**BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council on Thursday 14th November 2019 in Bridgetown Community Hall

**PRESENT:** Cllr. John Mills (Chairman), Cllr. David Hooper (Vice- Chairman)

Cllr. Nichola Boughton, Cllr. Sue Misselbrook, Cllr. Colin Luker. County Cllr. Jacqui Hodgson, District Cllr. Jo Sweett, District Cllr. Joseph Rose

The Clerk – Mrs Susie Watt.

**Guests:** Julie Foster – Chairperson of Totnes Caring & Ian Franklin of Totnes Caring

Julie & Ian introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of the functions of Totnes Caring. A hand-out was given to all present. A request was also made for funding. It was agreed that this would be discussed at a future meeting. The Chairman applauded the work which Totnes Caring carried out.

**APOLOGIES:** were received from Cllr. Jonathan Hawkins, Cllr. Birch

1. **(14.11.19) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**  NONE
2. **(14.11.19) MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 3rd October 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.
3. **(14.11.19) MATTERS ARISING:**  NONE
4. **(14.11.19) REPORT FROM DISTRICT:**  The Chairman suspended Standing Orders to allow District Cllr. Sweett to report on matters regarding the breach by the contractors at Great Court Farm in removing a native Devon hedge. Enforcement had been informed. Cllr. Sweett would be requesting the hedge is reinstated and would discuss at the next meeting. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Sweett for her support.

Cllr. Rose reported on Totnes Renewable Energy Society who will install free solar panels and then sell the electricity back at a cheaper rate. This is for Community buildings, homes, news builds etc., and is part of the Totnes drive to tackle climate change.

THE CHAIRMAN REINSTATED STANDING ORDERS.

1. **(14.11.19) POLICE REPORT:** Nothing to report.
2. **(14.11.19) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** The Clerk reported that meetings still needed to be arranged before any further advance on a Steering Group could be finalised. It is hoped to arrange meetings before and after Christmas to forward the NDP. The Clerk also re-iterated that outline Planning Permission had been given for up to 9 dwellings on land adjacent to the school had been approved. Cllr. Hodgson checked and her information stated that this had been refused in July 2019. The Clerk to obtain verification.
3. **(14.11.19 CLERKS REPORT:**

**a).** The budget is progressing and Cllr. Mills said this would be set in January 2020. The Clerk will continue to put together the draft Budget and email out to all Councillors prior to the January meeting. The Clerk also reported that the SHDC had informed all Clerks that the Tax Bases for 2020/2021 are delayed, which in turn will delay the draft budget calculations

**b).** The Tree Warden for Berry Pomeroy has been confirmed as Tommy Hutchinson.

**C).** The felling of the Tree on the Newton Road was within the prescribed permissions and no application to fell was required. This was confirmed by SHDC and the Forestry Commission.

**d).** The Clerk informed all present that the Bus Shelter had now been installed in Furze Road, however, a few cosmetic actions still needed to be completed.

**e).** There had been no response from the Estate regarding the possible purchase of the playing field. Cllr. Hooper raised objections, however, it was proposed by Cllr. Boughton and seconded by Cllr. Mills that this was progressed as the money for the purchase would come from s106 funds and would be wasted if not utilised. Also, Cllr. Boughton asked about the seat for the Playing Field and produced documents for the purchase of a junior seat, it was pointed out that at the last meeting it was resolved that the seat should not be just for the use of the children. Cllrs. requested this be amended. The Clerk requested the Chairman to suspend Standing Orders so that a new vote could be taken. It was therefore, proposed by Cllr. Luker and seconded by Cllr. Misselbrook that a recycled junior seat be purchased with the funds offered from Cllr. Hawkins locality fund. It was therefore RESOLVED that the said junior seat was to be purchased by a unanimous vote. The Clerk to apply for the funds and action.

**f).** The Clerk informed those present that she had passed the ILCA which had been paid for by both Berry Pomeroy and Marldon Parish Councils, there was now the CiLCA course and exam to train for. It was unanimously RESOLVED that the Clerk should take this course and it be funded by both Councils. The Cost of the Course is £350.00 to which Berry Pomeroy would contribute 40% (£140.00). The course will take approximately 12months to complete and is administered by the SLCC – The Society of Local Council Clerks.

1. **(14.11.19) REPORT FROM COUNTY:** Cllrs. Hodgson reported on a variety of topics from her meetings at DCC. However, there was a significant increase in County Lines activity within the district and various villages had been reporting problems. It has been requested that any suspicious or unusual activity be reported to the Police, however minor, so that a record and monitoring database can be established. The Clerk to again request attendance by the Police to the next Parish Council meeting if possible, for an urgent update.
2. **(14.11.19) CLIMATE CHANGE REPORT:** Cllr. Misselbrook had attended the Climate & Ecological Action Planning Week which consisted of various exhibitions, talks, actions and visions throughout the week. Cllr. Misselbrook will also be attending a Climate Action evening in Ashburton on 15 November 2019.

Cllr. Misselbrook will also be attending a meeting with Amy Garwood, Cllr. Hawkins, Cllr. Hodgson along with Cllrs. Hooper and Mills regarding the No Right Turn action at True Street. There had already been one meeting with discussions. Cllr. Misselbrook also reported that she had (as an individual) made an application for a TPO to be put on an Oak Tree along Blackpost Lane.

It was further reported than an Almond Tree was blocking the 30 Mile per hour sign and needed to be moved to a more visible spot. The Clerk to write to Highways for this to be actioned.

1. **(14.11.19) PLANNING:** NONE
2. **(14.11.19) FINANCE/PAYMENTS/BANK SIGNATORIES**

The Clerk/RFO reported that Santander had not responded to the requests for additional signatories and the change of address. The previous Clerk had been contacted who stated that no Statements had been received at her address. The Clerk/RFO produced a letter for signature by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to Santander requesting that the amendments were dealt with as a matter of urgency.

The following payments were approved for payment at the 14th November 2019 meeting:

Clerk, net salary for October 2019 £327.30

Clerk’s Office Allowance 12.00

Phone Allowance 5.00

Stationery Sundries: printer ink 17.00

TOTAL **£361.30**

CiLCA Training (Certificate in Local Council Administration – The Clerk)

BPPC contribution 40% of £350 **£140.00**

HMRC – July to October 2019 **£111.40**

Stephen Holley (Lengthsman) Aug/Sept works **£200.00**

Vision ICT – Website hosting & Support annual subs **£150.00**

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BANK BALANCES:

Balance on Business A/C as at 30th September 2019 (approx.) £10,173.70

Less Aug/Sept/October payments out (approx.) -(£1,707.44)

Balance on Business A/C as at 31st October 2019 (approx.) **£8,466.26**

Balance on Savings A/C as at 2nd July 2018 £4,221.04

(approx.) TOTAL **£12,687.30**

**Note:**  Bank Statements for September/October have not yet been received. Letter to be sent to Santander as per provided by the Clerk/RFO for signature. Interest to be added on the Savings A/C unknown. – awaiting annual statement.

**13. (14.11.19) THE VILLAGE HALL:** The hall was functional again now and the extension a success. Next phase is a new kitchen which can be applied for via s106 funds. Full details to follow.

**14. BUSINESS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN:**  Cllr. Mills reported that there had been a huge amount of mud on the road between Berry Pomeroy and Gatcombe due to the harvesting of the Maize, however, this had now been cleaned to a good standard.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**  Wednesday 18th December 2019 - Berry Pomeroy Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed:…………………………………………..18th December 2019

Cllr. John Mills – Chairman)