

BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Meeting of Bickleigh Parish Council which was conducted via Zoom on **Thursday 28th January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

There was an open forum of 15 minutes at the beginning of the meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions or make comment regarding the work of the Council or other items which affect the Parish.

No members of the public were in attendance.

Present: Councillors B Spencer, Haymes, Rundell, Blight, Taylor and Tamsett-White

Apologies: Councillor C Spencer

In Attendance: Helen Nathanson (Parish Clerk)

1. To receive apologies.

It was resolved to receive the apologies.

2. To declare any personal or pecuniary interests in items on the agenda and the nature of that interest.

Standing Interests with dispensation:

Councillors C Spencer and Haymes have a pecuniary interest as employees of the Woolwell Community Resource Trust.

Councillor Barrie Spencer has a personal interest as a member of the Woolwell Community Resource Trust.

3. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings on 26th November 2020 and 14th January 2021.

It was resolved to approve the minutes.

4. To raise any matters arising from the minutes of the last meetings, including:

Parish Council Meeting – 26th November 2020

Meeting with BT Openreach – this took place on Wednesday 27th January. Councillor B Spencer had an opportunity to ask questions and find out more information and it was clear that progress is not as advanced as had previously been suggested in meetings with DCC. He intends to speak to DCC again to find out more.

Casual Vacancies on the Parish Council – the vacancies have not yet been filled but enquiries have been received from two prospective candidates which looks promising.

An incident of dangerous speeding on Woolwell Road was reported to Councillor Haymes. She explained that there had been a near miss with a young boy almost hit at the crossing. The car did stop but the witness considered that it had been travelling too fast. Speed is an issue around the area and councillors discussed whether there were any possibilities of traffic calming measures or making the crossing more prominent. The Clerk was asked to speak with DCC Highways to see what might be possible.

Donation of portacabin to Roborough Hall – this has not yet been relocated but is in hand.

Refurbishment of post box on Tavistock Road – this is due to be done this year, along with the other boxes in PL6

Budget Meeting 14th January 2021

This was discussed under Item 7.

5. To receive reports from County and District Councillors.

County Councillor John Hart gave his apologies and the following updates:

He is trying to sort out the DCC budget, which will go to Cabinet on the 12th February.

The number of people using footpaths has increased but there have been a number of cases where dogs have been attacking sheep. At least one sheep has had to be put down and he has asked DCC to put out a press release asking people to keep control of their dogs or put them on a lead.

Covid-19 has not gone away and he urged everyone to be vaccinated if they have the opportunity. You need to wait until you are contacted by your doctor but if you are over 70 now you should soon be contacted. Hospitals are still very full of patients so please continue to be careful and follow the rules.

District Councillor Barrie Spencer

See attachment

Councillor Rundell asked about the shortage of recycling bags. SHDC has a supply problem and he is not sure why there is a problem. Bags are now available in the Premier Shop rather than the Woolwell Centre.

6. To receive the notes from the meeting of the Assets Working Group on 14th January and to discuss the recommendations.

The recommendations were discussed and it was resolved to approve the recommendation to contract No1 to carry out the tree works on Roborough Green and to ask for the whips to be planted at the back of the Parish Plot to renew the existing hedge. The Clerk will discuss this with the contractor.

7. To review the draft budget prepared at the meeting on 14th January and to finalise the precept for 2021/22.

The budget was reviewed and it was resolved to set the precept for 2021/22 at £87,775. This is a Band D rate of £66.83 which is a rise of 0.27%.

The Clerk had contacted a local planning consultant with regard to delivering professional advice on the revised Barwood applications. He has many years' experience of working at a senior level in the area and knows all about the applications and local planning situation so he would be able to provide very relevant help. This was discussed: Councillor Spencer agreed to find out what the deadline was going to be for comments and, provided there is time to do so, it was resolved to request an initial meeting with the planning consultant to discuss what can be done.

