

BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of Meeting of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council Thursday January 7th 2016 at
7.30 pm in Berry Pomeroy Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mills, Mrs Boughton, Wood D. Cllrs. Green, Horsburgh;
C. Cllr Vint
David Eeles, Clerk.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed the visiting District and County Councillors and wished members a Happy New Year

1(1.16) APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Nicholls, Perring, Hooper

2.(1.16) MINUTES OF DECEMBER MEETING:

These were AGREED as a true record and duly signed off.

3(1.16) MATTERS ARISING

10(11.15) Cllr Vint reported that he has talked to Stagecoach about the possibility of on extra bus stop in Duke's Road- the cost would be £200. He was thanked by Cllr Wood for doing this. Cllr Boughton reported that since the opening of the new ring road the 66B service now has much better timekeeping. It seems that it is also quieter through the village.

10(12.15) The clerk reported that he had received a response from Cllr Winterbourne and he has now tendered his resignation from the Council. Accordingly a Casual Vacancy has arisen which has been advertised. If no notification of an election request has been received by the next meeting the Council can advertise for a co-option at that meeting.

4(1.16) POLICE

Some minor incidents from the website were reported. However Cllr Boughton reported that the church collection box had been broken into in the week before Xmas. Cllr Wood also reported some vandalism off Dukes Road.

5(1.16) REPORTS

Report of Cllr R. Vint for Devon County Council:

1. The Devolution proposals have been debated at DCC and members were assured that this was a working document, not the final agreement. He raised concerns about lack of public consultation and as a result there will now be a period of consultation (not yet specified).

2. Devon County Library Services are to be managed through a contract with an independent Trust. He asked for there to be representation on the Trust Board for County Councillors, users (through the Friends group) and the Unions, but only the Friends were permitted to appoint two members, which they have done.

Report of Dist. Cllr. Horsburgh

1. There will be a cumulative reduction of the Settlement Funding Assessment (Rate Support Grant and Business Rates funding added together) for SHDC of 51.8% by 2020. This compares with 44.3% for Shire Counties; 24.6% for Inner London Authorities. It means the SFA will only fund 16% of SHDC's requirements (31% at present). Council Tax will therefore fund 67% of costs (52% at present). The SFA may eventually be phased out. There will be no limit to Council Tax increases for town and Parish Council during 2016.
2. The SHDC's aim is for Financial Sustainability AND no reduction in services. To achieve this one way forward being looked at is to set up one or more Local Authority Controlled Companies (LACC) to run current services. In effect the SHDC would become a commissioner, rather than a provider, of services. The options are being prepared by Grant Thornton and will be presented to the Executive Committee on 4th Feb. 2016

Cllr Wood asked how much Grant Thornton would be paid to do this report. Cllr Horsburgh replied that SHDC apparently doesn't have the people who could produce such a report, and added that he was worried about a lack of democratic accountability of LACC's. Cllr Green was keen to ensure better liaison between Bridgetown Alive and the Parish Council.

6(1.16) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following perusal of the latest version of the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, the Chairman proposed adopting this new version, seconded by Cllr Boughton and duly CARRIED unanimously.

The clerk agreed to bring copies of the electoral register for the next meeting to enable a plan for distributing the questionnaires to be devised.

7(1.16) PARKING AT BERRY BARTON

Cllr Boughton reported that there had been concern in the village that two white vans belonging to a local resident were parking on the verge which was being destroyed and were occasionally blocking the road completely by transferring stuff from one vehicle to another. The Chairman said that this was really a police matter.

8(1.16) PLANNING

The Chairman reported that the plans for the new houses on Weston Lane were causing great upset among the householders of the area especially those in Parkfield Close immediately at the rear of the proposed new properties, which overlooked their properties and were likely to make the flooding problem which already existed worse. Because the deadline for responses to SHDC was before the next meeting he had canvassed other members and established that there was a majority for refusing the application and accordingly the Planning authority at SHDC was informed of this decision. He sought retrospective approval for this action which was forthcoming.

9.(1.16). FINANCE

Payments

The following items were submitted for approval and duly CARRIED:-

Payments

The following items are submitted for approval:-

£

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| 1. Clerk net salary and expenses for December - | 181.74 |
| 2. PAYE for December | 39.20 |
| 3. Rent for school playing field- Lord Seymour | 50.00 |

Balance on Business A/C 28th DEC. 2015

£5,782.95

10 (1.16) CORRESPONDENCE

Some newsletters received were circulated.

11 (1.16) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR

There are deep potholes in Weston lane where the new houses are proposed for building.

12(1.16) NEXT MEETING

Will be on 4th February in the Village Hall.

Signed4-2-2016 (J. Mills, Chairman)

VVV