

## DRAFT

Minutes of a Meeting of **BRENTOR PARISH COUNCIL** held in Brentor Village Hall  
On **MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019** at **7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr T Pearce (Chair), Cllr L Bristow, Cllr D Williams, Cllr D Percival (Vice Chair)

**Apologies:** Cllr B Dawson, Cllr S Fraser

**In Attendance:** 2 members of the public, Mrs C Oxenham (Parish Clerk)

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public spoke about the issues currently being experienced relating to the Highland Cattle. He himself has been the subject of a frightening incident and has raised this with the Commoners Council. His research has indicated that Natural England gives financial support to commoners to graze the land but there are guidelines which must be followed which include promoting public access which at the moment is being compromised. The Duchy of Cornwall, S W Water and DNPA also have an interest in grazing rights on the moors. Cutting the gorse back would also provide an 'escape route' for people and cattle which are becoming hemmed in. The habits of the cattle have also changed – there have been suggestions of a new bull being introduced which may have unsettled the original peaceful herd. There also seem to be more calves. Cllr Bristow suggested that signs be put up at each end of the moor advising people how they should behave around the cattle. Cllr Williams will collate all the information which will then be passed to the Duchy Steward and Natural England. The member of public then left the meeting.

DW

### **119-2019 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs S Fraser and B Dawson

### **120-2019 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr T. Pearce declared an interest in item 5 – Matters Arising - Church Car Park Toilets and also Housing due to his position as West Devon Borough Council Ward Member. Cllr D Percival declared an interest in Housing as previously stated.

### **121-2019 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> September 2019**

It was AGREED that the minutes of this meeting be adopted. Proposed By Cllr D Williams, seconded by Cllr L Bristow and agreed by all.

### **122-2019 CO-OPTION APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Mr Adrian Arnold had submitted an application to be considered for co-option onto the Parish Council. He spoke briefly about his background. Having lived in the area for 25 years and now semi-retired, having run a successful business for many years, he is able to spend more time being a more active member of the community.

Cllr D Percival proposed that he be co-opted, seconded by Cllr D Williams and AGREED by all. He was welcomed onto the Council and thanked for his interest. Declaration of Office was duly signed. Declaration of Interest to be completed and returned to the Clerk.

### **123-2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS SEPARATE ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Members **NOTED** the action tracker circulated with the agenda.

a) Church Car Park Toilets – WDBC are pressing for a decision about the PC's commitment to taking on the public toilets. Cllrs are still not ready to commit to what is still an unknown expense and especially in light of the latest news that '*due to the recent proroguing of Parliament, the Public Lavatories Bill, where business rates for public toilets were due to be ceased, has become defunct*'. This could potentially cost the Parish Council several thousand pounds more than was originally discussed when the issue of the toilets was first raised over a year ago. Cllr T Pearce is still waiting for a response from DNPA about potential income which could be earned from a refreshment type van. Cllrs are really frustrated about this latest

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- announcement. They have spent many hours over the past year trying to find a suitable resolution. Cllr Bristow felt that we should be thinking about tourism further afield and although the parishioners of Brentor don't directly benefit financially, tourists who visit the church and use the toilets are likely to continue to Tavistock/Okehampton. **ALL**
- b) Wheelwrights Stone – No further progress. Still ongoing. **ALL**
- c) Cemetery restoration and maintenance – Clerk has now forwarded the previous tender and draft documents to Cllr Dawson. SW Water still in progress. **CLERK/SF/BD**
- d) Brentor Engine Nameplate – Still ongoing.
- e) War Memorial repair – Clerk to contact Pascoes and see if it can be done before the Remembrance service. Cllr Percival will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. Clerk to organise. **CLERK**
- f) Heathermead – Action regarding this matter is being undertaken.
- g) Housing – Officers met with Parish Councillors to clarify details regarding the Housing Plans. Although one Parish Councillor has reservations about some aspects of the designs and layout, the majority are in favour and full support of the architects plans. Proposed by Cllr D Williams, seconded by Cllr D Percival and AGREED by all who attended. Clerk will let the architects know. **CLERK**
- h) Review of Code of Conduct/Standing Orders/Financial Regulations – It was AGREED that Cllr T Pearce, Cllr D Williams and the clerk would meet late October to go through these documents. Amended versions would then be issued to everyone for any comments/approval at a full council meeting. **CLERK/DW/TP**
- i) CPRE joining fee. Cllrs will consider whether to join (Campaign for Rural England) which has an annual membership fee of £36, after Cllr Williams has attended the planning information course later this week. **ALL**
- j) Darke Lane/Fingerpost renewal – Cllr Pearce is still waiting for a detailed reply about the long term plan for Darke Lane. Clerk will contact Rob Taylor (Ranger) and ask if it would be possible for him to go out and have another look to see what his suggestions would be. **CLERK**
- k) Hedge cutting at Station House – Cllr Pearce has spoken to Highways who will get in touch with the owner.

