

A MEETING OF EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY 9th JANUARY 2012 AT 7.30PM IN THE EAST BRENT VILLAGE HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Bowden, E Champion (Chairperson), A. Gilling, Y Roscorla, L Spokes, W. Walker, J. Webb, G. Willoughby, B. Woodward, together with the Clerk B Strachan and County Councillor John Denbee were in attendance.

APOLOGIES: V. Clapp, S. McGreavy, and B. Filmer

Mobile Phones: E Champion requested that everyone including Parishioners turn off their mobile phone.

Opportunity for members of the Parish Electorate to speak:

Bob Bees spoke with regard to **horses being in field owned by Parish Council (adjacent to Cemetery)** when they were not authorised and causing damage to the grass.

Bob Stanford spoke with regard to the **work being carried out at Hill Lane by Bristol Water**. He stated that there were potholes in the road and lumps of tarmac covered in earth. In addition he stated that the road was giving way at the sides. He requested that a Parish Councillor have a look at the site.

E. Champion welcomed County Councillor John Denbee to his first meeting.

2137: MINUTES: The minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 12th December 2011 having been circulated were taken as an accurate record and were signed by E Champion.

2138: MATTERS OF REPORT (brought forward):

Horses in field owned by Parish Council: J. Bowden advised that he and the Clerk had already brought this matter to the attention of the selling agents Greenslade Taylor Hunt. As this has happened in previous years, it was agreed that Clerk contact GTH in November each year to ensure that the horses are removed from the field.

Work being carried out at Hill Lane by Bristol Water: B. Walker and E. Champion advised that they will visit the site and progress action if necessary.

MATTERS ARISING:

2139: FLOODING AT BRENT KNOLL INN: It was agreed that Clerk obtain an update from County Highways.

2140: DOG WARDEN/THE PADDOCKS: A. Gilling advised that one of the dog wardens is off sick. It was agreed that Clerk contact SDC and enquire if a site visit by them is possible.

2141: NOPILOW GROUP/Request for Information: *A. Gilling declared a Personal and Prejudicial interest in this matter.*

E-mail received from Peter Lacey advising that the pre-determination rules are due to change - probably after Christmas. Localism Act 2011 is being brought in in stages but most is promised before Easter 2012.

PL advises that Cllrs should approach any meeting with an open mind - they should describe any previously expressed views as being on the basis of knowledge at that time. Any views

in the past merely show a pre-disposition. The arguments for and against need to be heard, understood, challenged, and taken into account when acting as a holder of public office. PL states that pre-determination risk is not a possible breach of the Code of Conduct - it is a Common Law Offence, very rarely prosecuted.

E-mail received from Melanie Wellman, Solicitor at Sedgemoor District Council advising that the Parish Council should not form a view on a planning application until the application is forthcoming. MW advised that to form a view now could be considered to be predetermination. The Council need to consider the application on its merits when it is formally consulted. It is fine for the Parish Council to ask questions of the Developer/Sedgemoor if there are questions that the Parish Council feels need to be asked, but to form a view before formally consulted, would be premature and could lead to challenge PC decision.

E-mail received from No Pilrow group 8th January 2012 commenting on the Localism Act with specific reference to pre-determination. They state that they have been taking advice from both Tessa Munt and from the Wells Conservative Constituency on this issue.

No Pilrow advise that they have both indicated that the new act in effect does away with "pre determination" issues and it would appear there is also some suggestion that it may now be the **duty** of local Parish Councillors to take an active part in matters of overall concern to their constituents. Clearly a wind farm proposal falls within such a parameter.

They request that the Parish Council allow members of their committee, and indeed any local resident, to consult with them in depth on this important matter before a planning application is put forward by the developers and advising that it may very well be too late for full discussion after an application has been made. They also suggest that the way forward is for the council to appoint a sub committee (this was done regarding the Queen's Jubilee) to meet with some of our members and then report back to open Council. Clerk advised that SDC has advised that it is not possible for one of their officers to attend tonight, however they have sent information today (correspondence relating to a potential wind farm application in the parish. Also attached the formal scoping opinion response the Council issues to prospective developers) which has been forwarded to No Pilrow group.

