

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 3rd February 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present – Cllr. Topley (Chair); Cllr. Purser; Cllr. Marriott, Cllr. Symons; 4 members of the public; Tamsin Mowat (Clerk), County Cllr. Jerry Brook

Meeting opened at 7pm

Agenda item	Action	Owner
<p>1) Public Discussion: Anne Mayes raised that the log lorry through the village is hazardous on the hill, is it the designated route or a diversion? Ask that they don't have a trailer as well as a large lorry. Several parishioners have raised mud on the roads lately. Highways Act prohibits it. Byelaw 22 about cleaning tyres. Trees on the bank above Pound Lane that came down last week. Another tree on that bank looks precarious. Anne received an email from Police: Good Sam listing defibrillators but Bridford ones not on there.</p> <p>Cllr. Symons arrived at 19.04</p> <p>Footpath warden: grit box at the top of Poole Hill – new box, top blown open in wind and full of water. DCC informed 25/1 and now been emptied and replaced. Hinge broken on grit bin outside the pub. Need a smaller bin to fit in the space. Neadon Lane accidents – post van overturned. Clerk to meet with Ines from DCC Highways on 5/2/25. Another incident on the back road to Bridford near Heckland over Christmas with oil spilt. All cleared up. Rut in road and damaged bank and large stones moved. Need something to warn people about the height difference.</p> <p>Footpath with fence down – Clerk has reported to Ranger 3/2/25. Issue has been going on for over 6 months.</p>	<p>Contact Euro Forest re. concern over size of lorry through village</p> <p>Contact DCC Highways about tree on Pound Lane</p> <p>Contact Good Sam about defibrillators</p> <p>Inform DCC about grit box at pub</p> <p>Contact Ines re. back lane safety check</p> <p>Contact DNP ranger re. footpath blockage</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>2) Apologies For Absence: Cllr. Ashenden-Pearce – apologies accepted and approved by all, Cllr. Gallagher absent, District Councillor Andy Swain – apologies received</p>		

<p>3) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6th January 2025 – approved and agreed by all.</p>		
<p>4) Declarations Of Interest: None</p>		
<p>5) Review action points from previous meeting – a) Clerk’s action points: Pound Lane layby and spring plate, DCC Ofsted, DNP planning query, submit Precept request to TDC, signpost parishioners to hardship fund etc. in Unity and on website/Facebook, annotate Travel Expenses policy, contact Hania re. internal audit, Westcott rocks. Query width of road and tarmac under the grass as could be that the rocks are actually on the road that is owned by DCC. b) Councillors’ action points: Cllr. Topley: WhatsApp group for culvert clearing, Cllr. Marriott: Annual Parish Meeting plans</p>	<p>Contact DCC Highways re. Westcott rocks and width of road</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting proposal</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>PM</p>
<p>6) District and County Councillor Reports (summarised here and full text available at the end of the minutes and on the website). County Cllr. Jerry Brook commented on funding still available in Locality Fund, Devolution, Ofsted. DC Purser talked about Devolution, TDC’s budget and planning</p>	<p>Put in bids for play park bench and APM</p>	<p>Clerk and PM</p>
<p>7) Chair’s Report - for information only (summarised here and full report available at the end of the minutes and on the website). Thanks to the Clerk for sorting out the email system Asset mapping important – consider play park ownership if devolution goes ahead Parish Plan meeting on 12th Feb at 7pm at Bridford Inn</p>	<p>Cancel Vision ICT before April</p> <p>Check length of lease of play park</p> <p>Circulate verges management plan and add to March agenda</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> 0019/25 - Retention of agricultural equipment storage shed at Poole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7HY – BPC unhappy with retrospective planning applications. Solar panels ought to be considered. DNP need to assess the need for such a building on a small area of land. Standing orders suspended for member of public to speak Neighbours not informed about application; may be that officially you only have to put up a visible notice. Application</p>	<p>Check law around informing neighbours of planning applications</p> <p>Submit comments to DNPA Planning Portal</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>described as retrospective. No agricultural need. Looks like old summer house has been replaced by shed and c. 10 feet high. Can't be seen from the road but does set an unfortunate precedent. No details of size of building on DNPA or maps to show exact location. Planning site has been down so people can't put objections and queries on.</p> <p>Standing orders reinstated</p> <p>0031/25 - Single storey extension to the rear of the existing Information Centre at Bridford Woodland Park, Bridford, Exeter – support. 0035/25 - Erection of extension and terrace at Lower Heltor Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7EH – support. <u>Determined</u> DOC/0315/24 3 4 Mr J Wilson Chloe Allen Hewitt Replace a flat roof with a pitched roof on an existing outbuilding Middle Hole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7HU - Discharged DOC/0316/24 3 4 Mr J Wilson Replace a flat roof with a pitched roof on an existing outbuilding Middle Hole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7HU Decision Issued - Discharged</p>		Clerk
<p>9) FINANCE</p> <p>Expenditure</p> <p>Income</p> <p>None this month</p> <p>Expenditure</p> <p>Clerk's salary January - £566.46 (reduced for Pension – see below) SO Clerk's homeworking expenses - £6 per week SO Clerk's SIM and data plan - £3.99 DD per month HP Instant Ink £3.99 by SO per month to Clerk as paid on Clerk's own CC Clerk's employee contribution pension payment to Nest Pensions (taken off salary) DD £62.94 Employer's contribution to Clerk's pension payment to Nest Pensions DD £18.88 Unity Trust Bank CC set up fee £50 (retrospective payment) BACS Engraving of allotment winners' cup to Andy and Lynne Bornemisza £2.99 BACS</p> <p>Bank Reconciliation and Statement for January 2025</p> <p>Council to resolve to accept the accounts – all agreed</p>	Submit payments to bank to be authorised	Clerk and signatories
<p>10) Internal Auditor – to resolve to appoint Hania Lee of Lee Accounting as Council's internal auditor for 2024/2025.</p>	Liaise with Hania over internal audit	Clerk

