

Minutes of the meeting of Bridford Parish Council held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr. Topley, Cllr. Purser, Cll. Gallagher, Cllr. Symons, Tamsin Mowat (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

Meeting started at 19:01

Agenda item	Action	Owner
<p>1) Public Discussion: Anne, the Snow Warden, wanted to thank Mike Harding for all his hard work on the gritter over the years; he has now retired from the team.</p> <p>Anne also reported that Teignbridge are inviting parishes who were doing events for VE Day to let them know; it was felt that this was likely intended for larger events.</p> <p>Anne mentioned that there are a series of open meetings by local police at Chudleigh Town Hall for parishioners to attend if they want to; further details can be found on their website: https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/devon-and-cornwall-police/chudleigh-teign-valley/?tab=Overview&yourlocalpolicingteam=meetings-and-events</p>		
<p>2) Apologies For Absence: to vote and agree on apologies received: Cllr. Marriott (cultural engagement) – apologies voted on and agreed, District Cllr. Andy Swain sends apologies too. Cllr. Symons arrived at 19.10</p>		
<p>3) Declarations Of Interest: None</p>		
<p>4) Minutes – to approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd March 2025 – all agreed - approved and signed.</p>		
<p>5) Resignation of Councillor Ashenden-Pearce and thanks for his service. Two Councillor places now available; everyone is spreading the word and asking people in the parish directly. Parishioners need to have lived or worked in the Parish for 12 months in order to be eligible. Clerk to notify TDC and do notice for 14 working days and then can co-opt after that. After Brilliant Bridford and the Fete, Council to concentrate on core work. Advert for new Councillors for Brilliant Bridford and the Fete: seeking the voice of the people in Bridford – meetings only once a month for 10 months of the year. Thanks and fond farewell to Jamie and place available; welcome anyone with an interest in the community.</p>	<p>Notify TDC of Councillor Vacancy and post notice Post advert on Facebook and website.</p>	<p>Clerk and JT</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>6) Review action points from previous meeting: a) Clerk's: Clothing bank to April agenda, annotate Disciplinary policy, update and publish Publication scheme, contact AC re. VH hire time changes, website and Facebook posts to advertise Volunteers' Celebration, check public liability insurance for Celebration, VJ Day Facebook and website posts and Unity article, fouling article to Unity, contact TDC re. churchyard maintenance – all in hand b) Councillors' action points: JT to contact LS re. signs on verges – in hand – Clerk to order, PM Unity article wording for Volunteers' Celebration – many</p>	<p>Carry over relevant points to May meeting</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

thanks to Cllr. Marriott, JT liaise with Pip M over VJ Day flag – JT liaising, SS and JT to liaise over Westcott rocks – to be carried over to May meeting – Clerk to carry over		
7) District and County Councillor Reports (summarised here and full reports at the end of the minutes and on the website) Cllr. Purser covered purdah, budget, audit and devolution and County Cllr. Brooke informed us that this was his last meeting as he is retiring at the end of April and thanked the Parish Council, staff and parishioners he has worked with over this time. Chair thanked him for his support and hard work over the years.		
8) Chairman's Report (for information only) – summarised here and full report at the end of the minutes and on the website Chair covered the gritter servicing, the church and taking care of the village. County Cllr. Brook arrived 19.45		
9. PLANNING Planning Applications - Dartmoor National Park has asked for observations from the Parish Council on the following planning applications: 0083/25 - Higher Neadon, Bridford, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7JE – listed building consent - Replacement single storey extension on existing footprint plus external repair/alteration work to existing chimney – already commented in support (this is listed building consent for existing application) 0104/25 - Side extension to accommodate domestic lift for accessibility and futureproofing at Barton Lodge, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7LD – full planning permission – support Planning Decisions 0031/25 – Bridford Woodland Park – Single storey extension to the rear of the information centre - conditional planning permission granted 0019/25 – Poole Farm, EX6 7HY - Retention of agricultural equipment storage shed, Poole Farm, Bridford, Exeter, EX6 7HY – permission refused	Upload comments to DNPA planning portal	Clerk
10) FINANCES <u>Income</u> DCC Locality Funding by BACS: Play park bench £419 Volunteers' celebration £700 <u>Expenditure</u> Clerk's salary March - £566.46 (reduced for Pension – see below) SO Employer's National Insurance payments due to be paid to HMRC from April 2025 at c.£35 per month - BACS 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 Increase to HP Instant ink subscription for 50 pages a month from April – from £3.99 to £4.49 per month 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	Update SO for HP ink subscription	Clerk

