

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 7th October 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Topley (Chair); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Gallagher; Cllr. Symons, 2 members of the public; Tamsin Mowat (Clerk)

Meeting opened at 7.01pm

Agenda item	Action	Owner
<p>1) Public Discussion: Parishioners raised that: Bus service – return bus from Exeter at 4pm would be useful Snow team – plea for additional volunteers to website and Unity; a good team is in place but a few more needed as some moved away etc.</p> <p>Pound Lane – the hedges that have not been cut is a safety issue. Also raised via Cllr. Marriott by other parishioners. Speed still an issue and parishioners are anxious about this; mental health concern as nerve wracking to drive. Other parishioner raised that cutting back hedges is not opening up full width of the road; but may be a problem with the environment issues. Should be cut back to edge or road; height can be an issue as reduces visibility. Also important to drive to the conditions of the road.</p> <p>Neadon Lane needs cleaning; stones and mud on that make slippery conditions. Drains on Pound Lane all get blocked too. Report again to DCC re. state of the road. Clerk to put reminder in Unity to report on DCC website any Highways issues. Hole Lane to be reported again.</p> <p>Discussion about permissive footpath in the Parish.</p>	<p>Contact Stagecoach , DCC and Country Bus</p> <p>Article in Unity and on website</p> <p>Add Cllr. Topley to WhatsApp group</p> <p>Report to Highways re. safety issue of uncut hedges</p> <p>Report Neadon Lane to DCC Highways</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Snow Warden</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Ashenden Pearce apologies received (unwell); apologies agreed by all and approved. Cllr. Gallagher absent. Cllr. Marriott arrived 7.15pm</p>		
<p>3) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024 – approved and signed</p>	<p>Post minutes to website</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>4) Declarations Of Interest: None</p>		
<p>5) Review action points from previous meeting a) Clerk’s action points – all in hand; Credit Card application and Cllr. Topley Signatory addition ongoing as need to time for banking due to 14-day lockout and b). Councillors’ action points: Plan for play park postponed until after Playpark committee set up in the New Year – JT and JAP; Biodiversity action plan – JT; Allotment hedge cutting – see item 12 below</p>	<p>Apply for Credit Card and addition of Cllr. Topley as signatory</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Topley</p>

	<p>Biodiversity Plan: meet Lucy Smerdon to discuss and add to Parish Plan in February</p> <p>Add Parish Plan to March Agenda</p>	Clerk
<p>6) District and County Councillor Reports – summarised here and full reports available at the end of the minutes and on the website: District Council community fund – funding still available for small projects TDC Strategy out for consultation Devolution deal for Torbay and Devon a concern due to lack of influence for district councils County Council – Acorn application, Devon Highways to decide on new contract, rail issues at Dawlish, rural bus service issues problematic due to differing needs</p>	<p>Find out cost of new bench for play park and let Cllr. Swain know</p>	Clerk
<p>7) Chairman’s Report (for information only) - summarised here and full report available at the end of the minutes and on the website: Cllr. Topley covered recent Councillor training sessions and key learning points, various items in the play park needing repair, clothing bank issues with mould, cheque from Fete received, signage re. HGVs for lane past Westcott Dairy and thanks to Nick Tucker.</p>	<p>Circulate slides from Councillor training</p> <p>Circulate Standing Orders to revisit</p> <p>Item in Unity about Clothing Bank</p> <p>Pay in cheque from Fete</p> <p>Order signs for play park and Westcott Lane</p>	<p>Cllr. Topley</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>8) PLANNING Planning Applications - Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications: <u>Applications</u> 0344/24 - Timber barn and covered yard Disused Quarry South of Pound Lane, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7LQ – no objections. <u>Decisions</u> 0275/24 - Erection of roof over existing livestock yard Seven Acre Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7AR - Grant Conditionally</p>		

