

DRAFT Minutes of the monthly meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held using public videoconferencing on Tuesday 7 April 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The Agenda was reduced to necessary business because the legal basis to hold virtual meetings had not been established by Government when the Agenda went out.

Open Forum

No members of the public joined the meeting.

Present – Cllrs Rake (Chair), Cllrs Mewes (Vice-Chair), Coe, Mallyon, Thomas and Wilson were present, as was South Hams District Cllr Reeve, and A Thom (Clerk. There were no members of the public.

57/20 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Perry.

58/20 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

59/20 COVID-19 Response

The project coordinating the community response to the coronavirus outbreak was discussed. Cllr Rake reported on the appreciation of the community and the positive response from volunteers. At this time there have been few requests for help. Cllr Rake will update volunteers. There are many active local support networks, and BPC's network provides an additional safety net.

60/20 Report from South Hams District Councillor

Cllr Reeve reported that village shops and Totnes Cross Filling Station are doing a fantastic job serving their communities, which is so appreciated, as are all the kind hearted volunteers within our villages, and of course the NHS who we will never be able to thank enough.

Monies have started to be received from the Government through SHDC in the form of grants for businesses in the South Hams. Ten million pounds has already gone out from a pot holding 35 million pounds. Business rates have been reduced to zero until March 2021.

Recycling bags have got quite desirable so are now in short supply. There will be no more until 16 April.

Construction is still being allowed. It was pointed out by the resident of another village how close some workmen were working together etc. This is not a council matter and if anyone is very concerned they should contact the police.

Foodbanks are overwhelmed with demand and most supermarkets have baskets where you are able to donate food.

Public footpaths must remain open.

Cllr Reeve is helping to resolve a problem with a noisy wind turbine at Collaton.

61/20 Report from Devon County Councillor

Deferred in the absence of Cllr Brazil.

62/20 Planning Issues

62/20.1 SHDC Planning Approvals/Refusals

The following decision was noted:

- 3563/19/FUL Barn At Sx 811 524 Dreyton Cross Blackawton READVERTISEMENT (Revised Plans Received) Amendment to approval 0416/19/PDM (change of use of agricultural building to dwellinghouse (Class C3)), to include the creation of new site entrance, erection of stable block and use of associated land for equestrian purposes Conditional Approval.

62/20.2 Review of New Applications

- 0643/20/FUL The Old Farmhouse Millcombe Blackawton Totnes TQ9 7AE. Sub-division of existing dwelling to create 2 residential dwellings.
Cllrs agreed to Support this application.

- 0656/20/FUL Dreyton Cross Barn A3122 Blackawton Totnes Demolition of existing barn and construction of 3 bedroom dwellinghouse with garage and external amenities.
Cllrs agreed that No comment will be made on this application.

- 0810/20/ARC Development At Sx 8052 5109, Town Farm School Lane Blackawton Devon TQ9 7BE. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 12, 15, 16 & 21 of planning consent 0318/18/VAR.
BPC noted that these documents are of a technical specialist nature.
BPC will respond observing that the last construction drainage system approved for the French Furze development was inadequate and allowed water ingress into residences located downhill. SHDC Officers have had to assist and are well aware of the details of this problem. BPC will ask that the proposed drainage plans in this application receive great scrutiny from SHDC Officers. It will also ask that any approval includes a system for emergency contact should the drainage system fail. South Hams District Cllr Reeve will be asked to assist in the scrutiny of this application.

- 3880/19/CLP Woodside House Blackawton TQ9 7BL. Certificate of lawfulness for proposed replacement of existing conservatory roof with reclaimed roof slate tiles matching main property. Hipped conservatory roof being replaced with apex style window.
BPC will respond confirming that this construction has been present for some substantial period of time, although it cannot accurately say the number of years.

63/20 French Furze Project

Cllr Reeve has provided a copy of the discharge conditions for French Furze. There has been a change of ownership. The project is now owned by a new company named Vistry. Work on site has ceased - at least until the end of April. Vistry is looking into BPC's questions regarding the construction of footpath to Main Street, timing of the transfer of the business units, and the percentage market unit housing occupancy figures.

64/20 Cemetery & Churchyard Maintenance

The grounds maintenance contractor has confirmed that they are able to do the grounds maintenance work keeping to the Government guidelines for social distancing. BPC agreed that this will meet the Government's guidance on work which cannot be done from home and will confirm that it requests that the work is done. BPC also noted that the cemetery and churchyard could develop health and safety issues if the maintenance work is not done.

65/20 Welcome Signs

BPC approved DCC's revised proposal to install the two signs (replacement on Quarry road and new sign just before French Furze) with a total cost of up to £395.60, and that BPC will apply to Devon County Cllr Brazil's Locality budget to fund the signs.

66/20 Finance

66/20.1 Update on Current Financial Position

The balance carried forward at the end of year was £54,111.37, and the total balance on 7 April £53,640.06 with unearmarked reserves of £10,144.43.

66/20.2 Payments Made, Due and Received

The following payments were agreed:

- Sustainable Blackawton Grant / Cllr Mewes, Seed mixes and plants for lychgate planting, £31.55
- SHDC, Election expenses, £73.62
- Kingsbridge Websites, Website Accessibility Regs, £160.00
- Kingsbridge Website, COVID-19 pages, £30.00
- DALC, Annual subscription, £176.14

The following receipts were noted:

- New memorial, £60.00
- DCC HCMEF Grant (Lengthsman), £300.00

66/20.3 Parish Council Insurance

BPC agreed it will insure assets valued at £1,000 pounds or more. BPC does not require cover for defibrillator, income protection, or hirer's liability. It will take advice on whether cover is required for money/assault and subsidence cover. BPC agreed that the better value cover is the middle of the three quotes provided. The Clerk will obtain a quote and policy based on these criteria. The Clerk is authorised to choose and pay for the final policy and to commit to a three year agreement in consultation with Councillors. The policy is required from 4 May.

67/20 Reports from Parish Councillors and Wardens

Cllr Mallyon will report to DCC the damaged grit bin on the road to Millcombe. Cllr Rake reported that the DCC Footpath Warden is resolving a problem with a public footpath being incorrectly closed by a landowner, a new enforcement protocol is pending.

68/20 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8:38 pm