

**DRAFT Minutes of the monthly meeting of Blackawton Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 January 2020
at 7:30 p.m. in Blackawton Village Hall**

Open Forum

a) Parish Lengthsman

The Parish Council's Lengthsman discussed the lengthsman's role. He raised the concern that with increased rainfall Blackawton will need to increase the number and/or size of buddle holes.

Present: Cllrs Mewes (Meeting Chair), Coe, Mallyon, Perry, Thomas and Wilson were present, as were South Hams District Cllr Reeve, Devon County Cllr Brazil for his report, one member of the public, and A Thom (Clerk).

01/20 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rake.

02/20 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

03/20 Minutes of Previous Meetings

It was resolved to approve minutes of the Meeting held on 3 December 2019.

04/20 Report from South Hams District Councillor

Cllr Reeve will have approximately £600 available in her Locality grant for 20/21. Cllr Reeve is following up the potential safety issue caused by the steep bank above the pond in French Furze reported by BPC in December 2019. The matter of enforcement issues not being resolved in a satisfactory timeframe was discussed. SHDC would appreciate BPC's help to prioritise the issues on the list.

05/20 Report from Devon County Councillor

Cllr Brazil reported that the A379 will be closed at Stoke Fleming for the next week. SHDC and DCC are moving forward with their responses to the Climate Change emergency. DCC will have a Citizens Assembly. The Councils now need Climate Change action plans to be developed.

Both Councillors were asked to inspect French Furze with SHDC officers to assess whether it is being built according to the approved plans. BPC does not have access to the building site, so the proposal that SHDC ask BPC to report issues for enforcement investigation is not feasible.

06/20 Planning Issues

06/20.1 SHDC Planning Approvals/Refusals

The following decisions were noted:

- 3878/18/VAR Development At Sx 8052 5109, Town Farm School Lane Blackawton Devon. Variation of condition 1 (approved plans) following grant of planning permission 0318/18/VAR (Application for variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) following grant of planning permission 06/0992/14/F (Erection of 60no. dwellings, employment floorspace, highway layout, incidental open space, car parking, playspace for Blackawton Primary School and multi-use games area)). Conditional Approval.
- 1583/18/ARC Sea Glimpse Road From Oldstone Cross To He Blackawton TQ9 7DE. Application for approval of details reserved by conditions 4 (Tree Protection), 5 (Landscape Plan) and 6 (Foul Water) of planning consent 3587/17/FUL. Discharge of condition Approved.
- 2582/19/FUL 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 Church Quillet Blackawton TQ9 7BT. External wall insulation and replacement of the dwelling roof tiles. Conditional Approval.

06/20.2 Review of New Applications

- 0620/19/FUL Watsons Barn Park Lane Totnes TQ9 7AA. READVERTISEMENT (Revised plans received) Demolition of existing barn and erection of dwelling.

Support (resolution proposed Cllr Coe, seconded Cllr Perry).

07/20 Consultations

- Government consultation on 'Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments'. Closes 19 February 2020.

No BPC Comment.

08/20 Emergency Plan

The 2011 BPC Emergency Plan was considered. The Clerk will circulate an alternative Plan. This will be an item on the February Agenda.

'what3words' and 'message in a bottle' were considered useful initiatives which BPC will promote in the Parish.

09/20 French Furze Project

No new project issues raised.

10/20 French Furze Business Units

The proposed handover of ownership with hired fencing in place is not acceptable to the Business Units. Cllr Thomas to advise SHDC of this in writing.

11/20 Environment

No changes were proposed for BPC's Environment Policy.

It was resolved for BPC to support Sustainable Blackawton to submit an application for a £300 DCC Making the Connection Grant.

12/20 Grounds Maintenance Cemetery and Churchyard

It was agreed that the Grounds Maintenance Contractor will be paid an increased rate for the much larger job of a late first cut of the Cemetery after the wildflowers. Cutting of the grass in the Churchyard is to remain the same. The Contractor will be asked to please wait until the foliage has died down before strimming the daffodils in the Churchyard.

13/20 Installation of a Foot/Cycle path to the A3122

BPC considered a proposal to look at installation of a path from Blackawton to the A3122. Cllr Perry will discuss whether this proposal is acceptable to the relevant landowners. The Clerk will source the feasibility study produced by Sustrans for Kingsbridge Town Council.

14/20 West Dart Bus

Increased promotion of the Bus was discussed. Councillors said that being able to hire the Bus to take people to a particular event would be useful. This would be mainly on weekends or evenings. BPC also said how helpful a service to Kingsbridge Community College would be, but recognised the Bus is already occupied at that time of day. The Clerk will investigate these two matters. Publicity material will be requested and placed in the Community Shop.

15/20 Cemetery Hedge

Cllr Perry will arrange for cutting of the hedge around the Cemetery.

16/20 Bus Shelter on the A3122 near Woodlands

BPC reviewed the three quotes and discussed how to proceed.

It was resolved to appoint Externiture to install two bus shelters at the bus stops near Woodlands on the A3122 subject to acceptable revised quotes on the same terms using toughened glass and a bench seat, and for a new higher fingerpost. Devon County Council has committed some funds to the project, those funds will be received in the 2020/21 financial year. The shelters are to be green with a vaulted roof.

17/20 Finance

17/20.1 Update on Current Financial Position

The Report showed a total balance of £57,949.98 and unearmarked reserves of £10,176.95.

17/20.2 Payments Made, Due and Received

The following payments were approved:

- Grounds Maintenance contractor, Cemetery cut November, £60.00
- Lengthsman, November & December, £160.00

Cllrs questioned whether all drains had been cleared by the gully clearance contractor. The Clerk was delegated authority to authorise payment after checking on the work and consulting with Councillors.

The following payment received was noted:

- Interment in section E, £180

17/20.3 Clerk's Overtime Claim

The claim BPC06 for ten hours overtime was approved.

17/20.4 2020/21 Budget

It was resolved to approve a final budget. No additional funds were added to earmarked reserves. The Community Shop reserve was reduced to £1,000, with its reserve reallocated to the Churchyard (£1,000), New Projects (£1,000) and Playing Field (£4,000). It was decided to increase the Precept to £16,500. This increase is

approximately £500 more than the increase calculated by including all of the 60 new residences at French Furze and keeping the contribution per household the same.

Two questions generated by the budget review were the availability of S.106 funds to resurface the Blackawton Tennis Court (Clerk to establish) and the creation of a new footpath from French Furze onto School Lane in the region of the new Toddler Play Area (Clerk to make enquiries).

17/20.5 2020/21 Precept Demand

It was resolved that the combined Precept demand and Council Tax support grant will be £16,500.

18/20 Correspondence

It was agreed that BPC will write to formally thank those volunteers who widened access routes to the air ambulance night landing site.

The following correspondence was noted:

- 12/19 The Pensions Regulator, Re-enrolment and re-declaration confirmation.
- 12/19 Card from Dartmouth Mayor and Mayoress

19/20 Reports from Parish Councillors and Wardens

No new matters were raised in verbal reports.

20/20 Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 4 February 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10:40 pm.