

**Minutes of the Berrynarbor Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.00pm in The Manor Hall, Berrynarbor.**

Present: Cllrs A Stanbury (Chairman), G Bacon (from Minute No 2003/05), M Johns, B Joyce, J Latham, L Lowe and N Wright  
Devon County Cllr Miss A Davis  
District Cllr J Tucker  
Mr Harrison, Engagement and Communications Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Mrs V Woodhouse, Parish Clerk

12 members of the public.

Prior to opening the meeting members were informed that Cllr Barten had resigned. The Chairman thanked Cllr Barten for her service to the Parish Council and the community and paid tribute to her proactive approach and commitment.

2003/01 **Apologies**

Cllr A Coppin. Cllr Bacon had apologised she would be late to the meeting.

2003/02 **Declarations of interest**

Cllr Stanbury declared a Personal Interest in Item 2003/05.

2003/03 **Public Participation**

A member of the public made representation on the parking restrictions at the rear of Ye Old Globe and noted that the 1<sup>st</sup> of June was fast approach and the restriction times would alter.

A member of the public spoken in favour of the signs on the Dog Exercise Area, he explained that he has a large dog with issues and the signs help to make people aware that there is another dog in the field. He had put the signs on the gate and was not aware that he required permission.

A member of the public raised concerns about a large pothole on Mill Lane out towards the Sawmills.

A member of the public felt that the grass cutting contract for 2020-2021 should allow for additional cuts to the Recreation Field in the summer as the grass gets very long and hinders the use.

A member of the public noted that the organisation of a public consultation for the lease of the car park was on the Agenda and requested that the Parish Council does make sure that a public consultation is held. Concerns were also raised about the number of potholes in the area, the member of the public had reported them via DCC's website.

2003/04 **To approve and sign the Minutes of the Berrynarbor Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Copies were circulated prior to the meeting. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020 as a correct record. Cllr Stanbury duly signed the minutes.

2003/05

**To receive reports from:**

- Police  
It was noted that the March report was available on the Council's website.
- County Councillor Miss A Davis  
The report was circulated prior to the meeting and is attached as Appendix One

Cllr Bacon entered the meeting.

Cllr Miss Davis reported that the COVID-19 advice had been superseded by an email she had circulated that morning and the Muddiford Road would close tonight at 7pm. Cllr Miss Davis explained that it is too wet to complete repairs to potholes so temporary repairs are being undertaken, DCC is away the repairs wont last but cannot complete the works properly until it dries out.

- District Councillor J Tucker  
Cllr Tucker reported that NDC has sent out information in relation to COVID-19 but it is changing daily. Cllr Tucker informed members that NDC would be increasing its share of the Council Tax by 2.7% and explained the difficulties the planning department is facing with a national shortage of planning officers.

Cllr Miss Davis left the meeting.

Cllr Tucker further informed members that the Manager of the Waste & Recycling service was leaving NDC, however, he did not feel that this should effect the service.

- Play Area Inspections  
Nothing new to note.
- Manor Hall  
Cllr Johns reported that the Committee was in the process of designing its own website which would link to the village website. Cllr Johns asked for an update on the S106 money for the Hall. It was noted that the signed agreement had been returned to NDC and the PC had received a completed signed copy, the Clerk would be in contact with Cllr Johns to progress the works.

Cllr Stanbury declared a Personal interest and informed the meeting that there were spaces on a First Aid course being held in the Hall at the end of the month and if anyone would like to join to contact him.

- Footpaths – to receive update and costings on clearance of footpath Sawmills to Watermouth  
The footpath from the Sawmills to Watermouth had been cleared and members were pleased with the work.
- Dog Exercise Area - to receive update on risk assessment by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and consider any actions  
The Chairman informed members that he had received an anonymous letter which made observations on the work that had recently been undertaken to

the dog exercise area, the letter was read to members and it was noted that the author felt that the intentions of the work was positive but the execution was poor.

Cllr Wright reported that if the pathway had not be laid the public would not have been able to use the area, it was noted that the carpet would be removed at this idea had not worked and Cllr Wright had spoken to Berry In Bloom, they would like to request the usual grant. It was noted that the Clerk had informed Cllr Wright that Berry In Bloom need to put a request in writing to the PC along with the accounts.

- Grit Bins/Roads  
None.
- Meetings/Events attended by Councillors/Clerk  
None.

2003/06

### **Police and Crime Commissioner's Communications and Engagement Officer**

The Chairman thanked Mr Harrison from coming. Mr Harrison explained that he was addressing community groups about what the Police are doing and explained that over the last 10 years Police Officers have reduced from 3,500 to 3,000 in the area due to austerity. He explained that over 85% of the Police's budget is spent on staffing and therefore when the funding is reduced the only option is to cut officers and the officers that have been cut are the community officers and PCSOs. Mr Harrison explained that the force is starting to build those numbers back up and the government expects around 20,000 additional officers (throughout the country) in the next 3 years (although around 25,000 officers have been lost so there will still be a deficit). The Prime Minister has confirmed that 350-400 of those officers will be allocated to Devon and Cornwall although there are 43 constabularies in Devon and Cornwall.

