



# Brean Parish Council

Mrs J Manning (Clerk) 1 Hillside, Puriton, Bridgwater TA7 8AW

## **Approved Minutes of the Brean Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14 November 2016**

### **Present**

Cllr J Harris  
Cllr T Hicks  
Councillors

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman  
Mr D Holland, Mr D Scott, Mrs J Jackman, Mr M Chatterton

In attendance:-

Cllr T Grimes, Sedgemoor District Council  
Eight members of the public

Jacqueline Manning, Clerk to the Council.

### **164/16 Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Jenny Smith.

### **165/16 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Harris informed the meeting that where members consider they may have a potential interest in any topic for discussion and decision they should declare an interest and withdraw from the discussion and decision making process.

### **166/16 Approval of draft minutes**

The draft minutes of the meeting dated Monday 3 October 2016 were approved subject to an amendment to agenda item 145/16, "Declaration of Interests" which should read "Cllr Harris informed the meeting", instead of "Cllr Hicks informed the meeting".

### **167/16 To respond to members of the public**

A member of Brean Land Yacht Club requested that the Parish Council give consideration to changing the bye-laws to allow sailing on Brean Beach during the day in May, June and September. The Club was losing members as restricted times meant that members had very little time for sailing during these months. The Club was well-run and responsible and cameras on the beach meant that members could monitor the beach and would not sail at busy times. The club used a closed Facebook page. Members of the public who were using the beach had often expressed interest in the sport and enjoyed watching.

Members of SWATK were also present and supported the request for extended sailing times.

One member of the public commented that the bus service had been very poor, with many buses running late. On 3 September, the service had changed and there was now only one bus per hour, instead of one every half-hour. Elderly visitors to the village still needed to use the buses in September. Could there be a bus shelter opposite Pontins?

## 168/16 Discussion of matters arising from previous minutes

Crown lease – awaiting update from Ashfords LLP.

WW2 memorial – the Chairman reported that a resident had advised that one of the names on the memorial related to a family member who had returned safely from the conflict. It was then discovered that no-one from Brean had fallen in the war. For this reason, the new memorial could unfortunately not remain in place.

Re-valuation of rates for Weston Road toilets – we had not yet heard from the Valuation Tribunal about a date for a hearing. We had, however, received notices that rates had been revised. The new figures were as follows, although these might be subject to change:

Car park – current rateable value of £10,000 to increase to £13,000.  
Toilet block – current rateable value of £1175 to increase to £1375.

Members noted that we would receive tapered relief on the car park.

Invitation to James Heappey to attend a parish meeting to discuss village issues – the Clerk had written to Mr Heappey's PA, who had requested dates of the next few meetings. We were waiting to hear if Mr Heappey would be able to attend.

Winter bus service to Brean – we had contacted the bus company, First Group, but had been advised that our concerns had been passed to the network planning team. The Clerk had contacted the company again, and had been advised to write to Customer Services in Norwich. It was agreed that the following points should be raised:

- That the summer service ends too early – could this be extended?
- The possibility of moving the bus stop from Ham Farm to the Red Road junction, nearer to Animal Farm
- Problems with the punctuality of buses
- A request for the re-instatement of the Sunday service.

**Action:** Clerk to write to First Group.

Maintenance of road signs and markings – we had contacted Highways. One chevron in Weston Road had been replaced, but there was still more work to be done. We would monitor this.

Traffic congestion and lack of pedestrian crossings in Brean – we would contact Highways to confirm the process for putting a request for a pedestrian crossing onto the small improvements scheme for 2017-2018. **Action:** Clerk to contact Highways.

Signage for beach – dogs to be kept on lead at busy times. This was in progress.

Knoll Park Residents Association – it was agreed that we would write to the owner of the businesses to request that lorries did not turn at the top of the drive at Knoll Park, or in the lower car park. **Action:** Clerk to write to the business owner.

Brean Seasonal Caravanners Facebook page. We had contacted the representative to invite the member who had made a post about the Parish Council to contact one of the councillors, or to e-mail the Parish website. No communication had been received.

#### 169/16 **Current Planning Applications**

**Reference: 06/16/00043**

**Proposal:** Conversion and extension of lower ground floor garage to form self-contained holiday let, erection of two storey rear extension with balcony, widening of access and formation of four parking spaces (amended scheme)

Location: Ocean Drive, Warren Road, Brean, Burnham-on-Sea, TA6 2RD

**Noted:** granted permission on 8 November 2016.

#### 170/16 **New Planning Applications**

No new applications had been received this month.

#### 171/16 **Beach Management**

Seagull food concession – there had been no concession holder for the 2016 season but Cllr Harris advised that there had been expressions of interest from two potential concessionaires for 2017. To be followed up.

Brean Land Yacht Club had written to the Parish Council to request that the current bye-laws were changed to allow for an extension of sailing times in May, June and September. Members noted that there had been previous bye-laws, but that these had not been ratified. A detailed discussion took place and various points of view put forward. It was acknowledged that the clubs provided an activity which could attract more people to the beach and that both clubs were well-run. There might also be hiring opportunities for the village hall. However, safety on the beach was a major issue, although both clubs had explained that they would stop sailing at busy times. To mitigate possible risks, it was suggested that zoned areas could be set up for the clubs to allow for extended sailing times.