8. Woolwell Centre

- To receive an update about the preparation of the new lease on the Woolwell Centre between SHDC and Bickleigh Parish Council.

Councillor Taylor had received an update from SHDC Legal Team. The first of two Public Open Space notices will be published in the Plymouth Herald on Friday 29th January, giving 3 weeks for the public to make any representations to the proposal. The second notice will be in the following Tuesday's publication. The new lease will require Executive approval and this is now on the agenda for the next meeting, which is on 11th

March. SHDC is currently dealing with a particularly heavy workload but this is on their case-list and will be progressed as soon as possible.

- To receive an update from the Woolwell Community Resource Trust (WCRT).
The leak in the flat roof over the meeting room seems to have caused damage to the newly laid flooring. Two chairs have also been damaged and some redecoration will be required. The roof was repaired promptly at a cost of under £500. The insurance excess is £250 so, if the floor needs relaying, it was agreed to make a claim rather than self-fund.
The Centre is mainly closed at the moment but there are some things that are allowed to take place such as providing facilities for training for emergency services.

9. Grant Funding

To discuss how to publicise the remaining grant funding available for this financial year and the £495 Covid Emergency Grant from DCC.

Councillors discussed how this could be done and what criteria should be used. Posters on noticeboards and posts on FB were considered and it was agreed that this could be a useful way to get people to engage with the PC. It was decided to add this to the agenda for the Communications WG to discuss in more detail.

10. To discuss the Parish Council email and website hosting service and agree a new provision.

There have been problems recently with email when the host server, provided by an external company, crashed. It was agreed that the contract with them needs to be reviewed: the agreement runs until July so we need to find out if we are able to leave now or have to wait until then. The Clerk was asked to investigate this and find appropriate IT support.

Councillor Rundell was thanked for the work he has done to set things up.

11. To discuss the DCC Snow Warden Scheme and requests within the Parish for extra grit provision.

Councillors agreed that the snow warden role was potentially a broad one but it was agreed to ask around and see if someone would be willing to take it on. The problem of storing the grit that DCC provides was also considered – this would need further investigation.

The Clerk was asked to speak to DCC about the number of grit bins in Woolwell.

12. To discuss the Communications Training session on Monday 14th January and to agree the next steps.

Councillor Haymes explained that the communications training course did not offer quite what the councillors had expected. A follow-up session had been offered and she would like to be able to use this to learn more about social media platforms.

At a meeting of the WG earlier in the week ideas had been discussed about how to promote the PC and its work.

One of their ideas was to run a photography and art competition for different age groups: the photography would be photos of the parish and the art would be to design a logo for the PC. It was suggested that the deadline could be Easter and the prizes could be Easter based. Posters could be put up on the noticeboards and messages posted on FB to promote the idea and this might engage people with the PC whilst providing something fun.

She thinks that having only 3 people on the WG is limiting because there is a lot of work involved and she would be keen for all councillors to be part of this. Councillors agreed that they would be happy to come along to meetings when they are available and a meeting was agreed for Monday 8th February at 7.30pm.

13. Planning

- To consider the following planning applications:
4175/20/HHO Householder application for proposed first floor extension over garage and single storey rear extension
7, Tramway Road, Woolwell, Devon, PL6 7TQ

Councillors had reservations that the house is at the end of a single track lane and that this might be difficult for the other houses during construction: it was therefore considered that a construction management plan should be looked at. Support.

1266/20/ARM READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans Received) Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval 1954/18/OPA
Land At Ngr Sx513609, Pinewood Drive, Woolwell

The scale of the application and its revisions made it difficult for councillors to make an informed decision at this stage. Councillor Spencer agreed to speak to District Councillor Hopwood and take advice.

- Standing Item: To receive an update about the Barwood planning applications 4185/19/OPA and 4181/19/OPA.
There were no updates this month.
- Standing Item: To discuss the review of the Neighbourhood Plan.
It was agreed that more work is needed by the PC before approaching a consultant so that they can be properly briefed on what we want done.
- Standing Item: To note the confidential list of enforcement cases in the Parish.
This was noted.

