

BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th April 2024 at 7.00pm. at Bickington Village Hall

Present ; Cllr Briddock f Chairman Bickington Parish Council & Karen Gilbert - Clerk
Cllrs Bruckner , Cox , Meek and Warren were in attendance - Dist Cllr Nutley
and 12 Members of the Public

Refreshments were served and attendees mingled prior to the Meeting

Cllr Briddock welcomed everyone to the Meeting

Apologies - None

Chairman's Report March 2023- Bickington Parish Council

Firstly I would like to express my thanks my Fellow Councillors for their efforts during the past year . It has been an interesting year with much toing and froing of Councillors . I now look forward to a period of stability and common sense going forward

I would like to thank our District Councillorsfor their support throughout the year - not least the late Huw Cox who was a good friend of the Parish

Looking back we have had a number of achievements during the year

The Village footpath boards and maps were refurbished and look splendid

A replacement Bus shelter has been purchased and will hopefully be erected by the end of this month

A general waste and dog poo bin has been installed in the BT lay-by (small victories !)

We have received our CIL monies in respect of the Toby Jug development and look forward to spending these wisely during this new financial year

Finally , I would like to thank our Clerk , Karen Gilbert , for keeping us on the straight and narrow , and for her calm efficiency

David Briddock

April 2024

Cllr John Nutley - Teignbridge District Council

TDC District Councillor Report for 8th April 2024

On the budget consultation report, 870 residents respond to the survey question asking if there was anything else we should be prioritising.

First on the list was leisure, followed by health and wellbeing, climate change and affordable housing. Asked then of the 2.99% increase in council tax, 76% was in favour, affordable housing and jobs 64% in favour and prioritising for this administration, homes, climate change and jobs and this is what our communities are asking for.

With the council tax,Teignbridge District Council keeps just over 8% £3.67 just over for the services it looks after, 72% to County 12% to Police 4% fire and 4% to Town and Parish.

Green bin charges will stay the same for 24/25 £55 which is below the national average.

Changes to car parking charges are mainly inflationary to cover the increases in cost to inflation.

During the Queen Street alterations the car park charges in the multi story car park will be £1 for 2 hours. This was an amendment in the budget put forward by Cll Paul Parker which was accepted.

A vote was then taken on the budget and there were 32 for, 3 against and 7 abstentions. Therefore the budget was approved.

The other item I mentioned at the February meeting was the Empty Homes premium and second homes premium policy.

This was to implement the councils tax premium on second homes and to bring forward the time period for levelling premium on empty homes from 2 years to 1 year. This was accepted and approved at council meeting.

The Grounds Maintenance Contract which covers the whole of the district is up for renewal and will be out for retendering.

This is for an initial 5 - year period with the option to extend for a further 5 years using a restricted tender procedure.

The contract is let at a fixed cost of £662,740 with an annual CIP (Consumer Price Inflation) increase using an agreed evaluation methodology.

There are three options, 1, Open Tender. 2, Restricted Tender procedure and 3, Further Competition via a framework.

The preferred option is Option 2. The Restricted Procedure is a two-stage process. The first stage is a selection process where the bidder's capability, capacity, and experience to perform the contract is assessed against a predetermined set of criteria. This means the number of bidders would be reduced to a maximum of 5 suppliers for the second stage, where detailed bids are assessed to determine the most economically advantageous tender based on quality and price.

I would like to see our present contractors Idverde which is a national company retain the contract as they have done an excellent job over the years and employ 15 local staff. The present contract ends in November and the tendering process needs to be completed by July.

Planted 1000 trees per year finished at the end of March. We are running out of budget and available land. If tree planting is to remain a priority, we will need to consider how it can and will be achieved.

Over 1500 have been planted, with over 400 being planted on Shaldon Golf course.

BICKINGTON VILLAGE SHOW

Sarah Briddock advised the meeting that the Annual Show will take place on 20/7/24 - with fewer categories but the same classes. It was hoped that this will attract more entries. The scarecrow competition will take place again this year - the Village is looking forward to see many scarecrows outside people's houses. There will also be the Quiz night - details to follow

Sarah Briddock

BICKINGTON BAKE AND BREW

The regular events have gone really well - producing sufficient funds for local projects as well as providing excellent village social gatherings

The BBC has paid for the provision and installation of a dishwasher in the Village Hall, the replacement / replenishment of trickery in the Hall and last but not least, paid for the redecoration of the inside of the main hall

Sarah Briddock

BICKINGTON VILLAGE TRUST AND HALL

John Cox , Trustee , commented that the Hall was the central hub of the Village and that the community was very lucky to have such a facility . He advised all present of the works carried out during the year and thanked the BBC for being so supportive and well as the hirers who brought the community together

There have been major improvements - but there is still much to do - so , the Village Hall as a charity welcomes donations to make this possible

John Cox

BICKINGTON GARDEN GROUP

The gardening club was set up in 2022 to facilitate the exchange of ideas, the bulk purchase of gardening materials, visits to gardens of interest and short presentations on topics if interest. The group will hold a plant sale at the Village Hall on Saturday 22nd April

Nirupama Burchett

BICKINGTON GOODWILL COMMUNITY

Michael advised on the events which had resulted in the CIC (formed in 6/23) to distribute the sum of £10000 this year - charities include Food Banks / Cancer research and local dog charities

The allotments are fully let and it was hoped a Community fridge scheme would be up and running this year

Michael Hext

ST MARY'S BICKINGTON

Cllr Warren advised that St Mary's was part of the Moorland Team and held services twice a month - with additional services for special occasions . The church is well used - with several weddings planned , visits from bellringers and choir practices .

He highlighted the Financial pressures on the Church fabric - not helped by the wet weather

It is hoped that the Church can be kept open during the daytime - but called for Volunteers to assist to make this possible

Peter Warren

The Meeting closed at 8.15pm