Bye-laws could be changed, but this was acknowledged to be a potentially lengthy process. Cllr Grimes agreed to look into the implications of changing bye-laws. Councillors stressed that they wished to be fair to everyone using the beach, and the request from Brean Land Yacht Club would be put on the agenda for the December meeting for further consideration.

#### 172/16 **Reports from Councillors on village issues**

Footpath to Weston - Cllr Hicks reported that this was still moving forward and that funding had been obtained from a number of sources. North Somerset was putting up fencing at the sluice to protect wildlife. The footpath was still scheduled to be finished by 1 May 2017, and it was hoped that the Minister for Transport might be able to attend the opening.

Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Harris informed the meeting that the current committee wished to stand down, and we needed someone to take over the running of the hall. Cllr Smith had expressed interest in being involved. A discussion took place and suggestions were put forward – could we advertise in Coastline, or could we run the hall ourselves? For further consideration.

Blocked drains – an engineer had attended, but there were still problems with the drains at Brean Court and Wyndham Park.

**Action:** Clerk to contact SCC to request another visit from the engineer.

Issues for discussion with PC Wills – there had been a meeting about crime-related issues, with James Heapey MP and a member of the police. Did members still feel it would be helpful to talk further with PC Wills at a Parish meeting? Members agreed they would like information on the following issues:

- Who is covering this area and what cover will we have in the 2017 season?
- How many PCs and PCSOs will be allocated to the area?
- Crime statistics for the past year
- Information about the local radio network set up to inform businesses about criminal activity
- Dog attacks – thoughts on police attendance at incidents, and what support is available from the police
- Information about the law concerning gypsies on private land.

**Action:** Clerk to contact PC Wills and invite him to a Parish meeting in February or March 2017.

Planting of bulbs – Cllr Harris had received a large bag of daffodil bulbs from Sedgemoor. It was agreed that Cllr Hicks and Cllr Scott would take some bulbs and arrange for them to be planted.

#### 173/16 **Approval of cheques for the current month's expenditure**

A schedule of cheques and direct debit expenditure for October 2016 is included at Annex 1 to the minutes.

#### 174/16 **Financial matters**

The Chairman received and signed the bank reconciliation statements for 30 September 2016, together with payments and receipts reports for September 2016.

A report on income and expenditure for the period April to September 2016 was circulated to all members for information.

Precept request from Sedgemoor District Council – members noted that we had received a precept request, and that the date for return of requests was 6 January 2017. A draft budget would be on the agenda for the December meeting.

Update on payment of audit fee to Grant Thornton – we had now received an invoice for £390.00, which included an extra £25.00 for audit queries relating to the asset register.

Update on auto-enrolment – this was now up and running. The Declaration of Compliance would be completed by the December meeting.

#### 175/16 **Staffing matters – Clerk**

The Clerk informed members that, due to increasing commitments this year, she felt that she could no longer continue to fulfil the role of Clerk. With regret, she was therefore tendering her resignation. She would be happy to stay until a new Clerk was appointed and would ensure that there was a full handover.

It was agreed that we would put an advertisement on the SALC website.

**Action:** Clerk to draft an advertisement.

#### **176/16 Adoption of Standing Orders**

The Clerk would draw up a more concise document for members to consider.

#### **177/16 Correspondence for review and circulation**

E-mail from Highways – Winter service for 2016-2017

Bags of salt would be available to collect from the depot at Dunball in December. Cllr Holland would arrange for bags to be collected on behalf of the Parish.

#### **178/16 To note the following correspondence on the circulation list**

- Letter from Brean Land Yacht Club, requesting an amendment to current bye-laws
- LDF Newsletter October 2016
- SDC - Advice on Planning Issues, from recent training sessions
- SDC additional planning Guidance about Class Q – agricultural buildings to dwelling houses
- SDC - Window Policy Guidance Note
- E-mail from Reverend Jonathan Philpott
- E-mail from visitor whose dog was injured on Brean Beach
- Hinkley Point C Look Ahead November 2016
- Severn Estuary Partnership News e-newsletter title page – link to full newsletter
- For information – SDC “How England Coast Path could work for you”
- Connecting Devon and Somerset Update
- SDC – legal advice, drafting and representation scheme for Parish and Town Councils
- Police Commissioner’s newsletter
- Letters from SDC concerning rates for the car park and the toilet block

#### **179/16 Members’ comments on previously circulated correspondence**

Councillor Jackman had commented on the letter from Knoll Park Residents Association. The problems encountered by residents had been discussed in agenda item 168/16.

#### **180/16 Other matters raised by Councillors for discussion at the next meeting in November**

Cllr Harris informed members that the next SALC area meeting would take place on 15 December 2016. Papers were still to be received, but the Clerk would pass these on to Cllr Holland in due course.

Cllr Scott queried the reason why trees had been cut down at the Old Rectory Motel. It was confirmed that the trees had been diseased.

Cllr Grimes asked what information we required about the bye-laws. Cllr Harris confirmed this would be general advice.

Cllr Harris reported that DTX, the web-hosting company for the Parish website, were upgrading their server facilities. This was causing various problems with the website and had meant that it had not been possible to upload the agenda for the November meeting onto the website.

#### **181/16 Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Monday 12 December 2016, at 7.00 pm in Brean Village Hall.