

DRAFT Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 1 October 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Blackawton Village Hall

Open Forum

a) Parish Council Lengthsman

The new Parish Council Lengthsman, Mike Pearey, introduced himself. Litter, particularly plastic litter, is often a cause of the blocked road drains. He is collecting litter as he works (so that it doesn't lead to a future blockage), but suggests that the Parish should take on this responsibility and save some of the Lengthsman's cost. Parishioners were also encouraged to report blocked drains to directly to Devon County Council, using their website. Mike is keen to engage with the community and introduces himself to nearby householders when he clears a drain. Cllr Perry is assisting him to liaise with landowners about clearing the land side of the drains. The main road to Strete has been identified as a priority. Mike Pearey said that he would prefer to take a long term view of road maintenance and do a thorough job the first time - unearthing kerbs and drainage systems, with some roads getting substantially wider. He is arranging to tour the roads with Devon County Council. A gully sucker lorry is required for some drains. Mike's details are on the website and will be in the Beacon; he is happy to be contacted by residents.

Present

Cllrs Rake, Mewes, Coe, Perry, Thomas, and Wilson were present, as were South Hams District Cllr Reeve, Devon County Cllr Brazil for his report, and A Thom (Clerk).

166/19 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mallyon.

167/19 Declarations of Interest

None declared

168/19 Minutes of Previous Meetings

It was resolved approve the minutes of the meetings held on 3 September & 26 July 2019.

169/19 Report from South Hams District Councillor

District Cllr Reeve reported that SHDC Cllrs have been on a climate change workshop. Transport and heating are the biggest components of SHDC's footprint. SHDC has employed two new planning enforcement officers. Existing cases will be reviewed. Fusion Leisure Centre went cashless today. Please give your views on Dartmouth Leisure Centre to Cllr Reeve. Cllr Coe asked why prices differ between sites and suggested that the Dartmouth Centre needs a swimsuit dryer. Cllr Rake expressed his disappointment that SHDC seems to be focussing on its own footprint and suggested SHDC needs new policy, for example to allow double glazing on grade 11 listed houses. Devon County Cllr Brazil advised that DCC is also developing its response to climate change. It needs to produce an action plan. There is some 'low hanging fruit' such as electric vehicle charging stations in car parks. He said we need to push it as far as we can locally. There is much we can do at a local level and we need a concrete action plan.

Cllr Coe requested grant funds to buy trees. Cllr Reeve will send an application form to Cllr Coe. National Tree Planting Day is on 30 November.

170/19 Report from Devon County Councillor

Devon County Cllr Brazil said that in its response to Climate Change, DCC is considering a Citizens Assembly. DCC's action plans are pending. DCC doesn't have sufficient resources for road maintenance. There is a Community Enhancement Fund for the community to do road works projects. The west - east road has been improved with Slapton Line funds. The approach to possibly removing street lights from Blackawton was discussed by the meeting. Cllr Brazil said the DCC Officer has suggested BPC start to canvas local opinion. Cllr Rake asked if the lights could be switched off for two weeks as a trial, which Cllr Brazil suggested be part of a consultation. BPC needs to first establish if it is feasible for street lighting to be changed. The consultation could be total dark, key lights, retain status quo. Cllr Brazil will now go to the DCC Officer and get possibilities, and report back to BPC. Cllr Brazil will follow up a problem with a light at Cheavestone Lea being on all the time.

171/19 Planning Issues

171/19.1 SHDC Planning Approvals/Refusals

The following decisions were noted:

- 1448/19/FUL Field at SX781513 Cliston Cross Blackawton Devon. Erection of new stable building and use of field for keeping and grazing for horses. Conditional Approval.
- 2216/19/FUL Woodlands Leisure Park Blackawton Devon TQ9 7DQ. Erection of steel framed building to host seasonal and periodic events in association with the activities of the leisure park to provide an all weather entertainments facility building. Conditional Approval.

171/19.2 Review of New Applications

- 2838/19/CLE West Dreyton Farm, Blackawton, Totnes, TQ9 7DJ. Lawful development certificate for existing use that buildings works have commenced of planning approval 0481/16/FUL

No comment will be made by BPC.

- 2582/19/FUL 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 Church Quillet Blackawton TQ9 7BT. External wall insulation and replacement of the dwelling roof tiles.

Support (Unanimous resolution, proposed Cllr Coe, seconded Cllr Mewes)

- 2506/19/HHO The Coach House Shepleigh Blackawton TQ9 7AH. Householder application for alterations to existing bungalow to create house.

