

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Council Offices, The Woolwell Centre, Darklake Lane, Woolwell, PL6 7TR

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Minutes of a meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council held on Thursday 24th October 2024 at 7.30pm at the Woolwell Centre PL6 7TR

Present: Cllr Brian Hill (Chair), Cllr Paul Blight, Cllr Nicky Hopwood Cllr Geoff Pithouse, Cllr Jackie Taylor, Cllr Larry Taylor, Cllr Gary Stewart.

In attendance: Mrs H Broughton, Clerk (remote), County Cllr John Hart, District Cllr Chris Oram and 1 member of the public.

Minute number 24/10:

Open Forum

The Chairman of Woolwell in Bloom informed the Council of the following:

- *Grand opening of the new Jubilee footpath is taking place this Saturday at 2pm*
- *Remembrance service is taking place in the Commemorative Garden. The Clerk was asked to purchase 3 remembrance wreaths.*
- *Have won various awards including, including Pennant Village in Devon (Gold) as part of the South West in Bloom awards and outstanding awards for 40th and 60th displays. Permission was requested to erect a pennant. It was advised that this be placed on District Council land and that the District Council therefore be approached for permission. Cllr Hopwood offered to purchase this from her locality fund. It was suggested that the certificates be placed in the Parish Council noticeboards.*
- *Woolwell in Bloom now has its own Facebook Page*

50. There were no **apologies for absence** as all councillors were present.

51. There were no **declarations of interest**.

52. **Minutes**

- It was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th September 2024 be signed by the Chair as a true record.
- The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting were noted.

53. **County and District Councillors reports**

County Councillor John Hart provided an update on various matters, including the County Council budget. He noted that Children's and Adult Services now account for 70% of the total budget, which will require adjustments to maintain a balanced budget. He requested that all minutes and agenda be sent to him. Councillor Hopwood inquired about the availability of an additional grant for weed control, and Councillor Hart recommended that the Council submit a new funding request. Cllr Jackie Taylor asked Councillor Hart about

future funding for a Remembrance Day blanket of poppies for display on Bickleigh Village Green, Councillor Hart again recommended that a funding request be submitted.

District Councillor Chris Oram reported on the following:

- He will provide a written report at the end of the month, which the Clerk will add to the website.
- The District Council had agreed in principle to double the tax on second homes, with funds to be specifically allocated for housing.
- His report will include updates on home efficiency initiatives and warnings about parking scams.
- A briefing took place with the road sweeping network, discussing plans such as a new fleet of vehicles.
- Training was conducted on the code of conduct for parish and town councillors.
- He attended a police drop-in session at the Woolwell Centre, which he recommended councillors attend in future as valuable.
- An invitation has been extended to arrange a meeting with Cllr Oram and the Chair and Clerk.

Councillor Hopwood reported that a planning application for 2,000 houses is scheduled to go to committee in November. The meeting will take place at Follerton House, but the District Council is arranging to hire a screen so residents can watch the proceedings from the Woolwell Centre. The agenda will be available at the end of the week. She noted that the site presents significant infrastructure challenges.

54. **Clerks Report**

The action list was noted and further consideration of employing a Lengthsman would be included on the next agenda.

55 **Finance**

- i. Receipts and payments against budget as at 30th September 2024 were noted.
- ii. Bank reconciliations to the 30th September 2024 were reviewed and approved.
- iii. A payment to Watertight Roofing for £29,250 from the public works loan board funds was approved.
- iv. A first draft 25/26 budget was discussed and would be further considered by the Finance Committee.
- v. A recommendation from the working group to transfer £8,000 to an earmarked reserve for a potential playpark contribution in 2025/26 and £5,000 to legal and professional fees EMR was unanimously approved. Consideration of a grant towards the Play Park would be included on the next agenda.
- vi. The following payments were approved:

Pre-paid

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
Cutec	Microsoft monthly fee	70.32	11.72	58.60
Woolwell Centre	Room hire October	72.00	0	72.00

For approval

SUPPLIER	DETAILS	TOTAL	VAT	NET
Arborcure	Tree works	864.00	144.00	720.00
James Terrell Plumbing	Woolwell plumbing	215.00	0	215.00
H Broughton	Salary	688.17	0	688.17
NEST	Pension	61.00	0	61.00
HMRC	Tax and NI Q2 payment	559.26	0	559.26

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Woolwell Centre

- Minutes of the Working Group meeting would be circulated.
- It was agreed to arrange a meeting with the Woolwell Centre Trustees to update them on improvement works. A Monday at the Lopes was suggested.
- Cllr Hopwood was liaising on the lease and had been advised that including the land owned by Plymouth City Council would not cause a holdup. She would continue to liaise and report back.
- The Clerk was delegated to approve expenditure on a new door for the boiler room to comply with Health and Safety.
- Cllr Hill had circulated costs of purchasing a battery from Bloom Renewables. Further information such as the cost of installation was requested. This would be obtained and then considered at the next meeting.

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Planning

It was noted that application 2278/24/FUL - Development Site At Sx 503 623 Tavistock Road Roborough, has been withdrawn.

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Weedkilling and hedge cutting

- i. A successful Locality grant application for £1,000 towards weedkilling in Woolwell and Bickleigh had been received and it was agreed to request a further £1,000 from the County Councillor towards this project.
- ii. Residents' responses to a letter regarding cutting of hedges around Roborough Green had been circulated with a variety of requests received. The majority of residents preferred the usual cut of 6-7 feet. It was agreed that the hedges be cut in November to the height of 6-7 feet with the Beech Hedge along the road being allowed to grow slightly higher. Cllr Hopwood would ensure that the tractor could access Roborough Green.

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Roborough Village Hall:

Cllr Pithouse had been unable to attend the last meeting of Roborough Village Hall. The Parish Council had been asked if it had any objection to a planning application. Councillors had no objections however the Council would formally agree this at the next meeting.

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The **date of the next meeting** was agreed as 28th November 2024 at the Woolwell Centre.

The meeting closed at 9pm.