

BERRY POMEROY PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of Meeting of Berry Pomeroy Parish Council Thursday February 4th 2016 at
7.30 pm in Berry Pomeroy Village Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Mills, Mrs Boughton, Nicholls, Perring, Hooper; D. Cllr. Pennington; C. Cllr Rowe
David Eeles, Clerk. Mike Hannaford and Mark Elliot-Smith

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

1(2.16) APOLOGIES: Cllr. Wood

2.(2.16) CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR TO REPLACE MR WINTERBOURNE

Mr Mike Hannaford and Mr Mark Elliot-Smith had put themselves forward for this position. The Chairman gave each a few minutes to speak to the members who then voted by secret ballot and Mr Hannaford was duly elected to become the new Councillor.

3. (2.16) MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING:

These were AGREED as a true record and duly signed off. The clerk apologised for a slip-up regarding the notice of meeting correspondence and it was AGREED that in future he would e-mail this to those members who had e-mail addresses to save postage .

4(2.16) MATTERS ARISING

10(11.15) Members were looking for clarification from Cllr Vint reported about the possibility of an extra bus stop in Duke's Road.

5(2.16) POLICE

Cllr Boughton reported no further news on the church collection box had been broken into in the week before Xmas. The travellers have been moved from the vicinity of Littlehempston. The Enforcement officer at SHDC is now Helen Smart in place of Heather Nesbitt.

6(2.16) REPORTS

Report of Cllr R. Rowe for Devon County Council:

The month of January has been taken up with scrutiny meetings about the setting of the county council budget. I have attended four of these mainly to do with the People's budget which involves the young the old and the vulnerable people of Devon.

DCC is at the time of writing this report waiting to hear from central government on its final settlement from them. We need to know exactly what their grant is going to be so that we can produce a balanced budget.

At the present time it is anticipated that there will be an increase in the County Councils share of the budget of 3.99% this equates to an extra £45 on a band D property for the coming year.

The 1.99% increase is the most councils are able to raise the council tax without having a referendum and that would be foolish as it would cost more than the monies raised.

The highest demand for revenue within the people section is in the children's services. This is an unknown quantity as it depends on the number of children coming into care. There are nearly 700 at present. We need to work to alleviate this with family support earlier as it is less expensive and better for all concerned if they are able to be properly cared for in the own homes.

The C.C. will be continuing to look closely at recycling and waste strategies, some of the targets have not been met around the county.

There is more work to do on drainage and highways as and how finances allow to secure a safe highway network particularly in rural areas.

School Crossing patrol is also being closely looked at. It is considered that possibly this could be done on a voluntary basis with training.

The effectiveness of ring and ride services and the potential funding for such schemes within public transport is also being scrutinised.

Cutting funding within the arts budget as alternative funding can be found.

More information will be available as the budget setting meeting gets closer at the end of February.

Cllr Nicholls complained that potholes were not being repaired properly and were re-appearing.

Report of Dist. Cllr. Pennington

1. The District Council will meet this week to consider the budget for 2016/17
2. The central government funding grant to Southlands has been reduced by £622,549 from £3,137,000 in 2015/16 to £2,514,451 in 2016/17 i.e. by 20%.

3. The council will propose an increase in council tax of 1.99% which will entail an increase of £2.89 on the current band D council tax which will be £145.42 p on a band D property in 2016/17.

7(2.16) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Boughton that the quote from Copy Design of Torquay for the printing of the questionnaires and map be accepted, and this was duly CARRIED. The clerk had explained that this would be cheaper than using the Parish printer for such a long run.

8(2.16) WORK TO CHURCHYARD

Cllr Boughton reported that Mr Irwins wanted to know if he should proceed with work to the graveyard wall for which he had already quoted. It was AGREED that he should make good the wall adjoining the Manor car park and also deal with the Valerian. A professional opinion would be sought on a crack in one of the walls.

9(2.16) PLANNING

An application had been received for work at Loventor but members have not had time to see the plans so a site visit was agreed. This application was subsequently APPROVED. The possible formation of a new planning committee was discussed and will be returned to at a fully attended meeting.

10.(2.16). FINANCE

Payments

The following items were submitted for approval and duly CARRIED:-

Payments

The following items are submitted for approval:-

	£
1. Clerk net salary and expenses for January -	256.30
2. PAYE for January	39.20
3. Konica Minolta print- 40% share	9.26
Balance on Business A/C 28 th DEC. 2015	£5,782.95

11 (2.16) CORRESPONDENCE

Some newsletters received were circulated.

12 (2.16) BUSINESS AT DISCRETION OF CHAIR

There are deep potholes in Weston Lane where the new houses are proposed for building, and in the narrow part of Blackpost Lane.

At Riverside work appears to have been done using a swing shovel which involved the removal of three trees from a fence. Clerk to contact tree officer Alex Whish.

In view of the failure of the gamekeeper to mend the seat in the Square it was suggested that Steve Lambert be contacted.

The clerk reported that due to the Transparency Act all Parishes were now required to have a website on which agendas, minutes etc. would be published. There was government money available to purchase a laptop computer and pay for the installation of a website and associated training. This has been applied for by the clerk and it seems the money will be forthcoming to put the Parish Council into the digital age.

13(2.16) NEXT MEETING

Will be on 3rd March in the Village Hall.

Signed3-3-2016 (J. Mills, Chairman)

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