<p>DOC/0361/23 4 5 - Erection of temporary agricultural workers dwelling with associated works - Road From Plaston Green To Plaistow Green, Bridford, Exeter - Part Discharged, Part not Discharged</p> <p>0315/24 - Replace a flat roof with a pitched roof on an existing outbuilding Middle Hole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7HU - Grant Unconditionally</p> <p>0316/24 - Replace a flat roof with a pitched roof on an existing outbuilding Middle Hole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7HU - Grant Conditionally</p> <p>0344/24 - Timber barn and covered yard Disused Quarry South of Pound Lane, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7LQ - Prior Approval not required</p> <p>Cllr. Brook arrived at 19.48</p> <p>Cllr. Swain arrived at 19.59</p>		
<p>9) FINANCE</p> <p>Expenditure</p> <p>Clerk's salary - £611.10 SO</p> <p>Clerk's homeworking expenses - £6 per week SO</p> <p>Clerk's SIM and data plan - £3.99 DD</p> <p>HP Instant Ink £3.99 by SO to Clerk as paid on Clerk's own CC</p> <p>DALC Chairing Local Council meetings training – Judy Topley - £36 BACS</p> <p>DALC Being a Good Councillor training – Judy Topley - £18 BACS</p> <p>Website registration (June 2024- June 2025) and hosting fees (October 2024- October 2025) to third party paid via Jarrod Poynton - £199.05 BACS</p> <p>Bank Reconciliations and Statements for September 30th 2024.</p> <p>Council to resolve to accept the accounts. Proposed by Cllr. Marriott and all in agreement.</p>	<p>Make payments in Unity Bank</p> <p>Authorise payments</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllrs. Purser and Marriott</p>
<p>10) Second quarter expenditure report – for comments and approval – all agreed and approved</p>		
<p>11) Bus service to Bridford- look into bus service from Bridford to Exeter at 4pm or after on weekdays.</p>	<p>Contact Stagecoach , Country Bus and DCC</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>12) Allotment hedge cutting – agreement needed on ongoing budget for this. Cllr. Topley has contacted Alex Weaving to look at job and cost it - top of hedge and inside hedge also needs doing but Alex doesn't have the equipment for inside it so we need to find someone else for that part.</p>	<p>Include in budget for 2025/6</p> <p>Follow up with Alex</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr. Topley</p>
<p>13) Play park plan – to discuss progress and agree actions. To advertise for working party in January and feed into Parish Plan in February.</p>	<p>Put in Unity article for January</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>14) Trees for play park – discussed free trees scheme</p>	<p>Liaise with Lucy Smerdon over free trees scheme</p>	<p>Cllr. Topley</p>
<p>15) Community Emergency plan - discussed issues such as places of safety, heat sources, generators, etc. To be discussed at Three Parishes Meeting and again at</p>	<p>Add to November</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

November meeting. Consider all possibilities. WhatsApp group for Community would be useful for emergencies.	agenda	
16) Passwords – to agree storage – all in agreement.	Collate and store passwords	Clerk
17) Parish Volunteer award scheme – to discuss and agree format and dates. like. Possibly at the Annual Parish Meeting. Working party proposed and agreed.	Working party to be set up	Cllrs. Marriott and Topley
18) 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. Previous events were organised by volunteers.	Find out who organised previously	Cllr. Marriott
19) Clerk's report (for information only) Three Parishes' meeting update Field shelters at Poole Locality funding application for Acorn update Precept update Budget preparation for November meeting – training attended and advice: big cost items such as replacing play park equipment would need to save over X years ringfenced pots Gov.uk domain Q&A session Allotment rents Fountain Forestry lorries		
20) Councillors' reports and meetings attended (for information only) Cllr. Marriott – hedges on Pound Lane Cllr. Topley – skips – information from Cllr. Purser – to be discussed at Three Parishes meeting. Big items can be taken to TDC and they can come and collect for a charge.	Add skips to Three Parishes' meeting	Clerk
Email information DALC bulletins #37 - 42 NALC bulletins DNPA Planning applications DALC training		
Meeting finished at 9.10pm Date of next meeting: Monday 4 th November 2024		

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Bridford Parish Council

District and County Councillor reports

Cllr. Purser report from TDC

New strategy at Teignbridge out for consultation – Bridford is in Dartmoor National Park so not much relevant – Councillors can put individual comments on if they wish.

Transport consultation for Devon consulting up to the end of November. On the TDC website if people want to look but not much about rural bus services.

Devon and Torbay devolution – districts have one representative on the committee but not much influence.

District Cllr. Swain's report from TDC

District Council's community fund – still available. Few hundred pounds of funding available. Broad; anything that helps community and not for routine running costs – one off project. Community creative project possible in September 2025? More often tangible asset. Apply throughout the year up until April or for 2025 budget. Picnic bench for play park – Clerk to estimate cost. Clerk to contact Andy to agree informally and then application form to complete to apply.

Teignbridge plan progressing through consultation phases.

Concern over devolution deal as to who will pay and what the point is. DCC and Torbay joint strong influence but District Councils very little control.

Housing England – TDC being asked to take house building figures from Torbay and are reluctant and issues over funding of housing in TDC – this is a concern.

