**BURLESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of**

**December Meeting**

**Held via Zoom on Monday 14th December 2020 at 7pm**

**DRAFT**

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| **12.1** | **Present:**  Parish Councillors: Lewis Worrow, Luke Trevelyan, Shelley Scribbins  District Councillor: Jo Norton  County Councillor: Ray Radford  Sue Jarvis – Parish Clerk/RFO/Proper Officer | **ACTION** |
|  | **Apologies:**  None |  |
|  | **OPEN FORUM**  A resident queried why BPC did not write a letter in support of AI’s planning application to move the asphalt plant out of the parish to neighbouring Uffculme Parish and did BPC not support this move? LW replied that BPC has a biased opinion in wanting the asphalt plant out of Burlescombe but it was up to Uffculme and its residents to support/object to the application. BPC did not want to be seen to be pushing something negative on to a neighbouring parish. When the application arose, BPC responded to a request from UPC to detail the effects on our parish of the current asphalt plant and associated lorry movements and dust. This has helped UPC form their response to the application. LT said he had a received an email that day from Clive Tomkinson, Estates manager at the quarry suggesting a letter of support for the application would be a good idea, and following further discussion councillors decided to write a letter of support now that they had best practice.  Councillor Jo Norton raised the issue of agenda item 12.3.1 (see below) saying that a number of residents had approached her voicing their concern about the proposal and were worried that the parish council may merge with another and that their voices would not be heard. | **LT** |
| **12.2** | **Declaration of Interests**  None declared |  |
| **12.3**  **12.3.1**  **12.3.2** | **Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising:**  The Minutes were agreed as a true and correct record and unanimously approved by the Councillors. These will be signed by LW  **Proposal from Chairman regarding future of Burlescombe Parish Council.**LW explained that the reason for his proposal was borne from his frustration at BPC not being able to engage the community and not just while he has been chairman. He referred to the following timeline from April 2018 onwards: All the sitting councillors resigned between April and June 2018 –  Karen Collard April 2018  Kevin Stower May 2018  Les Neville June 2018  Cliff Taylor June 2018  David Sprague June 2018  Judy Downing June 2018  In June 2018 Mid Devon appointed three councillors to enable BPC to continue to function – Ray Radford, Heather Bainbridge and Christine Collis.  17-2020  In Aug/Sept 2018 three new councillors were appointed – Lewis Worrow, David Sprague and Liz Duthie.  Mark Wood came on later and resigned due to work commitments in Feb 2019.  May 2019 elections, only Lewis Worrow stood for re-election.  BPC was no longer quorate following May 2019 election so Mid Devon appointed Ray Radford and Bob Evans.  Shelley Scribbins, Luke Trevelyan, Robin Dodwell, Chris Salter and Matt Salter were co-opted as councillors June-Sept 2019.  In September 2020 MS, CS and RD were disqualified as councillors due to lack of communication and missing 6 consecutive BPC meetings without apologies or explanation. Also, during this period there had been a New Councillor evening held in the Community Hall, Burlescombe, with representatives of Mid Devon District Council, to provide information to anyone interested in joining the parish council. Not a single resident attended. There are currently six vacancies being advertised on BPC and it is a struggle to get anyone involved. Residents are worried about their democratic representation but no-one is interested in becoming a councillor. Many residents are very keen to voice their opinions of the parish council either directly or on social media but nobody is willing to put themselves forward and LW believes there should be a review. Currently, two of the three sitting councillors live outside the parish (although they have business offices in the parish), the Chairman now living in London due to work commitments. LW said he would happily resign if there were other people who would step up. If LW were to resign at this present time then BPC would be inquorate and this would be the third time in under three years that District Councillors would have to step in. LW believes that this situation would be morally unacceptable. Therefore, LW proposed that BPC should look at taking the next steps. Councillors voted and this was unanimously agreed. JN said she would email Mid Devon DC to find out the next steps. *Following communication with MDDC it has been suggested/requested that BPC hold back on this petition for the foreseeable future as the current ward boundary review being undertaken by the Boundary Commission is due to move to parish level during 2021/22. MDDC would prefer to see this situation at BPC fed in to the wider process as it may have knock on implications for surrounding parishes.