Resolved – all in agreement.		
11) Gritter repairs – to resolve to agree on a schedule for repairs and cost. Anne Mayes Snow warden - suggested every other year for service. Duct tape needed to hold parts together currently. Quote from Glasdon £306 including travel but not new parts if needed. Andy does a large number of the call outs. Some of the original volunteers from 2017 no longer taking part so a small group of dedicated volunteers currently manning it. Agree to have gritter serviced every other year and volunteers and top up. Needs servicing summer 2025. All agreed. Use £250 set aside to pay for it plus any needed from the following financial year as service biennial - all agreed.	Contact Glasdon to arrange service	Clerk
12) Parish Plan (circulated prior to this meeting) – to be discussed and targets agreed prior to Parish Plan meeting on 12 th February 2025 – to be postponed until after Parish Plan meeting	Put Parish Plan on March agenda	Clerk
13) Annual Parish Meeting – consider format and date (between March 1 st and June 1 st) and agree budget – separate date. Chair to do Annual Report summary and hand out hard copy. Invite all the people who were invited last year and any new volunteers. Invite whole parish. Refreshments and mingling rather than speeches. Display boards and refreshments. Suggested date of Saturday 10 th May (preferred) or 17 th May. Advert to include celebration of village volunteers at the Annual Parish Meeting. Clerk to update meeting dates on website and send round to Councillors. Timing? 12pm. Lunch time buffet and funding for that and activities for the children to include families. PowerPoint of photos of everything going on in the village. Displays and food upstairs. Children can play downstairs and outside.	Proposal for APM funding application by Feb 13th and Unity wording by March 14th Submit bids for Locality Funding to DCC Check VH availability for revised APM date	PM Clerk Clerk
Standing orders suspended to allow member of the public to speak 14) VE Day – Pip Morrison attended to discuss and agree date and details of event and any budget needed. Want to mark the occasion but limited capacity to organise. Smaller occasion to mark it like the Normandy boy event. Party in the village garden – marquees if needed. Candles in jars to be light at dusk (9 or 9.30pm) – tea lights. Cakes, drinks and music from the time. Beacon would involve buses and quite a lot of organisation in comparison to the expected turn out. Cllr. Symons offered to light a fire but not sufficient interest or volunteers to arrange. Pub holding a get together as well. County Cllr. Jerry Brook arrived at 19.34 Standing orders reinstated.	Details of VE day celebrations to go in Unity magazine	JT and Clerk

<p>15) Training for Councillors (Good Councillor guides circulated prior to meeting) – discuss needs and priorities as well as sources of online and printed information – new Councillors not had any training, longer standing Councillors have had some but may need refreshers. Levels of knowledge vary and can be problematic at meetings. If people could access training online it would be helpful. Good Councillor Guides available as reference tools. It would be good if people could reflect on where their gaps are and think about what training/information is needed.</p>	<p>Circulate latest DALC training dates</p> <p>Councillors to reflect and identify training needs and let Clerk/JT know</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>All Councillors</p>
<p>16) Clerk’s report (for information only) Clerk’s email update ILCA update Procurement training CC update – online account Play area inspection by ROSPA booked for March Pound Lane layby update Neadon Lane update Carton recycling trial by TDC – put in Unity magazine</p>	<p>Set up online account for CC</p> <p>Carton recycling trial – put in Unity magazine</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>17) Councillors’ reports and meetings attended (for information only) Smatter group/volunteering group/WhatsApp culvert clearing – to be discussed at Parish Plan meeting – APM event to push WhatsApp group</p>	<p>Discuss Smatter group and WhatsApp community group at Parish Plan meeting</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.</p> <p>Meeting closed at 21.02</p>		
<p>Email information DALC bulletins - up to #4 (2025) NALC bulletins DNPA Planning applications DCC Highways updates Gritter repair details Parish Plan Good Councillor Guide Good Councillor’s Guide to Finance</p>		

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Bridford Parish Council

CHAIR'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2025

Over a couple of months our clerk has been having a lot of trouble with our current email provider, Vision ICT. She has been locked out of the system 4 times, most recently after she had only sent one email but was messaged to say she'd reached her daily sending limit. In addition, Tamsin has twice been randomly locked out whilst working on emails so was unable to log back in or change her password. When this happens, it takes several phone calls to sort out and twice the automated system required a 24 hour wait before being able to login again. Once there was a supposed spam issue. Additionally, neither the provider Vision ICT nor the mail host Rack Space can explain why this keeps on happening and they are apparently unable to prevent it happening in the future.