### **124-2019** **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING MEETINGS/EVENTS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Southern Link – Attended by Cllr T Pearce and Cllr D Williams. Cllr Williams had found the meeting to be very interesting in particular that the local police had confirmed that crime statistics were positive. There was a lack of attendance from any Highways representative which was disappointing (nobody has attended in the last 15 months). There was also a really positive response to discussions around climate change. Electric car charging points has already been suggested by Cllr Bristow, and Cllr Williams suggested that thoughts should be given as to what the community of Brentor could do eg tree planting. He will speak to people in the village and ask for ideas. **DW**

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## 125-2019 PLANNING MATTERS

a) For discussion:

DNPA 0454/19	Erection of single storey side extension with associated external finishes and works. Sunnyside, Brentor	Neutral view
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Proposed By Cllr L Bristow, seconded by Cllr T Pearce and AGREED by all.

## 126-2019 GENERAL FINANCE

a) The Clerk had previously shown the Chair the Bank reconciliations and cash flow sheets, together with Bank Statements dated 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

b) Receipts

12/09/19	£7068.50	BACS	WDBC Precept (2 <sup>nd</sup> half)
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c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments made since the last meeting:

28/09/19	£377.65	S/O	Clerks Salary
28/09/19	£20.00	S/O	Clerks admin expenses

d) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments:

03/10/19	£1800	BACS	WDBC contribution to toilets (VAT to be claimed back)
03/10/19	£17.94	BACS	Emptying of dog bin
14/10/19	£10.80	CQ	Clerks expenses
14/10/19	£650	CQ	2 <sup>nd</sup> half VH&PF Grant

Bank forms issued to Cllr D Williams who has agreed to become a third signatory on the Bank Account.

## 127-2019 LOCAL ELECTION COSTS

Notification of the recharge costs has now been received from WDBC. The cost to Brentor is £55.40. This will be paid upon receipt of invoice in the next financial year.

## 128-2019 GRANT REQUESTS

A request for a grant has been received from the CAB. Clerk will put an advert in the Brentor News, inviting any other applications. To be discussed in the December meeting.

**CLERK**

## 129-2019 CIVIC ATTENDANCE

Cllr T Pearce attends these events as WD member rather than a Brentor Parish Councillor. There is therefore the opportunity for another Parish Councillor to also attend (usually the Vice-Chair). Cllr Percival to attend next time if he is available.

## 130-2019 DARTMOOR LOCAL PLAN

It is important that all Councillors respond to the draft plan which will be valid for the next 20 years. Closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> November. A Parish Council response is also invited. Clerk will circulate the contact details again.

**ALL**

## 131-2019 CORRESPONDENCE

For decision/discussion:-

DNPA – Proposal to introduce an Annual Parking Pass.

Councillors discussed if the proposal to charge an annual parking pass (suggested cost £35) for residents and visitors to Dartmoor for the car parks at Haytor, Postbridge and Meldon Reservoir was a good idea. Whilst they agreed to a parking charge in principle, most thought that a daily rate or honesty box would be a better idea. Clerk to respond.

**CLERK**

Defibrillator – Use at night.

Clerk had received marketing information about items which could be purchased to make the

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defibrillator easier to identify at night. It was AGREED that in addition to a motion sensor light which activates when someone is near the box, there is also an internal light in the defibrillator cabinet which is hard wired to the mains so any further lighting was not necessary.

### VE DAY

Clerk had received an email from a parishioner asking if the Parish Council was organising anything for VE Day 75 next May. It was felt that this should be commemorated but should be a community event and not just something organised exclusively by the Parish Council. Clerk will contact the church wardens and Village Hall committee to ask if they are planning to organise anything.

CLERK

For information only:-

Recycling – WDBC new campaign to raise awareness of changes, including new recycling bags for previously uncollected plastics.

DNPA Moor Otters Project 2020

### 132-2019 MINOR ITEMS

a) Cllr D Percival brought to the attention of the Parish Council the many negative comments about the Parish Councils purported lack of interest regarding speeding in the area which is being discussed on social media sites. This was particularly disappointing to hear as it had been an item on the agenda for many months and appeals had been made by the Parish Council on a number of occasions for members of the public to come forward if they had experienced problems. With no response forthcoming, there is no further action the Parish Council can take.

### b) Future meeting dates

It was AGREED by all that the dates for meetings next year be confirmed as follows:

20th January	10th February	9th March	20th April	11th May	15th June
13th July	14th Sept	12th Oct	16th Nov	14th Dec	

The December 2019 meeting has been changed and will now be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December rather than the 16<sup>th</sup> as previously organised.

133-2019 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 7.30pm, Brentor Village Hall

134-2019 CLOSE The meeting was formally closed at 9.26pm.