

BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of Meeting of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council Thursday October 6th 2016 at 7.30 pm in Weston Community Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mills, Mrs Boughton, Elliot-Smith, Hannaford, Nicholls, Hooper.

C. Councillor Vint; D. Cllrs. Green and Birch

Also present,

David Eeles, Clerk. 8 members of the public and representatives from Totnes Town Council.

Neighbourhood Plan Committee

Before the Council meeting convened, a meeting of the N.P. Cttee was held. This comprises members of the Parish Council together with Sue Misselbrook, with Mary Coughlan-Clarke , the co-ordinator of the Totnes Neighbourhood Plan, invited to act as liaison between TTC and Berry Pomeroy Parish.

1. The position of the farmers on the Council who are tenants of the Duke of Somerset's estate was discussed. The clerk had consulted with SHDC and only where there is a clear pecuniary interest would members have to withdraw from discussions. At this stage of the NP this was not felt to be the case, However the Chairman, John Mills, one of the tenant farmers, felt that it would be better if the Chairman of the NP Cttee. was not linked to the estate in this way. Accordingly Cllr Hannaford was elected as Chairman.
2. Cllr Nicholls said it was clear from the survey that if any housing was needed it should be affordable or social housing.
3. Cllr Elliot-Smith said a plan was needed.
4. Sue Misselbrook felt there should be a joining together with Totnes NP to present people's views.
5. D. Cllr Green advised of the possibility of designating "local green spaces" which would be inviolate.
6. Mary Coughlan-Clarke said that Totnes NP would only make policy about the characteristics of Bridgetown and the main one was likely to be that housing in Bridgetown should not extend any further. South Hams can deliver on housing allocations without the need for more houses in Bridgetown and the further traffic congestion that would accompany it.
7. The possibility of some infill housing within the village, as had been suggested by several questionnaire respondents, was discussed and Cllr Boughton noted that there may also be possibilities at Longcombe, Loventor and other outlying areas.
8. The possibility of asking Graham Swiss to make another visit to advise was discussed but some felt this would be better once some progress had been made.

9. Cllr Elliot-Smith said the next stage should be to formulate a vision and objectives. Cllr Nicholls said bullet points from the survey should be identified and then small plots of land. The possibility of community land trusts and self-build schemes was also mentioned.
10. It was AGREED to form a small working party comprising of Cllrs Mills, Hannaford and Elliot-Smith to meet at 6.45 before the next meeting at the Village Hall on Nov. 3rd and the meeting then concluded.

Berry Pomeroy Parish Council meeting

Before the meeting started the Chairman gave the opportunity for members of the public to make short statements.

Among the speakers were;

1. Richard Crafer presented the Chairman with a report he had had produced on the traffic flows in Totnes at the time of the Riverside planning application. He felt the additional 400 houses proposed for the Bridgetown area by the Duke of Somerset's Estate planners would badly contribute to the already existing congestion. He also felt that not enough affordable housing was being provided and deplored the way the original planning permission for 100 dwellings at Riverside was being exceeded; already 106 were being built and the latest application for 8 more would make 111.
2. As a community gardener and ecologist Joy Hanson explained that she highly valued the site where the 8 new houses were proposed for its nature and for spiritual reasons, as well as its value at night as a good place to observe the stars. She showed a plan she had made to enhance the area and make it a green lung for Totnes and a safe place for the elderly and children.

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed the visiting County and District Councillors.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mills, Mrs Boughton, Elliot-Smith, Hannaford, Nicholls, Hooper.

C. Councillor Vint; D. Cllrs. Green and Birch

Also present,

David Eeles, Clerk. 8 members of the public and representatives from Totnes Town Council.

1(10.16) APOLOGIES: Cllr Perring

2. (10.16) MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETING:

These were AGREED as a true record and duly signed off.

3 (10.16) MATTERS ARISING

None

4 (10.16) POLICE

Some incidents from the police incident website were reported.

5 (10.16) REPORTS

Report of County. Cllr Vint:

1. DCC has awarded the contract for Highways maintenance to one firm, Skanska Construction UK Ltd, for the next 8-11 years. He is concerned this will restrict competitive bidding and provide a monopoly.
2. There are Devolution "myth busting" training sessions for councillors. This has failed to provide answers for Cllr Vint on why the figure of 197,000 houses have been chosen as the target and no mention of local need for affordable, social and rented accommodation. He has tabled a motion to challenge this.
3. An update on broadband provided to opportunity to ask why DCC has postponed the 95% coverage until 2019 despite the Gov. stating there will be 95% coverage by December 2017.
4. Highways and Maintenance issues include:
 - The repeatedly reported problem with loose paving stones in Ticklemore Street has not been solved by volunteers using sand between the stones.
 - He is in touch with a supplier in Exeter who can install electric vehicle charging points from a 100% renewable electricity supplier
 - There will be a temporary closure of South Street from 28th Sept.
5. He has tabled a motion calling for the need for affordable housing to be added to the housing section of the Devolution Prospectus, and seconded one asking for more to be done to support nature in the Environmental Policy document.

