

DRAFT

*Minutes of a Meeting of the **BRENTOR PARISH COUNCIL** held in Brentor Village Hall
on **MONDAY 19th January 2015** at **7.30pm***

Present: Cllr S Burrows (Chair), Cllr J Adams (Vice-Chair), Cllr J Drury, Cllr J Burrows,
Cllr A Frankland

In Attendance: Cllr T Pearce (WDBC), Mrs C Sellars (Parish Clerk), Members of the Public

Cllr S Burrows opened the meeting by reading a letter which had been written by the Clerk to Mr T Beavon on 6th January, following concerns raised by a parishioner regarding his resignation. The letter read:-

Dear Tim,

A parishioner has contacted Brentor Parish Council to express concerns following your recent resignation. The parishioner is seeking reassurance that a meeting you had prior to your resignation with a person believed to be a planning consultant was dealt with in a proper and formal way and has asked:-

- 1. In this reported episode was Mr Beavon acting in any way on the instructions, knowledge or advice of the Brentor Parish Council?*
- 2. If Mr Beavon, the Chairman, was seeking the advice of a Planning Consultant without the knowledge of the wider Council, has he since explained the reason to the council, the identity of this consultant and divulged, to the council, the advice that was given?*

As far as I am aware, the meeting was not on the instructions of Brentor Parish Council and feedback from the meeting wasn't divulged prior to your resignation. I would be grateful for your response to these comments and look forward to hearing from you.

To date, no reply has been received.

Cllr S Burrows wished to make it clear that the meeting referred to in the letter had been organised without the knowledge of the Parish Council, and as a direct result of comments made regarding this meeting by a parishioner, Mr Beavon subsequently resigned.

Public question time:

Parishioners were generally concerned about Mr Beavon's meeting and asked if any further clarification would be sought from him. Some felt that the letter was Mr Beavon's opportunity to prove his innocence and his lack of response inferred guilt, whilst others felt that he shouldn't be judged and that as well as representing the Parish Council, the matter of affordable housing was also a very personal matter which had caused considerable discomfort for many people within the Parish. Cllr Pearce concluded that the situation was very unsatisfactory but that as Mr Beavon has now resigned there is very little which could be done.

8727 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Apologies had been received from Cllr Hill following a family bereavement. Condolences were offered.

8728 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

8729 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH November, 2014

A minor amendment to the wording was made concerning the Council Offices which are 'reducing' and not 'relocating'. It was **AGREED** that the Minutes of this meeting then be adopted.

8730 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS SEPARATE ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

Members **NOTED** the action tracker circulated with the agenda.

Engine Sign – The insurance company has confirmed that the cost of insuring the sign will be the same regardless of its location. However keeping it in the village hall may have further insurance implications for the village hall committee due to its high value. Cllr Pearce confirmed that it was still possible to keep and display the sign in the meeting room at Kilworthy Park. After discussions it was **AGREED** that it would remain in the meeting room at the Council Offices, as proposed by Cllr J Burrows and seconded by Cllr Frankland. Clerk to

CLERK

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organise the insurance.

Speed Limits – Cllr Drury reported that the next Southern Links meeting would be held shortly. The Milton Abbot Grouped Parish Clerk, Cllr H Asbridge, will be responsible for the VASS system. Cllr Drury to give a further update when more information is available.

JD

Wheelwrights Stone – No further progress has been made. Jane Marchand of the DNPA had been invited to attend the meeting but had been unable to do so. Dave Williams requested a contact email address for her so that he could make further enquiries himself.

CLERK

Dog fouling – A report written by Murray Cowley the Dog Warden was read out. Visits had been made to different locations at various times. Murray had been approached by people on the playing fields who commented on the lack of bin. Cllrs felt that although some people might use it, the general problem would remain and the cost of emptying the bin would have to be taken into consideration. Cllr Adams felt that the problem had generally improved but further areas, mainly grass verges, were still of concern. Clerk to contact Murray and ask for checks to continue.

CLERK

Parish Council Website – The Parish Council Link remains on the home page and a disclaimer has now been added.

Request to WDBC for updated pipework (Windsor Cottage) – The Clerk has written to WDBC (Chris Brook) who has asked Steve Brockman to investigate. Cllr Pearce stated that Steve Brockman has booked a camera man to look at the pipes. Cllr Drury will also ask the lengthsman to investigate.

JD

Quality Council Status – Mr Spratt and Ms Chapman had expressed an interest in this. Cllr Peace explained that both the cost and time implications of this were huge. The current Cllrs felt it would be unfair to commit to pursuing this now, in view of the fact that there was only one more meeting before the election of a new Council and perhaps it would be better to raise it at that time.

Cllr Drury also expressed his concerns about the levels and nature of correspondence sent by Mr Spratt and Ms Chapman, to the Parish Council, the content of which was often provocative, offensive and personal and to this end he would not be responding further to them. Cllr Frankland shared this view. Mr Spratt and Ms Chapman disagreed. Cllr S Burrows explained that the Parish Council as a whole had tried to do their best and vexatious emails were not helpful and would not be responded to in future.

Requests for donations and grants – This had previously been advertised in the Brentor News. Only 2 applications had been received. The first was from Tavistock and District Ring and Ride Partnership. It was **AGREED** that this service was used by parishioners and a £50 donation would be made. Clerk to organise payment.

