local Council Clerks for a parish of this size and range of amenities, as the contracted hours and amend the contract accordingly - seconded by Cllr. Purser. Cllr. Topley to conduct appraisal on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July – subject to a satisfactory outcome of this meeting, Cllr. Topley proposed that new hours begin on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 (the day after probationary period ends). Noted that it is common practice for Clerks to claim additional hours for the extra work for the AGAR each year. All agreed. Clerk to draft letter to be signed by

Cllr. Topley to thank Penny Clapham, Locum Clerk for her support in her role as mentor to current Clerk during her probationary period.

**13) Allotment judging** – a decision to be made for issuing the prize – suggestion that Lucy Smerdon as Wildlife Warden to be judge. Decision for Clerk to ask Lucy to go and judge this year's allotments in the beginning of August and contact Cllr. Topley.

**14) Clerk's report (for information only)**

Website updated fully with finances, meeting dates and policies. Notice of casual vacancy for last remaining Councillor vacancy is currently up and co-option possible after 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

Locality funding application update – deadline is February 2025. Cllr. Topley and Clerk to meet with Acorn to put plan together on their behalf. Play park refurbishment costings need to be agreed at September meeting – Clerk to add to agenda. Liaise with Sam, Clerk at Moretonhampstead – need to look into Ned Care; would they support? Clerk to inform and keep in touch with Jerry at DCC to let him know figures following meeting in September.

Lighting update

Highways update – Clerk to agree meeting date with Ines for September

Financial report for first quarter – Councillors to let me know any feedback

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

WhatsApp for Village Fete – Cllr. Ashenden Pearce – Cllr. Topley to follow up with him

**Items for Information** - The next council meeting will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7pm in the Village Hall. (There is no meeting in August.)

Meeting closed at 8.32pm

Information by email:

DALC bulletin #24 (sent on 13/06/24)

Moretonhampstead enquiry on 20 mph speed limit (sent 13/06/2024)

Planning decision - Robertsacre appeals (sent 18/06/24)

Planning application 0236/24 (sent 18/06/24)

NALC bulletin (sent 20/06/24)

Planning application 0250/24 (sent 20/06/24)

DALC bulletin #26 (sent 26/06/24)

NALC newsletter (sent 26/06/24)

## County Cllr. Brook's report for July 2024

*Special Educational Needs budget concerns. £160 million currently – Government have dealt with half of it. £20 million put aside in February to support it. County still left with huge overspend and major concerns exist for the future support of children and young people and the service they will receive in the future. One of the agreements made with the Government was the financial plan for the future to spend within budgetary restraints which is a big ask as the number of young people requiring specialist assistance has increased and will continue to do so and some need really specialist help. Okehampton and Dawlish facilities for residential SEND have increased bed space. Concern is that staying within budget means that some people in the future may not get the same level of service.*

*Highways – B3193 Valley Road through the Teign Valley which serves our parish and the others in the valley - concerns over deterioration of surfacing. Worth trying to apply pressure with other local parish councils to try and get the resurfacing done before the winter. Put on the agenda for the Three Parish Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July if it goes ahead. Clerk to contact Ines Pfister at Highways to report and request further action and contact Clerk at Dunsford re. agenda for Three Parish Meeting. Cllr. Purser added that Highways did a good job on Pound Lane resurfacing but that we raised the issue of the spring plate at the bottom of Pound Lane where it meets the Valley Road and it still hasn't been repaired properly and will freeze come the winter. Cllr. Brook agreed.*

### *Chair's report for information only*

*Following the annual meeting and the annual parish meeting it feels like things are beginning to settle down.*

*The fete stall is coming along, with ideas from a range of sources, so far: Councillor photographs and contact details, request for one new co-opted councillor, children's area for consultation, especially re the play park: setting up a Playpark committee – young parents/carers and parent/carers with young children, launch of community WhatsApp group, consultation re speeding in the village, consultation re two community initiatives: summer and winter, copies of the National register of 1939 for the village*

*We have a new councillor who is most welcome. We now just need one more co-opted person to complete the council. We'll continue to put the word around in as many ways as possible.*

*The Play Park is in need of some attention at the moment. A wildlife area has been left, following mowing, which we intend for the sake of health and safety to ask the contractor to mow; we are waiting to hear from Teignbridge District Council property department about the fencing; bamboo has been spreading in one corner, so to prevent it becoming pervasive it is to be cut down; a councillor visit will be arranged to discuss football posts and their positioning, gate closure difficulties and the siting of a new no parking sign; funding for a new picnic table is being sought through a community fund; our clerk is in discussion with Teignbridge District Council regarding the costs of emptying the litter bin which has led to on-going discussion about the management of the play park versus the ownership of it; some preservation work needs to be done on the fort/slide equipment.*

*Liaison with Bridford Wildlife Wardens has begun and there will be an agenda item in September. This will include talks about the planting ideas for the Playpark. The information leaflet for the telephone box is ready to be fixed up; actually a more awkward process than was initially envisaged!*

*Lighting in the village has been discussed, through consultation last year, general feedback from parishioners and with reference to the dark skies initiative. Some lights in the village are on all the time, some don't work and in some places there are too many. I intend after the summer to liaise with streetlighting on these issues: currently they are too busy to make a site visit so I will gather specific information before getting in touch with them again*

*Repair work has been carried out on the allotments and a thank you letter sent out to Mr Hawkins who mended the water leak and standpipe so promptly.*

*I have been regularly attending Village Hall Meetings as an observer. The bottom hall is being redecorated over the summer, after which the King's portrait will go up.*

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Bridford Parish Council