After discussion, B. Woodward Proposed and L. Spokes Seconded that a sub committee be formed to progress this matter. J. Bowden Proposed and L. Spokes Seconded that E. Champion, B. Walker and V. Clapp (E. Champion and B. Walker stated that they are happy to volunteer, Clerk to contact V. Clapp to enquire if she will be happy to be nominated) form the sub committee. These 2 proposals were unanimously agreed.

2142: TIDY UP PROJECTS: J. Bowden and L. Spokes advised that they will progress meeting with Vic Phillips and Jason Mayo to determine area to be cleared and then accept the cheapest quote up to £600.

2143: HOLDERS FOR SALT: Liam Gill advises that there are a number of suppliers of grit bins on the internet. The cost for each bin is in the region of £125.

LG states that bin will be owned by the Parish Council and will be positioned with Highways agreement. Highways will then fill the bin as required, resource permitting, each winter.

LG states Highway Superintendent, Gary Adams, will be happy to meet a member of PC on site to agree a suitable location. Gary can be contacted on 0845345 9155.

Clerk advised that he has contacted Mrs. Cole to advise of position.

After discussion when it was agreed that Burton Row, Edingworth Road and Mudgley Road would be areas in most need of the bins. It was Proposed by B. Walker and Seconded by B. Woodward to purchase 2 bins as Tom Dalley has previously stated that the area around Mudgley Road would require a far larger amount of salt. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to order 2 bins and obtain confirmation from Tom Dalley that the amount of salt held by bin insufficient for his purpose.

2144: QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE: Report received from sub committee which detailed various initiatives that are progressing. Report stated that they approach Parish Council for £1,000 funding towards costs involved. J. Webb suggested that sub committee write to local businesses for funding. After discussion it was Proposed by J. Webb and Seconded by B. Walker that Parish Council put £500 towards costs and try and obtain the remainder of the funding from local businesses. This was unanimously approved. E. Champion thanked the group for their efforts to date.

2145: PARISH MAGAZINE: J. Webb advised that Molly Richards has not completed business plan yet. She hopes to have it ready for next PC meeting.

2146: ROOKSBRIDGE LIGHTS FOR LIFE - A38 LIGHTING: E mail from SCC advising they would question the merit of any individual light in this location as they believe this would cause problems for any driver. They state that the eye requires time to adapt to dark and light and in particular when these are in quick succession losing the ability to focus correctly or on a moving pedestrian. Therefore any lighting may aid the pedestrian to view the kerb edge but increase their risk of being struck by a passing car.

SCC state that the only reasonable lighting response to alleviate this problem would be to light the whole of the A38 to the recommended levels within BS5489, a cost they are sure that the Parish Council would not be able to cover and they would imagine that there would be considerable opposition to any proposals.

In view of the County Council's comments, it was agreed that the Parish Council cannot pursue this matter. It was agreed to forward this information to Mrs. Ireland at Lights for Life.

2147: BUS STOP AT BRENT ROAD: Clerk advised that John Perrett at SCC has not responded to several E-mails. It was decided that Clerk write to County Councillor John Denbee for assistance in this matter.

2148: SID RESULTS A38 ROOKSBRIDGE: E-mail from SCC advising that the current Local Transport Plan, which looks to fund schemes to reduce recorded injury accidents at priority sites, does not currently include any proposed works in this area. They do continue to monitor the situation as accident patterns change.

2149: TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT EAST BRENT: E-mail received from Chris Betty, Highways advising that they have looked into the site using their remote monitoring system and there are currently no faults. Also they have monitored the detector loops and they appear to be functioning correctly. CB advised that they have come across this problem before and upon inspection found that vehicles parking on the side road were preventing moving vehicles from passing over the detector loops, in conjunction with this vehicles were stopping too far from the stop line and in turn not placing a demand on the stop line loop. These two elements have caused there to be no demand placed into the

controller for the side road, therefore the side road will not run the stage. They are working with the traffic engineering team to remedy the situation. CB believes the stop line loop has been repainted further back to encourage drivers to stop at the line there for activating the detector loop in the surface.