14. To receive an update from the BPC representative for Roborough Recreation Hall.
There was no update as Councillor C Spencer had given her apologies.

15. Finance

- To note the current bank balance of £73,718.31.
This was noted.
- To approve the following payments:

Date	Payee	Total	VAT	Net	Details
11/1/21	Simon Rundell	86.05			Website hosting
7/1/21	Breakthrough Communications	£414	£69	£345	Communications Training

It was resolved to approve the payments.

16. To note the following correspondence:

The Interim Devon Carbon Plan is live and out for public consultation. Councillor Spencer encouraged everyone to look at it because it is an important document.

17. To note the date of the next meeting on 25th February 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

This was noted and the meeting ended at 9.55pm.

Councillor Barrie Spencer

Chairman

Report to Bickleigh Parish Council

28 January 2021

From **Cllr Barrie Spencer**
Bickleigh & Cornwood Ward, South Hams District Council

Only a shortened report this month.

Covid 19

This matter is dominant in everyone's lives at the moment with our daily routines continuing to be restricted in the pursuit of a solution. Council meetings continue to be held via Zoom and all are open to members of the public to attend.

Clearly, most people are disappointed in the national lockdown however it was always on the cards that sooner or later we would have to take drastic action. There is clearly growing pressure on hospitals and many other local businesses and services. The Council continues to work hard in supporting local people in numerous ways be it housing, benefits, grants to businesses etc

The Council was able to roll out the Government grants recently by being able to adapt existing computer systems and create new ones routines and most grants are being paid out very shortly after people apply for them.

Waste Collection

Aside from Covid 19 this has really dominated the last three months of my personal workload with ongoing discussions between Officers at SHDC and FCC – the outside contractors.

The number of missed collections has been significant. Whilst in relative terms however, the overall %age of missed collections is low, I find it worrying that the number of repeat missed collections demonstrates some fundamental issues with the contractor. There have been high level meetings between SHDC and FCC and I know that matters are ongoing. FCC are now into fines for missed collections so perhaps a monetary penalty will concentrate the mind.

I had a personal meeting with the regional guy; I have to be honest and say that I was not hugely encouraged but they really now need to deliver. The pressure is certainly on!

Broadband in Bickleigh

The lack of acceptable broadband strength in Bickleigh has been an issue for many years; I ran a business there for over 25 years with little more than 1.9 download speed.

The installation of high speed broadband is overseen by Connecting Devon & Somerset working alongside Devon CC. The Parish Clerk and I have been talking directly to DCC for some while and only making limited headway. On Wednesday I finally got in front of Openreach in an effort to talk to the pointed end. Whilst it is clear that Openreach have timetables, targets and aspirations they are not prepared to discuss this with residents in any way and do not see themselves under any obligation to do so.

All I managed to glean was that they are currently trying to validate all of the survey work that was carried out previously. Validation seems to mean that they are looking at the practicalities of rolling out the project ie they are seeing whether any roads will need to be closed for work, deciding whether any wayleaves are required, whether ditches need to be constructed and whether overhead delivery is the way forward.

Only when they have completed this work are they prepared to discuss anything further. I am now going back to DCC and will put pressure on them to be more forthcoming.

I am appalled by the lack of transparency and the refusal to consider the end user (you, the public) in any way. I am not going to give up on this one!

Barwood Development

Cllr Nicky Hopwood and myself continue to have monthly meetings with the planners regarding the proposed developments. Things have been a little quiet over the past couple of months but there is a further meeting on 16 February so I hope that I might be able to report some progress soon.

There are many more things happening in the South Hams area but these mainly affect other geographic areas rather than us.

Barrie Spencer**Cllr.Barrie.Spencer@southhams.gov.uk****28 January 2021**