

BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of Meeting of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council Thursday April 7th 2016 at 7.30 pm in Weston Community Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mills, Mrs Boughton, Perring, Nicholls, Hooper, Hannaford; D. Cllr. Green and Horsburgh; C. Cllr Rosemary Rowe.

David Eeles, Clerk. The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed the visiting District and County Councillors.

1(4.16) APOLOGIES: Cllr. Wood, who has announced his resignation due to ill health. The usual notice giving 14 days for the public to say if they want an election has been posted, following this the Council will be able co-opt a new member unless there is an election.

2. (4.16) MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING:

After one amendment these were AGREED as a true record and duly signed off.

6(4.16) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman brought forward this item and sought to relax standing orders to allow a member of the public to speak. Christina Carpenter, who is a South Hams Governor in the Torbay Hospital Foundation Board and who lives in Longcombe, explained her great concern that the medical infrastructure including Torbay Hospital was not able to cope with an increase in workload brought about by an increased population in the area. The Emergency Services and Totnes surgeries were already at full capacity. She also feels that the A385 link with Torbay from Totnes, which has not altered at all in recent years, was also not able to cope with increased traffic especially at peak periods. The Brutus Bridge at Totnes was also at full capacity. She felt a lot of new houses had already been built which were out of character with the area. Finally more houses would kill the goose that lays the golden egg, presumably a reference to the threat to tourism.

The Chairman explained that he felt the Neighbourhood Plan was forced on us because despite vigorous protests and the opposition of this Parish Council the developments at Steamer Quay and Great Court had gone ahead despite obvious highway problems. C. Cllr. Rowe noted that air quality was also a concern and this was being monitored on the hill out of Totnes to True Street. She and Cllr Hannaford said much of the District Council's problems had arisen because the inspectors had judged that there was not a 5-year land supply planned in the area which opened the door for developers to win planning appeals against refusal. They hadn't wanted more houses at Stoke Gabriel but had been forced to accept them. Cllr Hannaford said that under the Development Plan Document there had been 6 pages of necessary improvement

listed in the infrastructure which would be necessary before more development could take place but none of this had happened.

3(34.16) MATTERS ARISING

None

4(4.16) POLICE

Various minor incidents from the police incident website were reported.

5(4.16) REPORTS

Report of D. Cllr Horsburgh for South Hams District Council:

. I have attended one Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting. The main issues discussed were -

1. Homeless Strategy. This has now expired, & needs to be replaced. A Task & Finish group, involving representatives from organisations such as Mark Hatch's Totnes Group, will be set up.
2. South Devon Coastal LAG (Local Action Group - part of the EU Leader Programme, which aims, amongst other things, to provide rural services, cultural & heritage activities); & Greater Dartmoor Area LEAF (Local Enterprise Action Fund - funded by EU & DEFRA, but does not include Totnes in its area). i.) The LAG has awarded £1.8m + £3.3m (private sector money) between 2008-13., creating, e.g., 35 f/t jobs, helped over 135 businesses, & provided or improved sports facilities, etc., in 54 communities. ii.) There was some concern over the amount of administration required to pass out grants - e.g., one grant of £4,000+ took three times that to administer. Therefore steps will be looked at to trim this down, & make more money available for grants
3. Locality Delivery. There are two main types of officers - i.) Mobile Locality Officers, who undertake routine tasks such as Play Park Inspections, Planning Site Notices, Fly Tips Checks, Their role will remain unchanged. ii.) Locality Engagement Officers, who respond to customer enquiries, interact with special interest groups, resolves issues on the Ground. Some of you may know Dai Antill, who covers Totnes & has held regular stalls outside places like Morrisons in Totnes. Some concern was raised in the Panel about which groups the Locality Engagement Officers meet, whether they raise expectations that could not be met, how accountable they are. Personally, I think they offer a very good service. As you may remember, I had suggested that Berry Pomeroy Parish Council may like to invite him to meet with you; also, Cllrs Vint, Green, & I have arranged regular meetings with Dai, as he tends to pick up & solve matters which to us would be very time-consuming. However, it was decided by the Panel to "adjust these roles to best suit existing business demand", & fill gaps identified by the recent re-organisation. They will be place-based to, e.g., support delivery of bins, approve cleaning schedules, attend busy events. This will be reviewed in 6 months.
4. Performance Report. No significant improvement: Average Call Answering Time had

increased over the past year; but, number of complaints were down.

