

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 2nd September 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Topley (Chair); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Marriott, Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce, Cllr. Symons, 8 members of the public; Tamsin Mowat (Clerk)

Meeting opened at 7.00pm

Agenda item	Action	Owner
<p>1) Public Discussion:</p> <p>Parishioners raised the following issues which were discussed, and actions agreed upon: passing on thanks for the grass cutting in the allotments, hedge cutting on Pound Lane and Stone Lane at junctions due to visibility issues (responsibility of landowners and Parish Council), Tick Lane closure affecting the bus to Bridford, field shelters that have been erected in fields close to Poole.</p> <p>The Footpath Warden raised that in the Woodland Trust at Westcott Wood the trees have been trimmed as promised. Fence falling down on footpath between Welcombe/Pooks and the back road to Christow. Cllr. Purser contacted DNP Ranger and they will get the fence posts replaced to straighten up the fence. Paths responsibility of DNP but hedges responsibility of landowner so can be trimmed by Footpath Warden.</p> <p>A parishioner raised land they'd recently purchased with two others on Pound Lane – between Seven Views and the Lime Kiln. 8 acres smallholding with a view to starting a micro dairy and increase production to be producing local food. Also import and sell scythes and do courses in scything. Parishioners welcome to look around. Planning permission put in for a barn. Looking for affordable accommodation locally.</p>	<p>Thanks to be passed on to Graham</p> <p>Raise hedge cutting for visibility with Ines Pfister, DCC Highways</p> <p>Follow up with DNPA planning officer re. further field shelters as previously raised</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2) Apologies For Absence: District Cllr. Andrew Swain</p>		
<p>3) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1st July 2024. Approved and signed.</p>	<p>Post minutes to website</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>4) Declarations Of Interest: Cllr. Symons declared an interest in West Down Farm planning decision</p>		
<p>5) Allotment judging results and cup presentation to winners – Stephen Smerdon presented the cup to the winners Andy and Lynne Bornemisza</p>		
<p>6) District and County Councillor Reports Cllr. Purser – August very quiet. Audit meeting of TDC accounts has taken place. County Cllr. Jerry Brook: August recess of the Council. Discussed locality funding application and local road closures. (Full report at end of minutes and on website)</p>		
<p>7) Chairman’s Report (for information only) Chair reported back on public consultation about the play park at the Bridford Village Fete (full report at end of minutes and on the website).</p>	<p>TVCH meeting minutes to be available on website</p>	<p>Clerk to check</p>

<p>8) PLANNING</p> <p>Planning Applications - Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications:</p> <p><u>Applications:</u> 0275/24 - Erection of roof over existing livestock yard at Seven Acre Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7AR – no objections – ideal opportunity for solar panels to be installed on the roof DOC/0361/23 4 5 – Discharge of conditions - Erection of temporary agricultural workers dwelling with associated works - Westcott Dairy Road from Plaston Green to Plaistow Green, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7EJ – no comment 0315/24 - Replace a flat roof with a pitched roof on an existing outbuilding and erect a timber clad potting shed/greenhouse after demolition of an existing greenhouse at Middle Hole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7HU – full planning permission – no objection 0316/24 - Replace a flat roof with a pitched roof on an existing outbuilding and erect a timber clad potting shed / greenhouse after demolition of an existing greenhouse at Middle Hole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7HU – listed building consent – no objection 0344/24 - Timber barn and covered yard at Disused Quarry, South of Pound Lane, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7LQ – no drawings to see what the barn will look like (prior notification) Parishioner’s comment: elevations were submitted to DNPA Planning (hand delivered) but seem to have been lost in the process. Roof tiles proposed for roof. Clerk will email DNP Planning Authority to request elevations.</p> <p>County Cllr. Jerry Brook arrived 19.35</p> <p><u>Decisions:</u> 0196/24 - Replacement store/workshop, Higher Pooks, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JA – conditional planning permission granted 0209/24 - Variation of condition 2 of approved planning ref: 0211/23 - loft conversion/roof rebuild, and internal/external alterations, Higher Pooks, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JA 0017/24 - Establish lawful use certificate of caravan as dwelling – West Down Farm, Moretonhampstead, Newton Abbot, Devon, TQ13 8SJ - certificate issued – Cllr. Symons declared an interest 0275/24 - Erection of roof over existing livestock yard, Seven Acre Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7AR – grant of conditional planning permission</p>	<p>Send planning comments to DNPA Planning dept</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>9) FINANCE</p> <p>Expenditure</p> <p>Clerk’s salary – SO of £325.92 and BACS additional payment of £285.18 for August to total £611.10 and SO of £611.10 from 28th September 2024 onwards, as per the amended contract to be signed here with new hours and salary, as previously agreed at July meeting and which commenced on 1st August 2024 Clerk’s homeworking expenses - £6 per week by standing order Clerk’s SIM and data plan - £0.49 DD Repairs to leaking pipe in allotment - £30.50 BACS (retrospective approval) Clerk’s online finance training course fee – DALC - £36 BACS attended 9th July 2024 (retrospective approval)</p>	<p>Banking and WhatsApp reminders to Councillors to authorise payments</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

