

BICKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Regular meeting held on 8th April 2024 at 8.15pm in the Village Hall Bickington .

Present; Cllrs Briddock (Chair) , Bruckner , Cox , Meek and, Warren
Dist Cllr Nutley
Clerk - Karen Gilbert 3 Members of the Public

The Clerk advised that Leigh White had resigned as Councillor and that the process to fill the vacant seat had commenced

IF 10 or more electors fail to contact Teignbridge to request an election for that seat by 19th April 2024 , the Parish Council will look to Co-opt

The Chairman thanked Leigh for her contribution

24/04/01 - Apologies -Dist Cllr Rogers

24/04/02 - Declaration of Interests - None

The Planning was brought forward

10. Planning matters - to consider applications , decisions and appeals

24/00444/FUL. Agricultural storage building

Land At NGR 280016 72763 (to The North East Of Forge Cottage) Bickington Devon

The Applicant addressed the meeting to explain the rationale behind his application
It was **AGREED** that a site meeting might be beneficial - **Clerk to arrange**

Standing orders were suspended

24/04/03. Public participation

See APM Minutes

24/04/04 District / County Cllr reports

Cllr Rogers sent a written report

Dist Cllr Nutley

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.

Plant 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.

Standing Orders were re-instated

24/04/05 - Minutes of March 2024 meeting

The Minutes from the Bickington Parish Council meeting held on 11th March 2024 were approved and signed

24/04/06- PC ADMIN

Delivering Rural Affordable Homes

In response to the feedback the Teignbridge Housing Enabling Team will be holding this event online during May on 2 separate dates.

The event will be repeated with one event in the morning and one in the early evening.

Wednesday May 1st 2024 – Starting at 10:30am and finishing at 11:30am

Wednesday 8th May 2024 – Starting at 6pm and finishing at 7pm

24/04/07 - Clerk's report

The Police report was **NOTED**

24/04/08 - Update on progress regarding the bus shelter on old A38

The Contractor had advised that he had been delayed but hoped to complete the works in the very near future

24/04/09 - Finance

a) Approval of cheques - APPROVED

K Gilbert	backpay of increase 01/24 - 04/24 -	£121.32
Bickington Village Trust	Hall rental for 8/4/24	£24.00
DALC	Annual subscription	£147.30
K Gilbert	Expenses 03/24	£66.50

K Gilbert	Reimburse refreshments APM	£86.35 ***
K Saunders	S 137 payment D Day flag	£23.98

***This was taken from the Chairman's allowance

The surplus chilled goods and soft drink were given to Michael Hext for use at coffee mornings. The remaining wine was retained by the Clerk for community use at Christmas

b) To note potential uses of CIL monies

The Clerk advised on potential uses of the Cil monies (per TDC) and projects / schemes where spending would not be allowed - **NOTED**

c) To decide in view of revised information , whether to contribute towards the maintenance of the Graveyard - money earmarked in reserves at year end 31/3/24

It was **RESOLVED** that the grant of £600 be paid to the Church as a contribution to the mowing cost of the Graveyard - used as a Open Space by Parishioners

ACTION ; CHEQUE TO BE DRAWN 05/24

24/04/10 - Planning See above

24/04/11- To receive reports on

a) **Bickington Village Hall.** Report given in APM

b) **Highway matters** - In view of the forthcoming road closure at Drumbridges from 6th May , the diverted traffic will be using the route through Bickington Old A38 or cutting through the lanes inc Newhouse Hill . This greatly increased traffic flow will make the existing awful pothole problem much worse

ACTION ; CLERK TO REQUEST DIVERSION ROUTE IS EXAMINED AND HOLES FILLED

c) **DNPA MATTERS** - Cllr Bruckner reported that two more flytips had occurred in the Ramshorn Down area and that the DNPA ranger was aware

d) **The footpaths** were generally in good condition - albeit wet and muddy

24/04/12 CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence required major debate - copies having been emailed to Cllrs in advance

24/04/13 Matters for future agenda -

Defib pads. / Cil monies

24/04/14 Date of next meeting. - APCM 13th May 2024 at 7.30pm

There being no further business , the Meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed..... Dated

THE PARISH COUNCIL MUST EMPHASISE THAT THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT MINUTES AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO APPROVAL