County Cllr. Brook reporting on DCC

Acorn application to go ahead. Cllr. Brook has c. £800 of funding available. Possibility of collaborative approach to application – Cllr. Letch at Cheriton? Could approach and suggest joint application.

DCC about to decide on Highways contract – Spotlight at the moment. Look at the four proposed model options and advise cabinet to be the best option. Scrutiny panel decided on one but unlikely to be the one that is chosen. Potholes is the most common concern. Poor signage for diversions or road closures. Cllr. Brook raised the question: which of the four models gives us the greatest opportunity to control productivity? No answer was available. Reactive work, labour input higher but planned work it is lower. Future contract likely to go to an external company; some benefits such as bulk buying and ownership of vehicles. Important decision for the Council and for everyone; to make the right decision and get our money's worth with a degree of accountability. Much easier to pass the blame if it's an external contractor. Planned work is managed well but emergency repairs is completely different. In public interest to get the work done as soon as possible and with clear signage to give details of where work is taking place.

A lot of concern on rail links from Exeter to Plymouth with ongoing issues at Dawlish.

Bus services; in rural areas very difficult to meet everyone's varying needs and timings. Not commercially viable. Government's green agenda; rural people are going to struggle with new electric vehicles and cost of this.

DCC have managed budget of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities to prevent bankruptcy.

Chair's report

I attended the Village Hall Meeting in September as an observer. The Village Hall Annual Report is written and will be available to view soon

I have attended two on – line training sessions: Being a Good Councillor 3 – Meetings. I will circulate the slides. There wasn't really anything new, but it was helpful to underline the things we do well. Agenda boundaries; time for public to speak; clear enough roles and responsibilities; flexible; approachable and listening to name a few.

The other was chairing meetings. I will also circulate the slides for this training. Two main things caught my attention. The first was reading our Standing Orders. I will circulate these. They don't actually need to be reviewed but it's considered good practice for councils to revisit them periodically, so I suggest that after this meeting Tamsin circulates them to councillors for information and then we can agree a review at the June meeting, after the AGM in May.

The other main thing was apologies for absence. Initially I found it pedantic asking if we approve an apology for absence, but actually there is a good reason for it. If a councillor misses six meetings in a row then it's an automatic cease of the role; if apologies are approved then the clock keeps on starting again. I thought if a councillor still wanted to sit and could work from home but not actually attend meetings for some reason, this could be helpful to us as a council.

There was talk as ever of sub – committees/working parties being formed; this does mean non councillors could contribute. I think we have decided in the past that we are too small to consider this option; councillors can be called in if required, for example HR. It may be helpful to form a play park working party; I think we're moving closer to that becoming a probability.

Talking of the play park I have met with Lucy Smerdon from the Wildlife Wardens and she is ordering the trees to go into the Playpark in January. We will need to discuss care of said trees and she will be 'in charge'. We have decided on the no parking sign for the gate – we just have to order it. Cllr Symons has the work on the fort; bin and gate in hand and will get to it when weather permits. The bamboo needs digging up again already – it is on my list, but if anyone else is passing with a trowel, please feel free to tackle it. At the moment it's not a big job. The Playpark received a donation of £300 from fete proceeds; very welcome and thanks to all those who contributed to the fete.

Last month, the Clothing Bank hit a 'blip'. Nearly half the contents were unsuitable and had to be disposed of. If clothing is not put securely into closed plastic bags it just gets damp in the bank and festers. It was an extremely unpleasant job for Karen Gervers to empty the bank and disappointing because the mouldy clothing took up space that good clothing could have used and we will therefore get less money this time round. I took twelve bags of mouldy clothing to the tip. We are waiting for a cheque. On talking with Karen, we decided to put up notices again and hope for the best that there is no repetition of this situation in the future. Obviously if it does not improve, we may have to consider disbanding the service as for all sorts of reasons it may become not cost effective.

I went with Cllr Symons to discuss the 'Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles' sign at Westcott; we agreed the most suitable place would be after Westcott Dairy so as not to confuse HGV vehicles bound for the dairy itself. I contacted Seven Acres asking for their agreement to the idea and also for their permission to erect the sign in their hedge. They have got back and agreed we can erect a sign where we think it best. Nick Tucker also offered to lend a hand to erect the sign; I would like to minute thanks to the farm for its help with this. The most appropriate sign has been identified and can now be ordered by Tamsin; Cllr Symons has agreed to erect the sign.