



Brean Parish Council

Clerk to the Council Hazel Brinton, clerk@breanparishcouncil.org

Minutes of the Brean Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2023 at Brean Village Hall

Present

Chairman Cllr M Chatterton
Councillors Cllrs K Ford (after item 42/23) M Ford and N Hutchinson

Also present: the clerk and Somerset Council Councillors Tony Grimes and Bob Filmer.
Nine members of the public attended.

42/23 Apologies

None, all present. The Chairman noted Cllr McCoy had resigned and thanked her for her help and support over the years.

43/23 Co-option

Cllr Hutchinson challenged the co-option as she deemed it unfair that it should be on a "first come first served basis" when there was an ongoing recruitment campaign. The clerk explained the process by which casual vacancies arose of which the parish council had two, that it had been advertised as such on the council's website and were in the minutes of previous meetings. She further advised that the Local Government Act 1972 required the parish council to co-opt to casual vacancies as soon as practicable and that the parish council had a lawful application for co-option before it. The vacancies had further been publicised on the Village Hall Management Committee's Facebook page.

Kelly Ford was proposed and seconded and co-opted onto the parish council. She signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office in front of the clerk and joined the meeting.

44/23 Reports from Somerset Councillors and the police

Somerset Councillor Grimes reported on the following matters from Somerset Council:

- 2023-24 Financial Position – predicted overspend at year end of £27.3m with reserves being required to fill the gap
- 2024-25 Financial Position – current expected budget gap for next year is £100m. Reserves would be insufficient to cover the shortfall. A Section 114 notice is a possibility which would result in the appointment by the Government of three Commissioners at an annual cost of around £1m.

Somerset Councillor Filmer reported on the following matters from Somerset Council:

- Highways – a new eight year contract with Kier to deliver core maintenance across the network had been signed. Carbon reduction measures were being looked at as part of the maintenance programme.
- Recycling – an analysis of rubbish collected from Somerset residents revealed around 48% could have been recycled. This was an 11% decrease against 2018 which saved the council money versus landfill costs. The amalgamation of the district councils into one unitary authority had allowed the contractor to combine collection routes more effectively leading to further savings and bringing the contract into a viable proposition. Routes would change in the New Year with residents

Signed by Chairman.....

8th January 2024

notified. If notices are not received by residents, Cllr Filmer asked that he and Cllr Grimes be informed.

- Boundary review – a further boundary review of Somerset wards will take place. A review of wards under the formation of Somerset Council had previously led to a reduction in councillors from over 300 to 110. The Boundary Commission has started work in time for the next elections with a view to 80-90 councillors being elected for Somerset; each councillor representing around 4.5 to 5k residents each. This would be in place for the next elections in 2027.

The following questions were asked of Cllrs Grimes and Filmer:

- Would discretionary rate relief continue e.g. for the Village Hall?
A – Everything is up for discussion financially but mandatory reliefs would still be given
- If residents didn't recycle, would stickers be put on bins as in other parts of the country?
A – Somerset had always wished to encourage residents in a positive way rather than forcing people to recycle more but this was an option.
- Would blister packs be recycled?
A – Looking at soft plastics but not blister packs. Items would not be collected unless the council had a way of recycling them.

45/23 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

46/23 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2023 were approved as a correct record of the meeting after noting a correction to the date of the next meeting.

47/23 To respond to members of the public

Members of the public raised questions about the Village Hall Management Committee and fund raising activities during the winter including pop up kitchens. The clerk advised she needed to read the Deed regulating the Village Hall as she had only been passed a copy of it that evening and could not advise. The Chairman in his capacity as the Village Hall Management Committee Chairman explained the election of members to the management committee. The parish council could not take decisions that were the remit of the Village Hall Management Committee which met on the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm.

A member of the public updated the council on the matter of a Children's Party to be funded by the Joan Jackman legacy. Work had been going on with an idea for a party during the February half term. Free entertainment had been obtained. Invitations could be sent out via a potential combined parish council and village hall newsletter with fundraising activities to secure a party for the following year and money raised for a parents to also have food with support from the Co-op. Caterers would be brought in to provide the food.

A member of the King Alfred Boxing Club suggested he may be able to get support from members from the club to hand out the newsletter.

48/23 Applications for funding from the Joan Jackman legacy

A representative from the King Alfred Boxing Club explained the detail behind their application for grant funding from the Joan Jackman legacy to buy equipment and its desire to work with the residents of Brean to encourage young people to participate in its activities on the beach. It was agreed that the club would contact the parish council when starting the activities on the beach to allow for the local press to be informed for a photo opportunity. The boxing club would talk with the bookings clerk for the village hall regarding hiring the

venue although the clerk advised that hire charges could not be funded under the terms of the legacy which specified beach activities.

Resolved: that the parish council agreed to fund the amount of £606.26 to purchase equipment as per the club's application.

A representative from the Sea Cadets explained the detail behind their application for grant funding from the legacy. The clerk advised members that the application contained an amount for metal detectors which the parish council has previously discouraged from use on the beach due to unexploded ordnance. The representative explained the use of metal detectors and that a risk assessment would be done and that the young people would be supervised at all times when using them.

Resolved: that the parish council agreed to fund the amount of £489.37 for the purchase of equipment as per the club's application.

