**DRAFT**

**BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the VIRTUAL Meeting held on Thursday 21ST January 2021 @ 7.30pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr. John Mills (via mobile link), Cllr. David Hooper (video), Cllr. Colin Luker (video), Cllr. Sue Misselbrook (video), Cllr. Nichola Boughton (video).

Cllr. Birch. County Cllr. Hodgson. County Councillor Hawkins. (video), Parish Clerk/RFO Susie Watt (video).

The Chairman read out the procedure for the virtual meeting.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Rose. Cllr.Sweett

1. **(01.01.21) Declaration of Interest:** None
2. **(02.01.21) Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** There was full approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 17TH December 2020 and were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
3. **(03.01.21) Clerk’s Report:**  Monthly Finance Report was agreed and authorised.

**BERRY POMEROY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND PAYMENTS 18th December 2020 TO 21st January 2021**

Note: Clerk’s salary is paid via standing order operational from 27th April 2020 in the sum of \*£388.70. Sundries including stationery/printing etc., are paid by cheque in the following month on the production of receipts. \*(which includes 6 hrs per month agreed overtime + Office Allowance of £12 and phone Allowance of £5 per month

**Bank Account Balances as at 24th December 2020:**

Santander Main Account \*£9,851.83

\*(includes deposit of £250.00 from Cllr. Hawkins locality fund)

Santander Reserve Account £4,270.29

Berry Pomeroy Parish Council total balance as at 24th December 2020: **£14,122.12**

**DECEMBER PAYMENTS – Cheque Run**

18/12/20 Chq.No. 687 Citizens Advice (Donation) £150.00

18/12/20 Chq. No. 688 Totnes Caring (Donation) £150.00

27/12/20 Clerk’s Salary S/0 £388.70

The Clerk reported that she was still waiting for a receipt for the purchase of the Strimmer before actioning the payment. It was requested that Mr Irwin is contacted by the Clerk to request the receipt is sent urgently.

There had been a letter of thanks received from Totnes Caring for the donation of £150 given by the Parish Council.

A letter had been received regarding the Measured Mile, a new area which was going to encompass quite a bit of Parish land. It was agreed that Cllr. Misselbrook would liaise with the co-ordinator and report back to the Parish Council exactly where the Measured Mile was going before any approaches are made to the Landowners.

An email had been received from the Parish Church Council requesting assistance with an upgrade of the Parish Clock to ‘electronic winding’ due to the retirement of the person who currently took on that responsibility. Cllr. Boughton explained the situation and that costings had now been received of £6000 + VAT approximately. It was going to take a while to raise those funds. The Clerk had looked into whether it could support with a donation, however, as the Clock was not a war memorial and it could not be confirmed how the clock was paid for back in 1780 – it was agreed a little more research needed to be carried by the Clerk to ensure the Parish Council could legally make a donation towards the upgrade. Cllr. Hawkins reminded those present that they had 4 District Councillors with Locality Funds who could also help. Cllr. Hodgson said she would forward a form to Cllr. Boughton to take to the Church Council.

There were no public representations or questions.

1. **(04.01.21) FINAL BUDGET & PRECEPT:**

The Chairman requested the Clerk/RFO talk through the budget, Cllrs. had been provided with the budget spreadsheet at the December meeting. There had been one amendment, to the grants and donations which had been increased to £1500 from the original £1000.

There was discussion around increasing the Donations – this was eventually decided against and the total amount for Donations during 2021/22 is set at £1000 i.e. 4 x £250.00.

There was a request to increase the Emergency Contingency Fund by £1000. Therefore, the total Precept is now £12,467

It was proposed by Cllr. Boughton and 2nd by Cllr. Misselbrook to accept the budget and the Precept set at £12,467. Vote: 4 in favour. 1 Abstention. The Budget and Precept was duly RESOLVED.

1. **(05.01.21) County Reports/District Reports** : (Cllr.Pennington was not in attendance)

**Cllr. Hawkins:** Reminded that there are business grants available and can be accessed by SHDC Website. Obviously all aware that we are in yet another lockdown which has resulted in the Council’s Leisure Centres being closed. Recycling Centres are staying open. There is a call for Laptops to help the children of the area with home schooling.

**Cllr. Birch:** Circulated his report to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. Cllr. Birch confirmed that the Laptop requests were being managed by the Rotary Club and Locality funding had been proposed.

The Barns at Great Court Farm had been refused permission to demolish and contrary to rumours the withdrawal of the application was after refusal. There were to be meetings with Lord Seymour to ascertain his ideas for the future of the barns.

**Cllr. Hodgson:** (arrived approx.8pm) circulated her report to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. The outstanding road repairs at Weston Lane & Blackpost Lane will be carried out under an additional Department of Transport fund and will be carried out by the Contractor who had been given until the end of Summer 2021 to complete these works. Cllr. Hodgson was disappointed that this work was being paid for out of public funds rather than the developer’s profits !

A Public Consultation on Public Transport was in circulation and Cllr. Hodgson encouraged everyone to take part.

**Cllr. Sweett** – Emailed Report: The Devon hedge at Great Court on Weston lane is being replaced by the developer in due course. There’s a term in the legals and it doesn’t require the planning application.

The demolishment request to SHDC of the old barns has now been removed by the Duke office. Obviously the more modern barns are deteriorating and news of the aspirations the estate has for the site will be welcomed.

The Chicken run ramps, including the realigned slope up from the park adjacent to the slide at Elmhurst Park are awaiting the final tree reports for the main pathway. It’s taking slightly longer due to the shared ownerships of the main pathway.

1. **06.01.21) Climate Emergency:**  Cllr. Misselbrook gave an overview of the current calls to declare a Climate Emergency and that she had attended many of the Totnes and area meetings, where other Parishes had declared and were now working together. Cllr. Misselbrook explained ways in which Berry Pomeroy could contribute to saving the planet, one of which was a ‘tree corridor’ using Cherry Trees, this would mean contacting Landowners and requesting permission to plant the trees on donated land. Other ways were reducing shopping, reducing the use of plastic, reducing eating meat, not using the car etc.

After some lengthy discussion the Chairman called for a proposal: the motion to declare a Climate Emergency in Berry Pomeroy was proposed by Cllr. Misselbrook and 2nd by Cllr. Luker. However, no one voted for this motion as the sensitivities needed to be addressed and it was suggested that Cllr. Misselbrook produce a report for all Cllrs. before any further decision was made.

1. **(07.01.21) POLICE REPORT:** None
2. **(08.01.21) Date of Next Meeting:** It was agreed that the next Virtual Meeting will be on

Thursday 25th February 2021 @ 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 21:16hrs (approx)

Signed:...............................................................Date: 25th February 2021

Chairman – Cllr. Mills