Report of D. Cllr John Green

Key messages:

- Draft of Joint Local Plan now expected to be published for consultation in Feb. 2017. He thinks the Market Square area (T3) should be removed from the JLP to let the Neighbourhood Plan have a free hand in proposing a vision for the site.
- SHDC is organising a public consultation on the proposed creation of a Devon and Somerset Combined Authority under Devolution.
- A Homeless Stakeholder Consultation Day is being organised in Totnes on 12th Oct. to find a way forward.
- The government is consulting on whether to apply council tax referendum limits to precepts from Towns and Parishes.

In addition he has attended about 15 meetings in Sept.

At this point the Chairman welcomed Cllr John Birch who has recently been elected to represent part of Totnes and Bridgetown, and who was attending his first meeting.

6(10.16) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The report on the Committee meeting earlier in the evening is given above.

7(10.16) NOTICE BOARD

The clerk reported that the noticeboard in Dukess Road which had fallen over due to strong winds and a rotten base had now been taken away by the lengthsman Stephen Holley and he was sourcing new legs. He suggested that members might want to take advantage of this to renew the notice board itself which has suffered vandalism and is very scratched. Members agreed, and Cllr Vint very kindly agreed to fund this out of his locality budget. The clerk AGREED to bring various alternatives for members to decide at the next meeting.

8(10.16) PLANNING

2643/16/FUL Erection of 8 dwellings at SX 8136 5985, West of Weston Lane, Bridgetown.

Members had made a site visit to assess this proposal before the meeting, and as earlier listed members of the public had already expressed their opposition at the meeting.

Members had received numerous representations against this development, notably from the Totnes Society and from Totnes Town Council. These were largely on the grounds that this was a development that was outside the Local Plan and as a windfall site should include a proportion of affordable homes but had carefully kept below the limit of 9 houses for this to be enforceable. It would also open the door to further development.

Members also felt that as a skyline development the houses would be intrusive in a landscape that was close to (and overlooked) houses in Landsdowne Park and an AONB. The houses would be seen for miles. Another point raised that there would be specific access problems to the houses due to the width of the road, as well as the more general addition of more congestion to the already crowded access roads to this area. The Chairman proposed **OBJECTION** seconded by Cllr Elliot-Smith and **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2653/16/HHO Uphempston House, addition of a side extension to western elevation etc.

NO OBJECTION/ SUPPORT

2361/16/HHO 18, Barton Leys: replace two timber exterior doors with partly glazed doors etc.

SUPPORT

2550/16/FUL: Land at Uphempston Farm - provision of agricultural building for cattle housing etc.

SUPPORT

9 (10.16). FINANCE

Payments

The following items are submitted for approval:-

- | | |
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| 1. Clerk net salary and expenses for September - | £ |
| | 328.54 |

2.	PAYE for September	39.40
3.	Konica Minolta photocopying (40%)	47.90

Receipts

5-10-2016-	Precept 2 nd instalment	2,341.50
Balance on Business A/C	27 June 2016	£7,259.40
Balance on Savings A/C	4 th July 2016	£4,190.45

EXTERNAL AUDIT

The clerk has received the external audit for year ended 31 March 2016 and the Annual Return has been certified with no comments.

10 (11.16) CORRESPONDANCE

The clerk reported the response he had from the police and SHDC about fly-tipping. Apparently it is no concern of the police but there is a dedicated team dealing with fly tipping at SHDC who will remove it if it is in a public place. However on private land it is the responsibility of the landowner. Where possible they will prosecute if they can determine who was responsible. The new Locality Officer at SHDC is the liaison person at SHDC. Cllr. Elliot-Smith volunteered to be responsible for this within the parish and his offer was gratefully accepted by the members.

11 (10.16) ITEMS AT CHAIRMANS DISCRETION

The clerk noted that for the new website an electronic copy of the Standing Orders were needed, and he had never seen any. The Chairman said he had an old copy somewhere. The clerk had circulated 2 examples which could be used, the difference being whether members of the public could be involved in the meeting without breaching standing orders or whether they would be given a chance to speak before the meeting but not thereafter unless S.O.'s were specifically lifted. Members AGREED to this being on the agenda for the next meeting.

12(10.16) NEXT MEETING

Will be on 3rd November in the **VILLAGE HALL at 7.30pm. The Neighbourhood Plan Sub-Committee will meet at 6.45 before the meeting**

Signed3-11-2016 (J. Mills, Chairman)