Mr Harrison explained that there has been a huge reduction in PCSOs and they are currently in discussions to provide more PCSOs. It was further explained that Devon and Cornwall are using multi-skilled officers which can, for instance, cover a Policing and retained Fireman role and are also funded from both services. Neither service can afford to pay for a full officer, but they can afford half or a third with the ambulance service as well. This area is the first to trial this, but he suspects it will be replicated throughout the country. Devon and Cornwall receive around 49p per person in government funding for Policing whereas the metropolitan areas receive around 58/59p per person, yet this is the largest geographical area of all the Police areas with the largest coastline and road network. This area experiences different challenges to the cities and in the summer the crime rate rises significantly.

Members were informed that people do experience problems getting through on the 101 non-emergency number and that the same people answer 101 as 999 and 999 calls will always take priority people could report crimes via the online service.

Mr Harrison left the meeting.

- 2003/07      **Matters to Note**
- Clerks & Cllrs Direct March issue
  - Drainage maintenance responsibilities
  - Devon County Council (A3123 Berry Down Cross, Combe Martin) (40MPH speed limit) Order
  - Connecting Devon and Somerset Broadband update

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note the above information.

- 2003/08      **Planning and Planning Correspondence**  
None.

Cllrs Tucker and Johns left the meeting.

- 2003/09      **Payments and Receipts**  
The following payments were received:

**PAYMENTS**

93. March Salaries	£317.10
94. Clerk's Expenses	£17.55
95. HMRC PAYE March	£79.40
96. Devon Communities Together – Training	£177.66
97. Toilet Cleaning, February	£100
98. Berrynarbor Community Enterprise, Sewage Donation	£147.19
99. Berry Arboriculture – Felling of ash trees	£480
100. Berry Arboriculture – Annual cut of Pitt Hill hedge	£205
101. Berry Arboriculture – Clearance of footpath	£120
102. British Gas, Electricity -Toilets	£21.79
<b>Payments Total</b>	<b>£1,665.69</b>

**RECEIPTS**

18. NDC, Grant Funding	£147
19. Lloyds, Interest	0.54
<b>Receipts Total</b>	<b>£147.54</b>

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the above payments and receipts.

- 2003/10      **To consider renewal of lease for the Defibrillator**  
It was noted that this item had already been dealt with at the September 2019 meeting.

- 2003/11      **To consider renewal of lease for the Emergency Sand Bunker**  
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to renew the lease.

- 2003/12      **To consider grass cutting tenders for 2020/2021**  
The tender was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed to investigate extra cuts to the Recreation Field and the cost to cut the whole of the dog area and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to award the contract to Berry Arboriculture and to consider the extra cuts and cutting of the whole of the dog area at a future meeting.

Cllr Johns returned to the meeting.

2003/13 **Repair of fence and rail along the Sawmills – Watermouth footpath**  
Members considered the cost received from the Council's contractor it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to repair the fence and rail at a cost of £480 it was further agreed to look for any possible funding to help towards the cost.

2003/14 **Devon County Council's Road Warden Scheme**  
Members considered joining the Road Warden Scheme and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to advertise within the local community to ascertain if there are any volunteers.

2003/15 **Update on the Expression of Interest Forms Submitted for Section 106 Monies for the following projects and consider signing of the Funding Agreement:**

- a) Manor Hall Play Area
- b) Recreation Field Play Area

It was noted that the Working Party had not been able to meet yet, but a meeting had been scheduled it was therefore **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer this item.

2003/16 **Public consultation for the lease of the public car park**  
It was noted that NDC had not yet provided responses to the PC's queries and it was therefore **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to defer this item whilst clarification is sought.

2003/17 **To discuss and agree action to be taken on the installation of the vacant/engaged sign on the entrance to the dog exercise area**  
The Chairman explained the protocol for erecting signs or undertaking work on Council assets. Members debated the signs that had been installed on the gates, on the whole it was felt that the signs were a good idea to highlight that there was a dog in the field, it was noted that dogs in the field cannot always be seen because of the topography of the land and the sign helps if someone has a reactive dog. After discussion it was resolved, with one abstention, for the sign to remain and to review all the signage in this area as a lot of signs are repeated.

2003/18 **Councillors Questions and Requests**  
Cllr Lowe asked if an extension had been requested for planning application 71246 it was noted that an extension had been agreed with the planning officer.

2003/19 It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

Members of the public left the meeting.

## **PART B**

2003/20 **To receive update on the draft heads of terms for the lease of Berryarbor Car Park and adoption of the public toilets**

It was noted that a response had not been received from NDC and the Clerk would chase.

2003/21

**HM Courts & Tribunal Service/ICO - To receive information relating to the above and consider actions arising from correspondence**

Members were informed that the Tribunal had been postponed to join the Parish Council as the second respondent, the Clerk had been in contact with the Council's insurance company and was awaiting a response but dates needed to be provided by the 18<sup>th</sup> March of any dates the PC would be available to attend.

Meeting ended at 8.55pm.

Signed..... Dated:.....