It was reported that repositioning of the detector loops has made no difference to the problem, and it appears the only way to fix this problem is to prevent cars parking close to the junction. It was agreed that Clerk contact Highways again regarding this matter.

2150: PLANNING:

Decisions from previous planning applications are given as follows:

Ref. No. 24/11/00024/JAB

Proposal: Reduce laterals by 2-3m, crown lift by 2.5m from Ash, Sycamore and Hazel trees in G1

Location: Group of trees at, East Brent C of E 1st School, Church Road, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4HZ

Granted conditional planning permission

Ref. No. 24/11/00022/CJA

Proposal: Erection of two industrial units

Location: Land at, Mill Batch Farm, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4JN

Granted conditional planning permission

2151: FINANCIAL MATTERS: A copy of the receipts and payments until 31st December 2011 was issued to all Parish Councillors present.

The Bank statements to 31st December 2011 for the Current and Reserve Accounts were reconciled to the balances in the Bank Accounts by L.Spokes.

J. Webb requested that Sundries figure £996.11 of be broken down in future.

The following payments were unanimously approved for payment from the Current Account:

(Proposed by J. Webb and Seconded by B. Walker)

J.P. Mayo - Village Grass Maintenance per Quotation: £310.00.

East Brent Village Hall - Donation for electricity: £15.00.

£287.41 credited to Cemetery Account in December - **RPA payment.**

Quote for 2012 for **Village Grass Maintenance received** from J P Mayo for £320.00.

It was agreed that quote should also be obtained from VLP Garden Services for this work.

Cemetery Annual Maintenance Quotes: J. Bowden advised that Greenacres have being doing a good job over the past year. As their quote for the coming 3 years substantially less expensive than J. P. Mayo and VLP Garden Services, J. Bowden Proposed and B. Woodward Seconded that the job for next 3 years be awarded to Greenacres. This was unanimously approved.

Area at Cemetery to be fenced off to receive dirt from grave spaces: Quotes received from VLP Garden Services (£828.96 + VAT) and David Criddle Fencing (£462.19).

J. Bowden Proposed and L. Spokes Seconded that Parish Council proceed with this job. This was unanimously approved. B. Woodward Proposed and J. Webb Seconded that the job be awarded to David Criddle Fencing. This was unanimously approved.

2152: CORRESPONDENCE:

SCC - Planned Works in Sedgemoor week commencing 5th 19th 26th December 2011, 2nd January 2012: Circulated

RSN Online - 5th, 12th 19th December 2011, 3rd January 2012: Circulated

Wraxall & Failand Parish Council - Letter 31st October 2011: Circulated

SCC - Winter Service 2011 - 2012: Circulated

SCC - Somerset Electoral Review: Circulated

Community Council for Somerset - e mail 5th December 2011: Circulated

Came & Company (Parish Council Insurance) - Managing Seasonal Issues: Circulated

SCC - Speed Indicator Results - Strowlands, East Brent, November 2011: Circulated

EDF Energy, DCO Application for Hinkley Point C - Letter 9th December 2011: Circulated

SDC - Budget Briefing Parish/Town Councils, 8th December 2011: Circulated

Environment Agency (Hinkley GDA) - Assessing new Nuclear Power Plant Designs: Circulated

NHS Somerset - Somerset Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011: Circulated

Twenty Four Seven (South West Ambulance Service) - Edition 14: Circulated

Transporting Somerset - Consultation on Reduction in Subsidies to Local Bus Services: To B. Woodward for completion.

SDC - Neighbourhood Planning and Core Strategy Seminars: B. Walker has stated that he would like to attend, preferably the one at the Princess in Burnham on the 30th January. E. Champion requested that details be sent to Martin Keegan and himself.

SCC - Local Choice Events in February: J. Webb stated that she will attend on 21st February. E. Champion and J. Bowden stated that they might attend.

SDC - Policy RLT3 Application - Lympsham Tennis Club, replacing the existing floodlighting: *J. Bowden declared an interest in this matter.*

L. Spokes Proposed and G. Willoughby Seconded that the application be supported. This was unanimously approved.

SCC - Minerals Options Consultation: To Circulation for comments.

Avon & Somerset Police Authority - 2012-13 Budget Consultation Survey: Survey completed.