In the face of this difficulty and the fact there is no cost to the parish council, a decision was made in between meetings for Tamsin to set up a new free Gmail account for the Clerk's emails as an individual rather than a business (which would incur a monthly fee) and cancel the annual subscription to Vision ICT before it renews in April (Cost currently £24 a year). Tamsin has altered all paperwork and subscriptions to the new contact email for the clerk: bridfordclerk@gmail.com

I recently attended a Smaller Councils Training on the Government's Devolution plans and the possible impact on parish councils. Most of the background information has already been supplied to us by District Councillors Purser and Swain so I feel no need to repeat this information. There seems to be a lot of different views and some fears for potential change/s (as well as many political views with a big and small P), while things are unsettled and unclear. When the slides become available, I will circulate them to councillors. Impact for us as a parish council at the moment:

1. Asset mapping will be important especially where there are assets in the community belonging to other authorities, in our case the Playpark. Anywhere else?
2. DALC would like an A4 side of where we feel we make a difference in our community; evidence of the work we do; what makes our community tick and our aspirations. DALC wants this by mid-February. I suggest we rough this out at the Parish Plan Meeting on the 12th. Anyone unable to attend, please send me ideas before the 12th. I will then collate all together and send to DALC just in time –

Rebecca@devonalc.org.uk

Other issues were we should take extra care with precept raising over the next two years or so, consider amalgamation on more projects with other local parish councils and keep an extra eye on our Clerk's workload and time. A reminder that our Parish Plan Meeting will be held on February 12th 7pm at The Bridford Inn, parish councillors only, after which the plan will be circulated on the website for community feedback. An updated version of our Parish Plan has been circulated to aid discussion. At this meeting the Playpark Action Plan will be discussed Lucy and Stephen Smerdon have kindly planted out a little copse of trees in the Playpark; an article about this will be in March edition of Teign Unity. We need to discuss with Graham how best to keep the grass down round them. Will he mow between or will he only be able to mow round the edge? If only round the edge we would need to trim in between periodically. I will speak to Graham in due course and report back. Care depends mainly on keeping the trees watered if we go to drought conditions (you never know) and to check the tree guards for too much build up of grass (annually), monitored by nominated play park parish councillors and wildlife wardens

between them.



A Verges Management Plan has been updated by Wildlife Warden Lucy Smerdon. It will be circulated following this meeting and be on the agenda for comments in March.

A Flooding WhatsApp has been postponed pending a decision about a Community WhatsApp page and finalisation of our draft Emergency Plan.

County Councillor Jerry Brook's report

Just over £4000 left in Jerry's Locality Fund if there is a small project that benefits the community needing funds - to be spent this financial year. Annual Parish Meeting? Celebrate volunteers in the village and encourage more volunteering in general. Put together a proposal and get back to Jerry. Play park bench. Allotment fencing more likely with District Cllr. Swain. Cllr. Brook commented about Devolution. Cornwall not interested in joining Devon. Funding for Devon an issue. 500 000 voting residents per unitary area but some wriggle room on that. Election at CC level may not be held for 12 months. Devon and Torbay have already agreed to unite. Wider devolution proposed by Government. Plymouth would have to take in surrounding areas. Exeter wanted to take in wider area of East Devon/Crediton.

Ofsted report on Children's Services not been issued since Ofsted inspection in October – Cllr. Brook to check but slow progress to improve due to pressures on service. £13 Million overspend on SEND Dec 2024. Staffing issues continue. Nationwide issues.

District Councillor Purser's report

CC elections due in May 2025 but Government wanted to move ahead very quickly so considering postponing and having elections in May 2026 instead for new authorities. District Councils didn't want this. District and County currently not agreeing so might risk being pushed through by Government. Exeter and Plymouth Labour councils. Plymouth free port includes the whole of Dartmoor National Park.

Teignbridge going through budget process. Public can still make comments on budget. Maximum 4.99% increase. DCC bigger increase and Police and Fire increases too. TDC bogged down in democracy and political arguments.

Cllr. Purser and Cllr. Swain – planning case in Christow – as Cllrs. no access to DNP planning to make more direct representation than public comments. Not entitled to speak at meetings regarding constituents'

business to represent them.