<p>Office supplies: stapler, staples, folder, biros, post its, clips - £33.10 by BACS to Clerk as bought on Amazon by CC</p> <p>Village Hall hire for Parish Council meetings January to July 2024 - £112.50 BACS</p> <p>Post Office use of Village Hall January to July 2024 - £174.00 BACS</p> <p>Bank Reconciliations and Statements for July and August 2024.</p> <p>Council to resolve to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Marriott and seconded by Cllr Purser.</p>		
<p>10) Whistleblowing policy – to be approved and adopted. All in agreement.</p>	<p>Upload to website</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>11) Credit Card for expenditure – to agree if we should apply for Unity Bank credit card. £50 fee with £3 per month fee. Discussed pros and cons. All agreed to apply for Unity Credit Card with £500 credit limit.</p>	<p>Apply for Credit Card with Unity Bank</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>12) Objectives of the Council to be agreed for the following year to inform budget planning (budget to be agreed November meeting for January 2025). Clerk’s pension. Councillors to consider objectives and let Clerk and other Councillors know. Play park funding?</p>	<p>Look into Clerk’s pension Check play park funding and bench with Cllr. Brook</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>13) Gov.uk email system – discuss and agree whether to implement and timescale. Discussion around pros and cons. Costs seem to be unclear and amount of work involved. Would need to consider website and emails. Consider security factors and WhatsApp. Consider transparency.</p>	<p>Further research and consider next steps Add to agenda for Three Parishes’ Meeting</p>	<p>Clerk Clerk</p>
<p>14) Play park – plan needed for improvements and Locality Funding application. Cllr. Symons to make repairs to play park gate, remove bin and treat fort. No parking sign on pedestrian gate needed and chat to residents. Clerk to contact Teign Housing re. parking in Butts Close, increase in vehicles, obstructing access to play park – consider dropping kerb for residents to allow parking in front of properties.</p>	<p>Plan for development of park for October meeting</p> <p>Contact Teign Housing re. parking in Butts close</p>	<p>Cllr. Topley and Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce Clerk</p>
<p>15) Hedgerow and wildlife management and tree planting – next steps to be agreed. Lucy Smerdon has sent details to support decision making. Grants and advice to farmers and landowners from DEFRA already in place and up to each individual landowner to decide. Biodiversity action plan - could be written and incorporated into Parish Plan for the land that Parish Council manages in the village. Play park - although making a maze was considered a good idea in principle, the Parish Council has previously agreed to keep grass short to minimise risk of ticks, glass, stones, etc. Free tree scheme still available. Top and end hedges could be reinforced. A planting scheme for the top end that would provide a natural play area for was thought to be an excellent idea. Wildlife warden and Chair will meet about this in due course.</p>	<p>Post article on Hedgerow management to Unity magazine and website</p> <p>Meet with LS to discuss and plan</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Topley</p>
<p>16) Allotment hedge cutting – discuss and decide. Ask Lucy about best way to manage hedges in allotment. Hedge on lane cut by volunteers. Other side needs doing. Clerk to check amount available in allotments fund. Manual cut due to access. c.£250 all in agreement if available in budget.</p>	<p>Check amount available in the budget</p> <p>Ask FL and/or GD</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Topley</p>