Standing Orders: A. Gilling recommended that if a Parishioner wanted to speak at a Parish Council meeting, they should advise Clerk of text at least 2 days in advance, and the Clerk circulate this to all Parish Councillors in advance of the meeting. In addition AG recommended that the Parishioner should not be allowed to speak for more than 3 minutes. AG stated that this would be good practice (as followed by SDC) following last Parish Council meeting.

E. Champion stated that he felt that this would be over prescriptive. B. Woodward and J. Bowden stated that in major issues such as proposed Broadview planning application, up to 15 minutes should be allowed. B. Walker stated that if there were a prepared statement, it would be useful for Parish Councillors to get a copy in advance. J. Webb agreed that the PC should not be caught off guard.

AG stated that in view that the Standing Orders would have to be amended, he withdrew his recommendation. It was agreed that Clerk reissue relevant part of the Standing Orders to all.

South Western Housing Society - Invite to opening of new offices 12th January 2012:J. Bowden and Y. Roscorla stated that they will attend. Clerk to E-mail V. Clapp to enquire if she will attend as she was on sub committee.

Funding of Speed Indicator Device at Rooksbridge: Letter received from SCC enquiring if Parish Council willing to put £100 towards taking further SID readings. After discussion it was agreed that it would be preferable to install a flashing light sign advising drivers to slow down.

2153: MATTERS OF REPORT:

B. Walker reported that he has received letter from Clive Waddell advising that the trees at Land to the East of Holly Tree Cottage, Brent Road, East Brent have not been cut down far enough (still touching the telephone wires) and he is having problems with his telephone connection. In addition he states that the height of the trees is affecting the light to his and neighbouring properties. It was agreed that Clerk contact Janette Burton at SDC and enquire if trees can be cut back further.

B.Walker reported that he has been successful in obtaining **map of Parish** and issued copy to all present. Clerk will send copy to Tessa Munt.

E. Champion reported that it was good to see **previous Chairman John Smith** in room tonight looking in better health.

A.Gilling reported that **South West Housing Society has offered £400** to be used in the Parish. After discussion, it was agreed that it could be used towards Jubilee costs. This was noted by B. Woodward.

A.Gilling reported that **Orchard Close tenant** appeared in court today, however her case was postponed until 26th March 2012.

J. Bowden thanked E. Champion and Bill Walker for their **help in putting up Christmas tree**. JB stated that Gary Bowden transported the tree and it was agreed that Clerk write to Gary and thank him for his assistance. A. Gilling presented bill for the tree - £45.00.

J. Bowden reported that the **fence surrounding the property at Old Bristol Road, East Brent** is down. Clerk to contact West Coast Properties to request they have it repaired.

It was reported that posts with chains have been installed at the property at Brent Road (next to Methodist Church) adjoining the old footpath and **concern raised that the footpath has been encroached**. It was agreed that Clerk contact SCC Footpaths for clarification.

J. Bowden reported that there appears to be an increase in the number of **cars parking at lay bys in East Brent**. It was agreed to look at this at next meeting.

J. Bowden enquired if a **guest speaker had been arranged for AGM**. It was agreed to invite a speaker from SDC in addition to John Denbee.

Coastal Parish Cluster Group Meeting 18th January 2012: No one available to attend.

Proposed Dates for Parish Council Meetings 2012/2013:Circulated

Burnham-on-Sea and Cheddar Policing Sector, end of year update - December 2011: Circulated

West Somerset Council - Hinkley Point Nuclear Power & Transmission - Latest update (Jan 3) 2012: Circulated

Minutes of Coastal Parish Cluster Group Meeting 12th October 2011: Circulated

The Planning Inspectorate - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 53 - SCC (No. 13)

Modification Order, 2010 Addition of Bridleway and upgrading parts of Footpaths AX 17/11

and AX 22/11 to Bridleway at Delhorn Lane, Parishes of Lympsham & East Brent. Proof of Evidence: Circulated
Clerks & Councils Direct - January 2012: Circulated

There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

2154: DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of East Brent Parish Council will be held on Monday 6th February 2012 at 7.30pm in East Brent Village Hall.