<p>CC monthly fee £3 by DD to Lloyds Bank (for Unity Trust)</p> <p>Clerk's annual increment as per the terms of contract (below) – PT 32 – up to £21.50 and overall salary up to £645.60 (an increase of £16.20 per month) before Pension so £581.04 after Pension – adjust PAYE, SO for salary and Pension from April 2025 if agreed</p> <p><i>Subject to satisfactory performance, you will progress automatically through the range LC2 in salary scale 29 – 32 by annual increments until you reach the maximum salary in the range. Your first increment will be payable on 1st April 2025 and thereafter on the 1st April each year until you reach the maximum of the scale. Voted – Cllr. Purser proposed and Cllr. Symons seconded – all agreed. Maximum of the scale now reached so no further annual increment will be payable.</i></p> <p>Graham Dicker grass cutting invoice – Nov 2023- March 2024 and April 2024- March 2025 – total of £1741.80 by BACS</p> <p>Gritter service charge to be paid in April to Glasdon once gritter returned (cost of any parts may follow in May) £367.66 BACS</p> <p>Laptop (retrospective as a replacement asset) one year Microsoft membership and Norton included – CC payment to Box of £164.99 including VAT – paid by DD</p> <p>Village Hall hire – hire of the upper hall for Parish Council meetings January 2025 to March 2025: £45 and hire of the lower hall for Post Office use November 2024 to March 2025 £114</p> <p>SLCC membership renewal for 2025/6 due 1st May 2025 £150 by BACS (Clerk to complete renewal form first) – all agreed but review 2026</p> <p>DALC membership renewal for 2025/6 due 1st May 2025 £223.08 incl. VAT by BACS (Clerk to complete renewal form first) – all agreed but review 2026</p> <p>Refund to Frances Leversedge for allotment deposit £15 by BACS</p> <p>Brilliant Bridford spending from DCC Locality Funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roller banner and case – to Pippa Marriott - £97 plus VAT • Printing costs – invoice from Pippa Marriott: paper 3x100 at £7.99 each so £23.97 total • Village Hall hire – booked at cost of £81 (invoice to follow as invoiced quarterly) • Decorations and children's activities to be bought in April on CC – budgets of £20 and £16.50 • Food, drink and flowers to be bought in May by CC - £400 on food and drink • Exhibition items to be bought in April or May £35 budget • Total expenditure for event £700 <p>Bench for play park from DCC Locality Funding £429 to Oak World on Credit Card – to be bought in April</p> <p>Bank Reconciliation and Statement for March 2025.</p> <p>Q4 expenditure and end of financial year totals.</p> <p>Council to resolve to accept the accounts – all agreed.</p>		
<p>11. Review updated Financial Regulations (circulated before the meeting) and resolve to accept revised version – all agreed and Clerk to circulate edited version. Council thanked the Clerk for her hard work on this.</p>	<p>Edit and circulate final version</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>12. Renewal of grass cutting contract with Graham Dicker for three more years:</p>	<p>Get GD to</p>	<p>JT</p>

External Meetings attended (for information only) - none		
Items for Information - The next council meeting will be on Monday 12th May 2025 which will be the Annual Meeting of the Council at 7pm in the Village Hall.		
Email information DALC bulletins - up to #14 NALC bulletins DNPA Planning applications DCC Highways updates Revised Financial Regulations		
Meeting ended at 21.05		

Signed:

Date:

Chair of Bridford Parish Council

District Councillor Purser's report:

Council in purdah as local elections coming up in May so a quiet month

External auditors found TDC one of the most dysfunctional in the country

Budget agreed for next year

Devolution – plans put forward by all local authorities and district councils in Devon; all similar and trying to get interests put forward. November – decision to be made by Government but might be delayed.

Local plan with inspector and – 750 new houses but Government want to see 1540 per year to hit the national target so yet to see if plan approved or target needs to be increased.

DCC Elections will determine which way devolution goes

County Councillor Brook's report

Last meeting to attend after 20 years as retiring from Councillor role to concentrate on farming

Thank you to the Parish Council, staff and parishioners over this time; he has been blessed with the area he has represented. Wishes us all the best in the future. He will miss it but time to step down. Very pleased to have supported Brilliant Bridford. Councillors all volunteers and this gets forgotten sometimes.

CHAIRS REPORT – APRIL 2025

Gritter

The gritter is being picked up by Glasdons this week: Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday with an hour's notice. Thanks again to Andy Hawkins for arranging this and being on hand for the pick up.

Church

The new churchwarden is our very own Cllr Symons. We can look forward to even closer working relationships with the church as it moves on following the Church Meeting last month.

Playpark

We had some problems with the new trees in the Playpark; some rubbish left lying around from a party and rammed down the tree protectors; a couple of tree protectors pulled off; one tree has disappeared. We cleared up and I put some little notes onto the tree protectors asking for each tree to be taken care of. At the same time, I put the word round the village. Thankfully everything is back to normal.

Dumping

This does fit though with some general 'dumping;' around the village, presumably because its spring-cleaning time. Three times last month books were 'dumped' into the Book Exchange and a pile of DVDs, despite the notice on the door asking people to be aware when using the Book Exchange (the clue being in the word Exchange). I will make some new notices to help people understand the limits to Book Exchange use. The clothing bank whilst working much better, due to weekly checks by myself, did also receive a bag of bric a brac which was not helpful and had to be got rid of.

I have had several concerns expressed by parishioners re the recent smell of Bio solids across the village; I spoke to Nick Tucker Farm Manager explaining these concerns. He said he would not tip again so near the village.

The Teign Larder in the church porch experienced some mess making last month; a kind note and putting the word round seems to have nipped a potential problem in the bud.

Emergency Plan

The first draft of the Emergency Plan has been circulated to councillors for feedback; it will be ready to be adopted by the parish council in June and then available to parishioners on the website.

Thanks and update on Parish Council Celebrations in May

Many thanks to Cllr Marriott for the work she has put in to 'Brilliant Bridford'. Local organisations have been contacted for displays and shopping arrangements are in place. After our VE Day Tea Party, our clerk Tamsin Mowat, Cllrs Marriott and Topley will meet to finalise arrangements for the day.

Pip Morrison, Lou Lucraft and Cllrs Marriott and Topley will be meeting shortly to decide final arrangements for our VE Day Tea Party in the Village Garden.

Allotments

Allotmenters and David Price have cleared allotment brambles that were encroaching on to Rowdon Valley Walk. Many thanks to them all.

A tree is down on one of the allotments: Andy B and Lou are going to deal with it.