*  **Clothes bank.**  Burlescombe Primary School would like to site a clothes bank in the car park of Burlescombe Community Hall, the proceeds of which would go to the school. All councillors are in support of this however, the Hall Committee has to apply for a permit as it would go on land owned by the hall. BPC cannot say yes or no to the clothes bank and LT has already approached the hall committee who will apply for a permit. |  |
| **12.4**  **12.4.1**  **12.4.2**  **12.4.2.1**  **12.4.2.2**  **12.4.3**  **12.4.4** | **Chairman’s Report**  Following a controversial agenda the community and the council now face a joint task in reckoning with the crisis at hand: determining what if any future the Council has. Failure to do so now subjects us to a review we are unwilling to accept but are unable to deny is necessary. This is a call to action for any and all who can to come forward lest the council as we know it face extinction.  Highways  To report on repairs completed.  Ref W201375593 carried out 11/12/20  To receive reports of repairs.  Westleigh – leaves in the gutters. Reported ref: W201375593  **Community Hall –** Nothing to report. Remains closed due to Covid 19.  **St Mary’s Church –** Nothing to report  18-2020 |  |
| **12.5**  **12.5.1**  **12.5.1.1**  **12.5.2**  **12.5.2.1**  **12.5.2.2** | **Planning**  **New Applications**:  **20/01888/CAT** Notification of intention to fell 12 Sycamore and 7 Ash trees within the Conservation Area Location: Ayshford Court Westleigh Tiverton. No objections  **MDDC Decisions:**  **20/01695/PNAG** Prior Notification for the erection of an agricultural building Location: Land at NGR 305505 116092 Westcott Farm Westleigh. *Granted. No prior notification needed.*  **20/01446/HOUSE** Erection of a single storey side and rear extension (Revised Scheme) Location: Pitt Orchard Bungalow Appledore Burlescombe. *Granted* |  |
| **12.6** | **Cllr Worrow Report**  PROW  LW has visited as many footpaths as possible. However, he is relying on dog walkers/ members of the public to report any issues to either him or the Clerk. BPC has a report to complete for Devon County Council regarding the footpaths by February. | **LW** |
| **12.7** | **Quarry Liaison Report**  There has not been a meeting to report on but LT is in regular contact with the quarry. | **LT** |
| **12.8**  **12.8.1**  **12.8.1.1**  **12.8.1.2**  **12.8.1.3**  **12.8.1.4**  **12.8.2**  **12.8.2.1**  **12.8.2.2**  **12.8.3**  **12.8.4**  **12.8.4.1**  **12.8.4.2**  **12.9** | **Clerk’s Report**  The following expenditure was approved:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Amount £** | **BACS//SO** | **Payable to** | **Comments** | | 64.80 | Cheque 855 | Vision ICT | Hosted email accounts | | 330.00 | SO | S. Jarvis | Clerk salary Nov | | 330.00 | SO | S. Jarvis | Clerk salary Dec | | 330.00 | SO | S. Jarvis | Clerk salary Jan | | Expenditure paid out of committee: | | | | | 313.67 | Cheque 856 | Community First Trading Ltd | Annual insurance | | 223.00 | Cheque 857 | Nicholas Page | PROW Maintenance | |  |  |  |  |   **Precept discussion.**  Councillors discussed the precept for the year 2021/2022. The precept working document was agreed and the Clerk will complete the necessary paperwork.  **Correspondence.**  Letter from the CAB asking BPC for the donation. A donation of £50 agreed by councillors.  A phone call from a resident querying the tree planting at the affordable housing. This is due to be completed when Covid 19 schedule allows. Also, queried vegetation overgrowth near sand quarry. LT to investigate.  **Matters brought forward for information or future agenda**  None  19-2020  **Next meeting**  The next Full Council Meeting will be on Monday 1st February 2021 via Zoom at 7pm. There is no meeting in January.  Meeting finished at 8.11pm.  Lewis Worrow  Chairman  Burlescombe Parish Council | **SJ**  **LT** |

20-2020