17) Volunteering in Teignbridge – Award Ceremony on 15 th November – discuss possibility of nominating a volunteer or organisation from our Parish	To discuss by email at later date	Cllr. Topley
18) Devon and Cornwall police Councillor advocate Scheme – Cllr. Purser to continue as already an advocate.		
19) Three parishes’ meeting – date agreed for Tuesday 15 th October 7-9pm. Cllrs. Topley, Marriott and Purser to attend. Tea, biscuits and sandwiches from Chair’s budget. Cllrs Topley and Marriott will prepare the tea.	Send date to Dunsford and Christow Clerks. Book Village Hall.	Clerk
20) VE Day May 8th - councils are being encouraged to light beacons and lights of peace at 9.30pm - plus parties - decide if the Parish Council wants to be involved.	Carry over to October meeting	Clerk
Clerk’s report for information only South West Water update Highways – Pound Lane, Valley Road, meeting with Ines Pfister from DCC Training attended – Finance course for new Clerks – passwords, credit card and VAT reclaiming and Gov.uk domain VAT claim Welcome book and website Letter of thanks to Penny Clapham Pension scheme	SW water update - summarise and add to end of minutes for website	Clerk
Councillors reports for information only Cllr. Symons - Road down past the new dairy to Westcott: Sat Navs sending people down there but need to be winched out. Sign needed to ask people not to go down there with HGVs – roots growing out of hedges so lane very narrow. What three words: beep.random.instructs Sign at Thorn Cross: items.preparing.everybody	Email Ines at DCC Highways to ask advice	Clerk
Email information DALC bulletins #27-36 (sent 4/7/24-21/08/24) Report on Devon’s village halls (sent 11/07/24) NALC bulletins (sent 11/07/24-14/08/24) Woodland creation proposal Robertsacre (sent 11/07/24) Batteries bill campaign information (sent 16/07/24) Highways update on road patch markings (sent 16/07/24) DNPA Development Management Committee Meeting (sent 18/07/24) DNPA Planning applications (sent 18/07/24-21/08/24) DCC update (sent 26/07/24) Devon and Cornwall Police message via TDC (sent 14/08/24)		
Meeting finished at 21.09 Date of next meeting Monday 7 th October 2024.		

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Bridford Parish Council

County Councillor Jerry Brook's report:

Recess in August so not much going on to report from the Council.

Cllr. Brook asked about Acorn – how funding from the locality funding application might be used. Cllr. Topley explained about the discussion with Acorn was around how to expand their offer for carers for all the local villages from GP Surgery at Christow and surrounding areas to go out and visit carers and increase volunteer visits. Is there any funding for infrastructure? Ned Care does personal care but Acorn doesn't offer that so they complement each other. Cllr. Brook has already agreed to support Ned Care in Northern Dartmoor. Funding available in the region of £800-900. On a past annual basis, how many people have they actually supported in the Teign Valley? People living on their own – this sort of organisation can support. Acorn looking into a bespoke, individualised plan to support them in a care in the community sort of role.

A lot of local disruption with road closures. Council have asked Highways to specify on road closure signs where the closures are so that people can choose other routes.

Chair of Bridford Parish Council's report:

We are very pleased to report that our clerk Tamsin Mowat has successfully passed her probationary period and is now a permanent employee of the Parish Council. We have agreed that annual appraisal will take place every February.

Since the last meeting the allotments have been judged by Lucy and Stephen Smerdon with Lynne and Andy Bornemusza coming away with the cup. Congratulations to them and thanks to the judges.

