

DRAFT

Minutes of a Meeting of **BRENTOR PARISH COUNCIL** held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic
On **Monday 13th July 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr T Pearce (Chair), Cllr D Percival (Vice Chair), Cllr B Dawson, Cllr A Arnold, Cllr S Fraser,
Cllr D Williams

Apologies: All present

In Attendance: Mrs C Oxenham (Parish Clerk)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – There were no members of the public present.

52-2020 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

All present.

53-2020 **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.

54-2020 **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th May 2020**

It was AGREED by all that the minutes of this meeting be adopted.

55-2020 **RESIGNATION OF CLLR. L BRISTOW**

Whilst Cllr Bristow's resignation was accepted, Cllrs were disappointed, shocked and offended by some of the comments made in her letter. Cllrs were also saddened that Cllr Bristow hadn't felt able to come to a PC meeting before she resigned, to air her feelings and talk things through as some of the issues may have been resolved. Clerk will begin the process of advertising the vacancy.

CLERK

56-2020 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT LISTED AS SEPARATE ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Members **NOTED** the action tracker circulated with the agenda. It should be noted that most items are unable to be progressed due to the Corona virus situation.

- a) Devon Communities Together (Energy Saving Event) – A talk has provisionally been booked for 3rd October.
- b) Devon Communities Together (Funding for Emergency Plan) – A main lead needs to be organised to progress this item. Further discussion to take place at the next meeting. **ALL**
- c) Church Car Park Toilets – These are now open. A decision will have to be made regarding the future of the toilets by the end of September. Clerk will contact Helen Harris to see if any progress has been made with the church taking them on. **CLERK**
- d) Wheelwrights Stone – on hold
- e) Cemetery restoration – on hold
- f) Brentor Engine Nameplate – Cllr Pearce will contact Plym Railway to see if they are open again yet. **TP**
- g) Housing – Still waiting to hear from Homes England to see what extra money may be available. Cllr Percival stated that he had received information from someone who had contacted WDBC about the Brentor Housing Scheme and that person had been told by WDBC that the scheme was not going ahead. Cllr Pearce will raise this at the leaders meeting he will be attending later this week as he was not aware of this information. **TP**
- h) Review of Code of Conduct/Standing Orders/Financial Regulations – on hold
- i) Highland cattle – No incidents reported.
- j) Devon Climate Emergency – on hold

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- k) Speed/ dangerous driving – on hold
- l) Brentor Inn and post box – No further information re the post box. WDBC have organised an on-site meeting re the Brentor Inn. Legal action could be taken if outstanding matters are not resolved.
- m) First Aid/defibrillator course – on hold
- n) Broadband Universal Service Obligation (USO) – Cllr Pearce reported that WDBC are making good progress and have organised a skype meeting on 4th August with Airband and CDS. Anybody can attend the meeting as a member of the public. Cllr Pearce will advise Democratic Services that Parish Councillors would like to attend. Clerk will forward an invite when received. Clerk will also inform Colin (Dawes) who has extensive knowledge of the history and issues being encountered.

CLERK

57-2020 REPORTS FROM COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING MEETINGS/EVENTS OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS

No reports although a new Councillor representative will be needed to attend VH & PF meetings to replace Cllr Bristow. It was AGREED that Cllrs Percival, Dawson and Arnold will take turns.

There are no plans to open the hall before September. Cllr Pearce asked Cllr Percival to relay information to the VH that it would be prudent to ring-fence for at least 3 years, the £10,000 grant they have received from West Devon. There is a likelihood that when the financial impact of Covid-19 is fully felt over the next few years, precepts may be cut and the Parish Council may not be in a position to offer grants to support local organisations.

58-2020 PLANNING MATTERS

a For information only:

WDBC 0512/20/FUL	Installation of new bicycle rack and relocation of existing bin store to accommodate bicycle racks. The National Trust, Lydford Gorge Waterfall Entrance, Lydford	Grant of conditional approval
WDBC 1744/20/TEX	Tree Preservation Order, Rowden House, Brentor G1: x3 Ash – fell greater than 50% foliage depreciation over driveway; T1: Ash – fell, over car port/parking area, greater than 50% foliage depreciation.	Grant of Exemption

59-2020 GENERAL FINANCE

a) The Clerk had previously circulated an up to date financial summary (as at 1st July) prior to the meeting.

b) Receipts since the last meeting:

nil

c) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments made since the last meeting:

28/05/20	£377.65	S/O	Clerks salary
28/05/20	£20	S/O	Clerks admin
11/06/20	£1600.46	DD	PWLB
28/06/20	£377.65	S/O	Clerks salary
28/06/20	£20	S/O	Clerks admin

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

13/07/20	£29.38	CQ	Clerks expenses
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60-2020 WEST DEVON BT PAYPHONE KIOSK REMOVAL CONSULTATION

BT are again considering the removal of a number of phone kiosks including the one in Brentor. Cllrs AGREED that it should remain as a working telephone. There is still no mobile phone signal in the majority of the village and it is therefore the only means of communication for the many walkers who pass through the village, should they get injured, and also local residents without a land line. Cllr Fraser will add a link to the website for any members of the public who want to comment.

61-2020 BUS SHELTER BOOK REMOVAL

The Parish Council had been advised that books and games had been left in the bus shelter for people to borrow. Although this had been done as a genuine and kind gesture, in the current circumstances it was unfortunately not appropriate. Elderly and vulnerable people are at particular risk of serious illness and possible death if they get corona virus which as well as through direct contact with someone with the virus, can be passed on through contact with contaminated objects. In addition to this, people need to have safe access to the bus shelter when they are waiting for buses. Cllr Pearce, on behalf of the Parish Council, wrote to the parishioner believed to be responsible, explaining the reasons and the books and games were removed.

62-2020 COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER GROUP

In some parishes, vulnerable people have fallen through the support networks during the pandemic. Although the Parish Council had not been actively playing a supporting role, the village did have an organised approach in the form of the Brentor Community Support Group who co-ordinated volunteers (including Cllr Fraser) and offered support where needed. The Mary Tavy Post Office and stores had also played a big part in organising and distributing food. Parish Cllrs are now being asked to suggest ways WDBC could provide further support in the event of a second wave.

63-2020 ALLOCATION OF GMAILS

Clerk to issue gmail accounts to Cllrs Arnold, Dawson and Fraser.

CLERK

64-2020 CORRESPONDENCE

Letters of thanks had been received from Brentor Village Hall and the CAB for grants issued by the Parish Council.

Request for support for Local Councils - SLCC has circulated a draft letter to Parish Councils, suggesting that they be forwarded to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, asking for financial support for local councils from Central Government. The Government have not yet made any commitment to cover the losses of income suffered by County and District Councils. Councillors unanimously AGREED that this request should be supported. Clerk will send a letter.

CLERK

65-2020 MINOR ITEMS

Cllr Fraser reported that the metal Brentor Village sign at the entrance to the village outside Tuckers Farm is in a poor state and needs replacing. Clerk will contact Tom Lee, Highways.

CLERK

66-2020 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

There will be an additional meeting to be held on Monday 10th August at 7.30pm. This is likely to be a virtual meeting again unless Government advice nearer the time suggests face to face is appropriate.

67-2020 CLOSE The meeting was formally closed at 8.48pm