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**BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council Meeting**

**held on Tuesday 5th August 2025 at Berry Pomeroy Village Hall**

**PRESENT:** Cllr. Graham Bennett (Chair) Cllr Mills (Vice Chair), Cllr. Marie Flay.

Cllr. David Hooper, Cllr. Sam Penfold

County Cllr. Hodgson. District Cllr. Anna Presswell

2 members of the Public

Clerk: Mrs S Watt

There had been no questions submitted.

Public Forum: One member of the public requested the Parish Council assist with the No Parking Scheme at Blackpost Lane. It was explained that Parish Council could not respond as the item was not on the agenda and no questions had been received prior to the meeting. The Member of Public was advised to email the Clerk with the information. Cllr. Anna Presswell had submitted her Report which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. The Members had no questions. Cllr Presswell’s Report is available from the Clerk.

Cllr. Hodgson gave a verbal report and her July Report had been circulated prior. A copy of the report is available from the Clerk.

District Cllr Penfold had submitted her Report prior to the meeting which had been circulated earlier. She gave a brief overview of the Report. A copy of the Report is available from the Clerk.

County Cllr. Rakes Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**STANDING ORDERS .**

**1. 05.08.25 Apologies:** Cllr Annette Cuff. County Cllr. Simon Rake

**2. 05.08.25 Declaration of Interests:** NONE Declared.

**3. 05.08.25 Approval of the Minutes of BPPC Meeting held:**  Tuesday 10th June 2025 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 28th June 2025 were agreed, approved and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council.

**4. 05.08.25 Bridgetown Report:** Cllr. Flay had attended the Bridgetown Alive Meeting and had been welcomed by the Chair and Committee. She reported an update on the Playpark and Noticeboard which was gratefully received. She had been asked who owned the Play Park and was able to give the answer to Cllr. Presswell tonight, that the Playpark was owned by Berry Pomeroy Parish Council. Cllr. Flay had been asked to draw the winning ticket for the raffle of a tiger cub for the Bridgetown Safari.

**5. 05.08.25 Playpark & Noticeboard**:

PLAYPARK: Cllr. Bennett and the Clerk gave an update. They had finally received a quote for the removal of the old metal swing, the removal of the old safety surfacing and the cement edging and approx. 4inches of concrete. It was fully discussed and agreed that although we had been waiting and trying to engage contractors for the last 18mths that a second quote at least was obtained. It was explained that five contractors had been contacted and only one had provided a quote. The Playpark needed to be completed, the money had been provided by SHDC and questions were being asked why this had not been done. Cllr Hooper suggested another Contractor and the Clerk will contact them. In the interim, it was discussed and RESOLVED ‘if a second quote took longer than 15th August 2025 to be submitted or that quote was over the current quote, then the current quote would stand and the removal work on the Play Park would commence on 1st September 2025. This was proposed by Cllr. Bennett, seconded by Cllr. Mills. Objected to by one and one abstention. The motion was carried by a majority vote of three to two. The Clerk will keep Members informed and if necessary, the Chair will call an Extraordinary meeting as our next meeting is not until 7th October 2025 and we could then miss the opportunity to commence the removal work or weather delays set in as Autumn approached.

NOTICEBOARD: The quote to remove the old noticeboard and place that next to the Telephone kiosk in Berry Pomeroy Village and to install the new Noticeboard in Dukes Road is £740.00. It was proposed to accept the quote by Cllr. Flay, seconded by Cllr. Bennett and unanimously agreed. The Clerk will instruct the Contractor to commence work on 11th August 2025.

**6. 05.0825 PLANNING:** 1976/25/FUL – NO COMMENT. 2253/25/FUL – N0 COMMENT

**7. 05.08.25 Clerk’s Report:**

Invite to Joint Clerk’s/Cllrs LGR Updates at The Guildhall, Totnes Town Council on 15th October 2025 – evening. Details to follow. Agreed attendance: Cllr Flay and Cllr. Penfold.

Cllr. Presswell’s email regarding unlawful camping at Longmarsh – a Noticeboard needs to be erected stating No Camping and potentially with contact details for the Homeless etc. Currently there are no tents in the vicinity.

Broadmoor Lane – Cllr Rake had assisted the Clerk after a report that the hedges were inhibiting taxis from accessing the cottages leaving one vulnerable resident unable to attend appointments and shopping. DCC said there was nothing wrong with the hedges. Our Lengthsman was deployed to assist and cut back some of the offending branches and the resident informed. It also transpired that in actual fact DCC are going to lay a new road surface in October 2025. Cllr. Bennett stated that he believed the hedges were the responsibility of the Landowner. The Clerk was requested to send an email to them as a gentle reminder to ensure they checked the hedges roadside regularly at Broadmoor Lane.

The Lengthsman’s Summer Schedule was working and everywhere was looking neatly trimmed. Cllr. Hooper stated the footpath from the top of Bridgetown Hill to True Street needed cutting. This is DCC responsibility and the Clerk will contact them to address as soon as possible.

Parochial Council/Cemetery: The situation is ongoing. Good wishes were sent for a Speedy Recovery to the a Parochial Council member who is currently unwell.

**8. 05.08.25 MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND PAYMENTS**

**10th June 2025 to 4th August 2025**

**Bank Account Balances as at: 24th June 2025 – Main operating a/c £38,008.54**

**Bank Account Balances as at: 24th July 2025**

Santander Main Account £37,442.54

Santander Reserve Account to 5th June 2024 £ 4.331.25\*

**Berry Pomeroy Parish Council total balance as at 04.08.25** **£41,773.79**

**\*still awaiting 2025 Reserve A/C statement**

**INCOME:** zero

**EXPENDITURE:**  June/July/August 2025

20.06.25 Clerk’s Monthly Salary paid by Standing Order £566.00

20.07.25 Clerk’s Monthly Salary paid by Standing Order £566.00

05.08.25 Chq. No. 855 Stationery/Stamps/Pay Award back dated £90.64

05.08.25 Chq.No. 856 Lengthsman Duties – May/June/July £837.13

05.08.25 Chq.No. 857 HMRC PAYE £349.69

The Monthly Finance Sheet had been circulated to Members earlier. The Finance Sheet was unanimously agreed and signed by the Chair on behalf of the Parish Council.

Santander had informed the RFO/Clerk that a monthly charge of £4.99 was to be applied to our bank account commencing in September. This is across the board and even some Charities were going to be charged.

The Annual Pay Award for Council Officers had been agreed at 3.7% backdated to 1st April 2025. There was an agreed amendment to the Salary Standing Order.

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**9. 05.08.25 Date of Next Meeting:**  7.15pm Tuesday 7th October 2025 at Berry Pomeroy Village Hall

The Meeting Closed at 21:03hrs

Signed:………………………………………………….Date: 7th October 2025

Chair, Cllr. Graham Bennett