Support. BPC would have liked to see more detail regarding environmental impact and performance. (Unanimous resolution proposed Cllr Mewes, seconded Cllr Thomas).

172/19 French Furze Project

BPC would like the access from French Furze to Main Street to be constructed as soon as possible. No response has been received from Linden Homes regarding this request. The Clerk will forward to Cllrs earlier correspondence with DCC about the safety of this footpath. The Clerk will approach DCC about creating a new access onto School Lane in the future.

173/19 Parking in The Grove blocking ramp access to the road

If vehicles park on the footpath near the grit bin on The Grove the access ramp for some residents to leave their homes and enter the street can be blocked. There was a problem recently with one particular vehicle doing this regularly. BPC did write a letter, however it has apologised because the letter was sent to the wrong address. The meeting agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Rake would write a letter which could then be delivered to all residences in The Grove if Cllrs agree unanimously. The possibility of double yellow lines to make the problem parking location clear will also be investigated.

174/19 Climate Change & Biodiversity

It was resolved to adopt the draft Environment Policy and that the Policy will be reviewed every two months. Wider input into the Policy is encouraged. Currently there are multiple chapters with single authors.

The possibility of planting in the land behind The Grove to create a wildlife corridor has been raised by Sustainable Blackawton. Free trees from the Wildlife Trust can be delivered in March 2020. Sustainable Blackawton is at this stage an action group – it doesn't have a constitution or a bank account.

Sustainable Blackawton's proposals for tree planting and environmental improvement in the Cemetery and in St Michael's Churchyard were discussed. The Churchyard is owned by the Church. It was agreed that a site meeting would be held to discuss and better understand the proposals. The Parochial Church Council will be invited to attend. Blackawton Primary School's has requested assistance regarding sourcing tree whips and involvement in the tree planting projects. More information is required before a grant can be made for the tree whips. Involvement in the planting was welcomed in principle. It was suggested that an earlier proposal for planting the bank outside St Michael's Lychgate be revisited. The Clerk will try to locate the proposal.

175/19 Installation of Bus Shelters

The Clerk discussed the current status of the project. Cllrs will review the Report sent to Cllrs just prior to the meeting and the item will be on the November Agenda.

176/19 Grant Policy

Consideration of the Policy was deferred.

177/19 Finance

177/19.1 Update on Current Financial Position

The Report, which showed a total balance of £63,064.02 and unearmarked reserves of £15,125.99, and the bank reconciliation were noted.

177/19.2 Payments Made, Due and Received

It was resolved to approve the following payments:

- Grounds Maintenance Contractor, August Cemetery & Churchyard cuts, £210
- Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Removal of second hedge as quoted, £150
- Kingsbridge Websites, Invoice for various small updates, £20

The following receipts were noted:

- SHDC, precept second instalment, £7,032.50
- RC Pillar & Sons, EROB & interment, £250.00

177/19.3 Blackawton Business Units Administrative Costs

The approval of administrative support was deferred pending further provision of detail.

178/19 Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

- DCC Highways Parish & Town Council Conferences, Thursday 10 October, Rattery Village Hall
- Climate Emergency Council Seminar, Tuesday 24th September 7pm, Ottery St Mary Town Council Offices
- Devon Community Resilience Forum Event, Rattery, 27 November 10:00-16:00
- Emergency Planning Workshops for Parishes from 10:00am - 1:00pm 30 October Sparkwell Parish Hall, Sparkwell, Plymouth, PL7 5DD or 13 November Broadwoodkelly Village Hall, Broadwoodkelly, Winkleigh, EX19 8ED.

179/19 Reports from Parish Councillors and Wardens

Cllr Perry raised the concern that Housing Association properties on Cheavestone Lea are not being maintained to a good standard. The Clerk was instructed to write and request that the maintenance is improved.

Cllr Thomas suggested that the phonebox is turned into a museum or gallery to improve the asset.

Cllr Wilson said that he would take on the issue of Playing Field Committee membership and seeking support from parents of children who use the playground.

Cllr Mewes asked if BPC would pay for testing of the water trough in the Village. Cllr Perry advised this would go to SHDC. To be on the November Agenda.

Cllr Rake raised the possibility of a Parish Council Newsletter, possibly in the New Year, to improve communication with Parishioners. Possible topics include the website, reporting, inviting people to attend meetings, and the Blackawton Business Units.

Cllr Coe and Cllr Mewes gave their apologies for the 5 November meeting

180/19 Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 5 November 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 22:26