**Minutes**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, held at 7pm on Monday 21st October 2019 in the Badgworth and Biddisham Parish Hall, Biddisham.

**Present**

Cllrs Body (Chair), Hipwell, Shaw, Vining, Wilkie and White. Also in attendance District Cllr Godwin Pearson, County Cllr Filmer and Mrs H Marshall (clerk). There were 3 members of the public present.

Public Forum

Gigaclear’s Community Engagement Manager gave a presentation following the cancellation of the Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) contract including the following matters: Gigaclear will continue working in the area broadly without changes but are reviewing their working practices, the plan is still draft; Questions were asked and answered including: *When will the connection go live*, the Rooksbridge cabinet is already live and the Badgworth cabinet is due to go live mid November when they have resolved a problem with one of the trenches; *will Gigaclear requote for the CDS subsidy*, it is not known whether CDS will retender for this area or whether Gigaclear will quote again; *the cost of sign up*, a sales rep will be setting up a sales event in the area, there is a choice of providers in the area, providers can be changed, home owners can decide where Broadband will come in to the house; *sinkage or potholes occurring*, should this occur problems will be rectified for up to 2 years.

**165/19 Apologies:** Cllr Winsor ill health. The Council accepted the apology.

**166/19 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Vining declared a personal, prejudicial and Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in National Grid.

**167/19 Dispensations:** Cllr Vining was issued a dispensation regarding National Grid and the Hinkley Connection Project, valid for a period of 4 years until July 2022.

**168/19 Minutes** for the Parish Council Meeting 16th September 2019:Copies having been circulated; the Minutes were then taken as read and approved as a true record.

**169/19** **County Cllr Report:** The report included the following matters: Gritting routes extended and refilling of the grit bins; leasing of 25 coaches for schools, it was noted by Cllr Shaw that the identity of the coaches is valuable to parents; the success of the libraries project to encourage use by children; finances and the audit has been signed off; the ‘members improving lives’ grant scheme and the aim to avoid isolation in the Parish.

**160/19 District Cllr Report:** The report included the following matters: joining with other parishes to use RLT2 funds, Cllr Hipwell noted that young people in the Parish have ideas about what they’d like in the play area; the new bin and signage at the Badgworth Layby; that District Cllr Godwin Pearson has not been able to get the information wanted regarding accidents at the Biddisham junction; the improvement of recycling as the plan develops, new fleets and facilities to process waste are needed; discussions on plans to prevent fracking including a letter to request licences for the area are withdrawn.

County Cllr Filmer left the meeting at this point due to further commitments.

**161/19 Grant application update:** The application to the National Grid Community fund could not be progressed as the Council is a statutory body, although guidance from the Hinkley Connection Project Team to apply for the grant had been received. A solution has been proposed by the funding team and it is hoped that the hall committee will take the application forward as part of a larger project.

**162/19 Parish Online** Cllr Hipwell reviewed the benefits of the software to the Parish including the gathering and storing of national and local data including iems such as drainage , assets, rights of way and land ownership the Council decided investigate further and will gather information from other Parishes and then sign up to a free trial in January and report back to the full Council.

**163/19 Route 60+ scheme**: No response to the Councils queries has been received yet.

**164/19 Overgrown Hedges** It was noted at the recent cluster group meeting that the County Council will come down harder on offenders, but the Parish Council should initially write to the landowners. Hedges in Badgworth on Quarrylands Lane and Church Lane were discussed as becoming a problem for road users.

**Resolution:** To investigate criteria for overgrown hedges. For dangerous hedges to write to landowners giving 10 days for compliance before the matter is reported to the County Council; To delegate the decision to write to landowners to 2 Cllrs and the Clerk. Cllrs Vining and Body will investigate on this occasion.

**165/19** **Telegraph Pole opposite Biddisham Lane junction**: The pole has recently been hit in an accident. It was felt that the pole could prevent dangerous overtaking.

**Resolution:** Not to request that the pole be moved. Request that high visibility markers be replaced on the pole. Request that the sign towards Biddisham Lane be replaced.

**166/19 Budget:** Outgoings, general and earmarked reserves and long term plans to improve reserves were discussed, including guidance on recommended levels of reserves.

**Resolution:** It was unanimously agreed to move £1000 from the earmarked reserves into the general reserves and to increase the Precept by £500 to address the shortfall, with further increases as necessary over the next 3 years. The budget was approved. **The precept requested for the year 2020/21 will be £8,800.**

**167/19** **Policy RLT 3 Contributions** the application from Wedmore Playing Fields Management Committee was discussed.

**Resolution:** It was unanimously agreed to support the application.

**168/19 Meeting Dates** **2020** The dates have been approved by the Scouts and both halls.

**Resolution:** The dates for the coming year were agreed and are available on the Council website.

**169/19 Highways: Road closures** in Wedmore and for Gigaclear works were noted and are available on the Council website. Extended **winter gritting routes** were noted. The Council requested clarification as to whether the Council must have an approved emergency plan to join the new **snow warden scheme**, and decided to discuss developing an emergency plan at the next Council meeting.

The request to review the extent of the speed limit along the A38 is still under consideration.

**170/19 Field Reports – Jubilee Field:** The Inspection report was received noting problems with overgrown brambles and damaged trees on the boundaries.

**Resolution**: The landowner responsible for the trees will be contacted and asked to remove the overhanging branches. The Council will arrange to have the brambles cut back to the boundaries by a hedge cutter while the ground is still hard and will then request that the grass cutter cuts to the boundaries. **Memorial Field:** The inspection report was received. No matters were raised.

**171/19** **Crime statistics** in the parish were reviewed and the monthly police report was noted.

**172/19 Cluster meetings**: Cllr Vining reviewed the joint cluster meeting on the 8th October. Matters included: that the District Council is investing money to generate income, such as purchasing retail outlets; a greater proportion of business rates can be accessed by the District Council; Somerset Waste Partnership plans to increase the range of kerbside recycling which would require a new recycling plant and new trucks; renaming of Colley Lane to Squibbs Lane; a reduction in verge cutting and that Parish Councils should make the initial approach to landowners with overgrown hedges, but the County Council will be more forceful with landowners that do not comply with requests.

**173/19** **Planning:** The **new application**, 96/19/00012/MB Request for discharge of requirement relating to 6(1)(c) Pollution Incident Control Plan for Stage 7.1Hinkley Point C Connection Project,

was noted.

**174/19 Correspondence** was bought to the attention of the Council including an email from a resident regarding footpaths, no further response was considered necessary.

**175/19 Finance:** The remittance advice for the Precept and payroll was noted and the re-declaration of compliance to the pensions regulator was noted.

1. The **Financial statement**, having been previously circulated was approved as a true record.
2. The **Payments schedule** was approved:

Chq 800 Somerset Association Local Councils Parish Online seminar £10

**176/19 Member’s Points of Information:** A report from a resident regarding antisocial behaviour in Biddisham was updated. It was noted that further residents have reported problems and the police and Homes in Sedgemoor have taken action although problems continue to occur.

**177/19 Items for the Parish Magazine/Social Media:** ‘Please keep hedges cut back from highways and paths’.

Meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signed Cllr Body (Chairman) Date 18th November 2019