49/23 Local Community Network Meeting

The Chairman reported on the recent LCN meeting noting that the proprietries for the Burnham LCN were planning, transport and young people,

50/23 Planning and premises licenses' applications

The current status of applications was noted:

Application No	Address	Decision
06/22/00017	Warren Farm, Warren Road, Brean, Burnham On Sea, Somerset, TA8 2RP - Erection of 1no. dwelling with integral double garage, formation of new access and landscaping	Application under consideration
06/23/00001	Ocean Holiday Park, South Road, Brean, Burnham On Sea, Somerset, TA8 2RD - Erection of two storey extension to the West elevation, single storey extensions to the East and West elevation, to allow for 4no. tourist accommodation units	Granted permission by Planning Committee on 12 September.
06/23/00010	A G Hicks Ltd Location: Southfield Farm Park, Weston Road, Brean, Burnham On Sea, Somerset, TA8 2RL Proposal: Change of use of existing touring field to site 30 static caravans (revised scheme).	Comments welcome by 7 November – revised Flood Risk Assessment submitted. Brean PC comments submitted under delegated authority after consultation with members: "Brean Parish Council supports this application as it believes it will enhance the location and offering. The parish council notes however that there is very little provision for EV charging given the number of units to be located in the field

Signed by Chairman.....

8th January 2024

		and believes more will be required with the forthcoming ban on the sale of new diesel and petrol cars. This would future proof the site."
06/21/00011	Application Type: Cert. of Lawfulness for Proposed Use/Dev Applicant: Mrs J Walton Location: Ocean Drive, Warren Road, Brean, Burnham On Sea, Somerset, TA8 2RP Proposal: Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed removal of existing hut and erection of a Sun Room measuring approx. 4 x 6m of a height approx. 2.5m to eaves, 3m to ridge. This is to include a decking BBQ area, toilet with shower and kitchenette area."	Application is under consideration. Certificates of Lawfulness are only consulted on by Somerset Council as a matter of courtesy – there is no legal obligation to consult and the parish council was only given three days in which to respond.

51/23 New planning and premises licenses applications.

There were no new planning and premises licenses applications to consider.

52/23 Finance Matters

- i. **Resolved:** that members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting at a later point during consideration of confidential matters relating to the financial aspects of staff employment in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.
- ii. Members debated the draft budget as circulated by the clerk. The clerk advised members on the cost of contested elections should they decide not to put an amount in the budget for these. She also advised that reserves could only be used once. The clerk explained the background to the beach management and attendant income which now lay with Somerset Council and the resulting requirement for a precept to be set by the parish council.
Resolved: that the clerk would make adjustments to the draft budget as requested by members, recirculate the budget and that the revised draft budget be considered at the meeting in January 2024.
- iii. **Resolved:** to approve payments for the current month's expenditure as presented by the clerk.
- iv. **Resolved:** to note and agree the bank reconciliations for September and October 2023 as circulated by the clerk
- v. **Resolved:** to note and agree the income and expenditure statement as at 31st October 2023 as provided by the clerk
- vi. **Local Government Pay Award**
Resolved: to note that with effect 1 April 2023, an increase of £1925 (pro rata for part time employees) on all NJC pay points 1 and above.

53/23 Matters of interest to the village

- i. **Toilet Block** – Cllr Ford noted the block had been demolished and that a further sum would be required from the earmarked reserve to make good the ground. The parish council had originally agreed to rebuild the block which meant there had been no need to specify that the ground was made good by the demolition contractor. With the decision not to proceed with the rebuild on cost grounds, the council needed to consider how to

make the surface safe and remove the current safety fencing. A discussion was held on the number of quotations required and the clerk advised that members needed to be realistic in how many could be obtained given the small area to be made good. Options for making good the ground including rebuilding a public toilet block as part of the Village Hall were debated. The decision would be brought back to a future meeting.

ii. **Village Hall management** – the Chairman updated members on the following for the village hall:

- a. A member of the committee had updated various procedures
- b. 10 emergency lights had been replaced
- c. A bookings clerk was in place

It was noted that the Village Hall Management Committee should consist of 14 members according to the Trust Deed. It was noted the burger van would be leaving the car park during the following month.

A member of the neighbourhood hub had offered to help out with the possible rebuild/refurbishment of the Village Hall after the recent EDF grants event. The Chairman noted that he hoped more help from local people with the project may result from the newsletter as any project would be a large commitment. The work was not envisaged to be done by the parish council but by a separate team with parish council members on it.

iii. **Parish Council Noticeboard**

Resolved: not to purchase a new noticeboard and to reinstall the old board taken down during the toilet block demolition.

iv. **Speed Indicator Device**

The clerk advised members that she was waiting on Somerset Council's Road Safety Team to agree the locations after which the device could be purchased.

v. **Replacement bus shelters**

Resolved: Cllr Hutchinson would apply for grant funding from the EDF Community Fund

vi. **Police drop in session**

Resolved: to facilitate a drop-in session

vii. **Communication**

Members debated the forms and effectiveness of communication by the parish council with residents.

Resolved: to collate ideas for a newsletter via email. Content would be to include explaining the need for more councillors, what councillors did, the need for more Village Hall Management Committee members and trustees, whether the hall should be rebuilt or refurbished.

54/23 Future agenda items

Council Vision/Mission; frequency of meetings; review of co-option, bus shelter update and toilet refurbishment.

55/23 Date of next meeting

The next parish council meeting would be on Monday 8th January at 19.00 at the Village Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.30