5. Income Generation Activities. This was to be taken under Part 2, but was postponed to a future meeting.

Report of C. Cllr Rosemary Rowe

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT TO 01/04/2016

Since the end of January 2016 when the budget was fixed along with the level of Council Tax payable for 2016/17 work has been quite quiet .I have attended a People`s Scrutiny meeting where we spend a great deal of time discussing issues relating to Children, Older people, Vulnerable people and their needs. Social care and Schools including Ofsted reports.

At this particular meeting we received representations on the closure of Sutcombe County Primary School which is out Nr.Holsworthy in the very North of the County. There are now only 21 Children aged between 4 and 11 on the school role. The building is in need of updating and is very expensive to run. There has not been an acting Head teacher there for 2 years as no one wants the position. An agency head has been employed costing £560.00 per day on 2 days a week. The funding from D.C.C. was 3 times per pupil of the average allowance paid to other similar primary schools in Devon. The Scrutiny Committee endorsed the decision taken by the cabinet members to close the school from July 2016 .There are other schools and transport available in the area.

I attended a Corporate Services Meeting were Devon Youth services will be run out of house via a tendering process similar to the Library service which is now being run by a Mutual trust from the 1st April.

We had our local Southern area H.A.T.O.C. Meeting on the 1st April at Follaton House and we were informed that D.C.C. has been awarded around an extra £38 million for 2016/17 and over the next 4 years going down to £34 million in 20/21 This is from a Special Highways Incentive Funding Scheme to use best practise to make efficiency savings. So it will have to be justifiable. Issues discussed included drainage and gullies, ditching, buddleholes and rain water (we cannot control the amount of rain water we have to deal with!). Parish lengthsman service is NOT run in conjunction with the Parish Councils any more. They still exist and aim to visit each known problem area once or twice a year. I think it is best to send the information as to where the service is needed to Lisa Edmonds our locality highways officer by email and hopefully she will pass it on. This then brings me on to The Community Road Warden Scheme. Training for people willing to carry out work voluntarily will be financed by D.C.C. Workers must be safe. Parish councils can employ someone as long as they are trained to do the job and have insurance cover. The project officer for this is someone called Victor Goff. There is also the Community Pay Back Scheme which costs 3160.00 per day. These are people who have been ordered to do Community work through the Magistrates courts. I am told their work is very good. We went through lots of R.T.O. `s and Marlton and South Brent featured on the lists.

I am sure there are many other Highways issues which keep coming in, potholes, poor road surfaces, Pavements, Footpaths, grass banks, Hedgerows etc. Some Parishes club together to employ someone to do some of the work and either allow for this on their Parish precept or from their council members locality Funding.

Cllr Hannaford asked about whether there would be any provision for the homeless in Tones this winter. Apparently planning permission for the 5 new units had been achieved but they would not be ready for this winter.

7(4.16) TRANSPARENCY ACT

The clerk explained that under this Act Parish Councils were required to have their own websites and to this end the government has made available the money for this and for the purchase of a laptop. He has looked into the options available and has decided that the firm VisionICT, based in Exeter, offer the best package and this is recommended by DALC. He asked members to approve the use of this firm to set up the website and this was AGREED.

8(4.16) PLANNING

None

9 (4.16). FINANCE

The following payments were approved:

CLERK INVOICE for April meeting 2016

£

Payments

The following items are submitted for approval:-

£

1. Clerk net salary and expenses for January -	181.99
2. PAYE for January	39.20
3. Konica Minolta print- 40% share	25.15
4. South and West Internal Audit	90.00
5. CPRE annual membership	36.00
6. SHDC Payroll service	120.00
7. SHDC Election charges (7 th May 2015)	155.72
8. SLCC Annual membership	77.00
9. Duncan Irwin for graveyard (via Parochial Church Council)	120.00

Balance on Business A/C 21 March 2016

£5,976.62

The clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been successfully concluded, the earliest ever, and he circulated the completed accounts for discussion and a signature from the Chairman at the next meeting.

10 (4.16) CORRESPONDENCE

Some newsletters received were circulated.

11 (4.16) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR

1. The Clerk has liaised with Marlton Parish Council regarding the proposed new lengthsman and arranged a joint interview to take place before the Annual Meeting at 6.45 in the Church on 5th May.
2. Still potholes in Blackpost Lane.
3. Cllr Boughton raised the issue of the ownership of the land at the rear of Keep Cottages.

11(3.16) NEXT MEETING

Will be on 5th May in the **PARISH CHURCH**. The Annual Meeting at 7pm will be followed by the AGM at which members are elected to Committee posts.

Signed5-4-2016 (J. Mills, Chairman)

