**DRAFT**

**BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held on Thursday 17th February 2022 @ 7 pm at Berry Pomeroy Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Cllr. John Mills. Cllr. David Hooper, Cllr. Sue Misselbrook

Parish Clerk/RFO Susie Watt. County Cllr. Hawkins.

One member of the Public was present.

1. **(1.02.22)**  **APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Boughton, Cllr. Birch, Cllr. Hodgson

**2.**  **(2.02.22) Declaration of Interest:** None

**3.** **(3.02.22) Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th January 2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. (4.02.22) County Report:** Cllr. Hawkins reported on various issues including DCC agreeing their budget which unfortunately did not provide enough funds to Highways for ongoing issues. Cllr. Hawkins stated that he was always available if BPPC required assistance or information.

**5. (5.02.22) Clerk’s Report:** The Finance Report, circulated prior to the meeting was agreed and signed by the Chair.

**BERRY POMEROY FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND PAYMENTS 21st January 2022 to 17th February 2022**

Note: Clerk’s salary is paid via standing order Clerk’s Salary Now: £392.59 on the 20th of the Month. There will be a slight increase in April 2022 as per the Local Government Officer annual cost of living rise.

**Bank Account Balances as at : 30.12.2021**

Santander Main Account £34,324.44

Santander Reserve Account £ 4,276.29

Berry Pomeroy Parish Council total balance as at 24.01.22: **£38,600.73**

**EXPENDITURE**

**Feb 2022 Payments**

20.01.22 Clerk’s Salary Monthly Salary paid by Standing Order £392.59

17.02.22 Chq.No. 767 Purchase of laptop est. Cost approx £500 tba + Storage for April’22

The Clerk read correspondence from Mr Mitchell regarding a request for funding for tree planting in Totnes and the Berry Parish. After a lengthy discussion is was agreed that no funding could be provided as this was outside of our Grants & Donations Policy timeline, i.e. applications from 1st October to 31st October with a maximum of £250 per grant. It was also noted that the Somerset Estate have a tree planting policy and that one of our own Cllrs. was heavily involved already with Trees for Totnes.

The issue of the Verges was discussed. It was requested that the Clerk obtain confirmation from Highways as to which verges they (Highways) maintained and which were the Parish Council’s responsibility.

There had been correspondence from Airband. It was noted that Airband are putting up poles at an alarming rate, however, no Council had control of where and when they are being erected as it is a Government initiative. However, Cllr. Misselbrook stated that District Cllr. Birch had invited Airband to hold a consultation in March and it was agreed that Cllr. Misselbrook would attend and report back at the next meeting. It was also agreed by all Cllrs. that there was a need for faster broadband services in area.

Parkfield Play Park was now in the hands of Berry Pomeroy and the Clerk was given delegated authority to project manage the renewal of certain items of play equipment. It was noted that there were reserve funds of £25,000 for this action provided to the PC by SHDC. The Clerk to obtain quotes and present to the PC at some point in the very near future.

1. **(6.02.22 CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS:**
2. It was unanimously agreed to request the Public/Press to leave during confidential matters.
3. Candidate interviews were held for the post of Councillor. After which it was unanimously agreed to offer Candidate (a) the position. The Clerk to contact and carry out the Statutory paperwork.
4. An update was provided on the current legal situation.

**Date of Next Meeting:**  7th April 2022 to be confirmed. Emergency Plan to remain in place.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:05hrs.

Signed:...............................................................Date: 28th April 2022

The Chair – Cllr. Mills