We have sent our letter of support for the Lithium ion batteries Bill.

We enjoyed Bridford Village Fete in July. We had some interesting conversations and sharing of opinions. A letter was sent to the fete Chair and Committee thanking them for organising such a good day.

Our consultation focus was on the Playpark, about which overall people were very positive. Families liked the BMX track, the zip wire and the fact that there was a reasonably good mix for all ages. We received several queries and suggestions for consideration: more flowers; identifying an area where dogs can be allowed; football posts; monkey bars; a smaller slide for the youngest ones. The latch gate needs repair; a no parking sign on the gate to allow pram and wheelchair access; grass needs cutting everywhere; paint the fort. All suggestions are being considered and repairs are in hand. Cllr Symons has agreed to lead on the gate and the fort, as well as removal of the bin, which is not only a risk hazard but from next financial year TDC have said we would have to pay if we continue to want the bin emptied. As the cost is considered too expensive for a regular commitment, first the bin will simply be removed and a notice provided identifying three bins available for rubbish at the top of Butts Close. Cllr Topley and Lou Lucraft had a working party to cut back invasive bamboo and clean up sheep and bird droppings from under some equipment. Further clean-up of bird droppings is considered to be parental risk at the moment, but purchase of a deterrent to run along the horizontal pole which would prevent birds from alighting is on the list for consideration.

There are a lot of good ideas for the Playpark but at the moment there is a capacity issue so plans will have to be prioritised; a visit is required by identified parish councillors to work out a manageable action plan for Playpark work. I suggest this is combined with a visit from the Wildlife warden to discuss ideas for planting (see agenda item 15)

Other consultation feedback:

Lighting: "I would like the lighting to be turned off between 11pm and 6am". I intend to lead on this as the evenings draw in. Speeding: "I would like a 20mph limit for Moreton Road" from one parishioner

Two people expressed an interest in becoming a councillor, but at the time of writing the first was unable to make a regular commitment to Monday evenings and the other wasn't ready yet

A gym – there was talk of this for the Woodland Park a couple of years ago, but the idea did not materialise "Get up a Skittles Team for the Playpark" for the winter tournament. A parishioner has been trying to organise this but so far has had no luck recruiting.

Speeding in the village was discussed at the last meeting; this is a chronic problem for which there seem to be no clear solutions. There are still three 20s plenty signs to go up; apologies that this job is still outstanding, though it is in hand.

The Welcome Book is now updated. Paper copies are ready to give to our Teign Unity Co-ordinator. Volunteers who deliver Teign Unity are the first to identify and welcome newcomers. Thanks to Nige Skelly who has kindly finalised the booklet and prepared a copy for Bridford Parish Website

TVCH Representation - Joseph Dunkley continues to represent Bridford at the Committee meetings and to forward minutes. A Book Exchange has recently been set up in the hall. Minutes available on Bridford Website.

The Year in the Life Book Proposal has been shelved – parishioner has decided against the project

Update from South West Water regarding a query a Parishioner raised at the July meeting regarding the water tank at Bridford:

1. Details of the regular round of water quality testing

All of our sites are visited on a regular basis and reservoirs are visited weekly by our Water Quality Specialists who sample to ensure the reservoir is operating as expected.

You can also view the local Water Quality Report for your area on our website by inputting your postcode. Please see [Your drinking water | South West Water](#) for more information.

2. Details of the last time the water tank at Bridford was checked and specifically the valve on the tank

As mentioned above, we visit all reservoir sites on a weekly basis alongside additional visits from Site Managers. Furthermore, all mains and valves were surveyed following the Brixham incident to ensure there are no further complications elsewhere on our network. No concerns were raised over the Bridford site.

3. Any details of a site visit and the findings of that visit, if one has been undertaken recently

The findings of our surveys showed no complications with the site in question and all equipment is at a suitable standard for daily operation. We will continue to attend on a regular basis to ensure we are providing clean, safe drinking water.