CLERK

The second request was from Dave Williams on behalf of the Playing Field and Village Hall committee. Accounts had previously been provided. Mr Williams stated that income was fairly steady at the moment but that ongoing expenses e.g. redecorating the hall every 3 years was costly. A decision would be reached within the next 6 months regarding the playing field. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council would again offer support and £1000 would be paid in 2 instalments as in previous years. Dave Williams thanked the Cllrs on behalf of the committee. Clerk to organise payment.

CLERK

Rick Blower spoke on behalf of the Brentor Community Trust. No money was being requested

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as things were stable at the moment.

8731 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING MEETINGS/EVENTS OF OTHER AGENCIES – Nothing further to report.

8732 PLANNING MATTERS

a) To consider planning applications received:

WDBC 01417/2014	Full planning permission request for householder to erect a garage block, West Liddaton Farm, Liddaton, Coryton, Okehampton
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All Cllrs present had seen photos before and after and felt that the works appeared to have gone beyond the brief of what should have been done. Cllrs would welcome a review of the process followed so far and also validation of what has already been done. Clerk to respond to WDBC to this effect.

CLERK

DNPA 15/0001	Tree Preservation Order, Stablelights, Bonnaford Park, North Brentor	Neutral
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Cllr Adams had been approached by Mr Harris, the owner of Stablelights Cottage. He asked if anyone at that Parish Council meeting had any knowledge of the areas covered by Tree Preservation Orders as nothing was recorded in the deeds. Nobody was able to offer any information and as the Cllrs didn't feel qualified to comment on tree management a neutral view was declared.

CLERK

b) To note planning decisions made:

DNPA 0606/14	12 Affordable Houses, Hammer Park, North Brentor	Refusal
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Cllr Drury attended the recent meeting on behalf of the Parish Council. The application was refused, mainly on a technical matter, as an application for 12 houses constitutes a major planning application. Options now available to the landowner, include an appeal to the Secretary of State and a further application for a reduced number of houses as identified in the need for affordable housing process.

8733 BRENTOR INN

Cllr Pearce confirmed that the matter was ongoing, planning permission would be needed for the mobile homes on the site and action would be taken if these were not followed. Cllrs wished to register their continuing disappointment at the condition of the site. Clerk to write to DNPA asking for their opinion on the car park being used as a builder's yard and the fact that the bungalow was being lived in, despite the inn not trading.

CLERK

8734 Members Code of Conduct

This had been reviewed and updated in September 2014. An amendment to the Standing Orders is now required to 'allow any member of the public to take photographs, film and audio-record the proceedings of a public meeting, with prior permission from the Council.' Clerk to update.

CLERK

8735 CORRESPONDENCE

Members **NOTED** the list of correspondence (*circulated by the Clerk at the meeting*).

a) For information only

Letter from Devon Rural Housing Partnership inviting people to register an interest in self- build projects.

8736 CLERKS PAY INCREASE

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached agreement on new pay scales to be implemented with effect from 1st January 2015. The clerks' standing order will be amended to this effect.

CLERK

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8737 PC SUPPORT FOR BRENTOR VILLAGE HALL AND PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

Discussed under minute 8730

8738 GENERAL FINANCE

- a) The Clerk had previously shown the Chair a bank reconciliation and cashflow sheet together with the latest bank statement dated 2nd January 2015.

1. Receipts (£) since the last meeting:

22/12/14	£131.50	CQ	Burial fee
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2. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments made since the last meeting:

28/11/14	£172.60	S/O	Clerks Salary month 8
28/11/14	£20	S/O	Clerks expenses
28/12/14	£172.60	S/O	Clerks Salary month 9
28/12/14	£20	S/O	Clerks expenses
30/12/14	£44.00	000465	WDBC – Dog Warden

3. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

19/01/15	£91.06	000466	Clerks additional admin expenses (Jan 15) plus pay increase Nov/Dec/Jan.
19/01/15	£90.00	000467	Village Hall Hire

4. It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the cashflow as at 30 12 2014

5. It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Bank Reconciliation as at 30 12 2014

8739 PARISH PRECEPT/NEXT YEARS BUDGET

At the last Southern Links meeting which Cllr Drury attended, some Councils discussed the TCP (Tough Choices Programme) which they had subscribed to. This involves certain aspects of work previously being carried out by the Borough Council now being taken on by local groups within the community. Whilst Cllr Drury wasn't suggesting Brentor Parish Council subscribe to this, it was agreed that it would be prudent to include a figure of £250 in the budget should the cost of additional works have to be absorbed by the Parish. The clerk asked if a further contingency should be added for new Councillor training in view of the election of potentially brand new councillors following the election in May. It was agreed to include a figure of £150 for this.

CLERK

Since the meeting, the clerk found an error in the figures used. The precept was therefore **AGREED** at £11970, and not £12510 as discussed in the meeting.

8740 MINOR ITEMS

It was **AGREED** to hold the Annual Parish Meeting at the same time as the Coffee Morning which worked well last year, on Saturday 2nd May. Clerk to book the hall.

CLERK

8741 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 16th March 2015, 7.30pm, Brentor Village Hall

8742 CLOSE The meeting was formally closed at 9.00 pm