

BURTON BRADSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES



Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 At 7.30pm Via Zoom

Present:

D Dixon (DD)

R Bryan (RB)

S Meek (SM)

A Bailey (AB)

M Harding (Clerk/RFO)

7 members of public

D Batten (DB)

G Mulry (GM)

Mulry (GM)

D Venn (DV)

Cllr Mark Roberts DC

Chairman's welcome: ER chaired the meeting as per the current rolling chair program.

ER welcomed all and explained that this would have been the meeting where we had Christmas refreshments following the meeting.

The Chair reported the sad news that Michele Harding, Clerk for 7 years is leaving the PC. A big thankyou to Michele who is well thought of in the village and we could not have completed the play area project without her, and she will be a hard act to follow.

The PC are now in the process of looking for a new clerk.

The Chairman noted that many of the public may have attended to comment on the recent resignations, but it is not an agenda item. We must respect confidentiality and act within a legal framework.

Open Public Forum Part 1- limited to 3 mins per person

A resident spoke on the speed related issues in the village, the resident explained where she lived is affected by the recent accidents and speeding traffic entering the village from Bridport. It was suggested that the speed limit could be moved further out of the village. SM would report on this in the meeting.

A resident commented about the consideration for an HR advice service regarding the recent resignations of Cllr and the Clerk. What will this cost, are the Council complying with the current standing orders, are there any serious issues being considered? Also, what measures have been taken to retain the clerk in post. These comments were noted.

A resident explained that he was sorry that the members of the public cannot discuss what they wished to in this meeting but commented on the matters arising of the last minutes on communication with the community, there would be far more support from the village if the residents knew what was going on.

A resident thanked the Clerk as at last there has been progress with the finger post sign for the hall, village, church and school, the resident also wanted to thank all those involved in the redevelopment of the playground, it has been wonderful to see the number of families that have been engaging with the new equipment, thank you to you all.

At last, the hedge has been cut along common lane, which means the volunteers can now access the ditch and clear it out. The resident commented on the notes in the minutes regarding their accuracy. It was noted on the comments in the minutes of the last meeting and the changes made in the meeting, surely the amendments prior to approval could have been made prior to the meeting rather than making these during the meeting. Speaking as a volunteer the resident

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The Council recently updated its procedures regarding the employment of staff and has established a Staffing Committee to deal with all aspects of employment practice. In updating procedures, the Council has received support from DATPC. Also, support from the Clerk at Bridport Town Council.

DAPTC recommend that Councils consider making arrangements with an employment advisor to provide ready access to a range of employee/ employment advice. This is to ensure that any Council employee(s) are protected and that the Council is legally compliant in all aspects of employment practice. The PC have approached Katherine Motteram, a qualified Human Resources advisor with over 16 years' experience who runs an HR service in Bridport. Charges are incurred only when advice is requested.

The recommendation is that the Council sign up to the HR advice service provided by Katherine Motteram and provide the Staff Committee with a budget of £500 in order that the Committee can call on the HR service as and when required.

There are no issues with the current process of gathering 3 quotes given the area of expertise required and there is an urgency to this service. It was confirmed that no charges will be made unless advised is required. It will then be up to the Staffing committee to use that service if it was felt necessary. Proposal to sign up to the above proposals.

Proposed DD Seconded RB

c) To consider the costs of replacement gates on Corncrake for grazing purposes:

AB commented that the potential grazier would only take on the licence if the PC accept liability if someone left the gate open and the cattle got into the area with the trees or install kissing gates, so the PC looked to modify the gates, this will then reduce that risk. There is a risk that smaller livestock could get stuck in the kissing gates so a suggested modification to the current gates with offset hinge sets was considered.

A quote has been received to modify the Corncrake pedestrian gates to make them wheelchair accessible and cattle safe. Also, to replace the insecure fencing adjacent to the gate into the playing field. Supply and fit 3 self-closing gate kits, supply, and fit posts to limit the opening of the gates, supply and fit 4m section of fencing adjacent to the play park. £550.00+VAT

It was noted that there has been negativity in the village to cattle grazing the field so we need to be aware that some may leave the gates open in view of Covid, so keeping the public informed of the short grazing period as and when this occurs and the reason for the grazing being part of the project. Signs could be placed on the gates when cattle are in the field. The above proposal was agreed.

Proposed AB Seconded DD

d) To consider receipts and payments for Dec

All payments have been checked in line with internal controls. List of payments circulated prior to the meeting. Bank balances as of 30th November 2020-£83,328.56

Proposed ER Seconded DB

e) To consider the draft budget and precept for 2021-22

Budget and precept recommendations were circulated to the council by the F & G P meeting, these are also on the PC website. It was recommended that the precept was not increased. The F & GP group also recommended grants to the BVN, D & SAA and CAB in line with previous years. The above grant proposals were agreed.

Proposed AB Seconded DB

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The precept and budget were approved with the allocation to the budget lines for the HR person, gates for Corncrake and traffic calming project as agreed in the meeting, the precept will not be increased and set at £24,875.53 Proposed DD Seconded RB

20/12-6 **Items for information only**

The correspondence list was circulated.

DD commented on the School taking on the phone box for a display to be taken on from January to Easter. To confirm details in January 21.

ClIr Mark Roberts reported budgets for the directorates, Adult services, Children services, Place and Corporate services. Initial look is a budget deficit is £41M no cuts for frontline services. This will not affect items like potholes as this comes from different pots and government funds. This budget was not helped buy the fire at the Chickerell waste depot.

Staff will be working from home 3 days a week when fully back to work and hot desking. Savings will be made in not keeping offices open all day. MR commented that he had asked the planning department for the planning for North Hill Close to go to committee.

Items for the BVN- Corncrake management plan consultation and explanation of the grazing plan. Parish Plan extension to end of January, current vacancies.

20/12-7 **Items for the PC meeting on 6th January 2021:** Agreement for use of the playing field by the school. Schools use of the Phone Box. Three planning applications to be added to the January agenda due to time constraints. Review of footpaths and access issues (DB).

Open public forum part 2

A resident commented on the cycle route and asked which route was chosen, DD responded, the road from Marsh Barn is noted for road widening and it belongs to DC could be considered, Freshwater was approached but this was rejected, also suggested the Golf Course side of the road and currently looking at the north side of the main road. There is a project with Bridport TC, aiming to promote the use cycles instead of cars for a 7-mile radius of Bridport.

A query reference thatching quotes, have the Village society been involved in the process of quote gathering. A question about the small business grant is this for the Reading Room only or can it be used of the PO; the grant is for the registered business address of the Parish Council being the Reading Room.

A resident spoke that the school has lost its Christmas fair and instead holding raffle, tickets are available from the PO. Also, to note the advent window scheme happening in the village all the way through December. Support is welcomed for these village events.

Maintenance issues- there is a kerb stone loose on the village green, to be inspected by contractor and a hole has appeared in the play area, ER to action the play area works.

A resident commented on the footpath by Larkfield, the wooden retaining posts are loose and a trip hazard.

A resident commented on the professional way the meeting was run and wanted to add to the comments about the Clerk, its being a great pity she is leaving, she has done a great job and is one of the most professional Clerks he has come across.

Meeting closed at 9.07pm