

English Bicknor Parish Council

Minutes of the bi-monthly meeting held on 5th August 2019 at English Bicknor Village Hall.

Those present were as follows:

Councillor Mrs P. Drinkall – Chairman

Councillor Mr D. Gunter

Councillor Mrs A. Bowen

Councillor Mr J. Carrick

Councillor Mrs. D. Owen

Councillor Mr K. Braithwaite

Also present were County Councillor Mr T. Hale and District Councillor Mr T. Gwilliam

939. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from District Councillor Ms M. Mumford.

940. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

941. Reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last bi-monthly meeting

The minutes of the June meeting were proposed by Cllr Carrick, seconded by Cllr Mrs Owen and agreed by all present, following which they were signed by the chairman.

942. Reading and confirmation of the minutes of the Annual Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Meeting, held on 13th May, were proposed by Cllr Gunter, seconded by Cllr Carrick and agreed by all present, following which they were signed by the chairman.

943. Matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Meeting

There were no matters arising from the Annual Meeting.

944. Matters arising from the minutes of the last bi-monthly meeting

889. Garden gate on Bicknor Street Highway's Safety Inspector has visited the site and found no safety issues, as the gate does not overhang the carriageway when it is open.

571 School safety zone A letter was drafted and distributed by Cllr Mrs Drinkall to 40 properties near to the school. Thirteen replies were received, which were collated by the clerk. Ten of these replies indicated zig-zag lines as their preferred option. A further two replies were brought to the meeting. After some discussion, Cllr Carrick proposed that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of zig-zag lines being put in the area. County Cllr Hale offered to arrange a site meeting between Mr A. Middlecote of County Highways and Parish Councillors. The clerk will contact Mr Middlecote to confirm this.

673.3 Traffic island at the top of Church Hill Highways continue to insist that the current small signs are the original signs, which the Parish Council disputes. County Cllr Hale offered to buy new larger signs from his Lengthsmen's budget.

690 BT telephone box, English Bicknor Forest Holidays will refurbish the box when they have the time. The broken glass panes are still to be replaced.

754.1. Speed surveys in the Parish /speeding in Hillersland 40mph wheelie bin stickers have been purchased and passed on to Mr C. Drew. County Cllr Hale is looking at the cost of a flashing speed sign, which he will fund from his County Councillor budget. Cllr Braithwaite offered to liaise with County Cllr Hale and also check with Mr Drew that he has given out the wheelie bin stickers to local residents.

782.2 Street lighting in Hillersland County Cllr Hale offered to liaise with the County Council again regarding the poor street lighting along Hillersland Road.

844 Overhanging vegetation between Lucy Court and the Rectory This was cut back by the Community Gang.

870.3 Sign hanging from footbridge at Symonds Yat Rock County Cllr Hale has confirmed that the sign is in good condition and this information passed on to Forestry England.

870.4 Silt across Redhouse Lane The silt has still not been removed.

898.1 Dog waste bags Mr D. Edwards of the Forestry Commission thanked the Parish Council for highlighting the problem of dog waste bags left alongside forest tracks or hanging from branches on the footpath from the Forest Holidays site at Christchurch to Symonds Yat Rock. He has put up some signs along the footpath and promised to both clear the bags and place some leaflets at campsites. The campsite has confirmed that they have added the information to their website, and placed a dog waste bin at the start of the trail from the campsite.

898.3 Litter pick in English Bicknor It was reported that another litter pick through English Bicknor was carried out last week but unfortunately one day later a yellow suitcase was dumped in a gateway near Sterts Farm. Cllr Carrick offered to try to get it removed.

908 Overhanging roadside vegetation on Junction Hill After initially looking at the wrong side of the road, the Safety Inspector subsequently visited the area and advised that the work would be carried out by the middle of August.

929 Register of Members' Interest Forms These have been handed in to Geraldine Randall-Wilce at the District Council, and she has acknowledged receipt of the forms.

930. Bus service through English Bicknor Mr O'Neill has confirmed that bus service 35 will remain essentially unaltered after 1st September. But they cannot offer new links towards Gloucester nor improvements in times back from Monmouth. The majority of other routes will change however. Details of the new timetables will be made public via their website and in printed leaflets in the next few weeks.

931 Police Community Support Officer Sergeant Nick Rogers at Coleford Police Station confirmed that they are in the middle of a restructure due to a resignation and there is currently no PCSO posted to English Bicknor, but they hope all new PCSOs will be in place by September. He promised to keep the Parish Council informed.

934. Highway matters The list of jobs for the Community Gang was forwarded to Highways and have all been completed except that weeds have not been cleared from the traffic island at the top of Church Hill. County Cllr Hale will ask the community Gang to come back to complete this work. County Highways have confirmed that they no longer spray weeds, but they are prepared to do this work if it is paid for from County Cllr Hale's budget. The Community Gang will scrape the weeds, but Councillors feel that this is a waste of time as the weeds grow back stronger.

935. Footpaths in the Parish The PROW officer, Mr J. Wheeler, has added the sign on footpath REB29/1 to his list, but apologised that he does not yet know when it will be done.

936.1 Foresters' Forest mini-bus tours Cllr Mrs Drinkall went on one of their tours and confirmed that it was a very interesting and informative day out.

936.2 UK Cycling Event The organisers were warned of the pot holes in Grove Road. They replied to thank the Parish Council for the warning – they will do an inspection closer to the date of the cycle event and take action as necessary.

937.1 Recycling bin at English Bicknor Village Hall The District Council have spoken with the supervisor at Biffa about the bin, and he will ask the driver to ensure that the recycling banks are locked once they are emptied. Biffa do have a programme for refurbishing or replacing recycling banks which are damaged or broken, but the District Council could not give a time scale for these works as they are managed by Biffa.

937.2 BT box in English Bicknor It was confirmed that copies of the local free newspaper are being left in the BT box every Wednesday.

937.3 Drain at bottom of Church Hill Highways have advised that this drain will be cleaned as part of the cyclical programme, due in September.

937.4 Pavements in Redhouse Lane Highways have replied to say that the pavements are not a safety hazard at the moment.

945. Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Hale reported that it had been proposed to close the A and E department at Cheltenham Hospital, but now a consultation is to go ahead. He also reported that footpath RLY1 near the Black Bridge at Lower Lydbrook has been diverted. County Cllr Hale will ask if someone could speak to the Parish Council about reducing carbon footprint.

946. Report of the District Councillor

District Cllr Gwilliam has been in meetings of the Western Powerhouse, which covers South Wales as well as Bristol, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, re combining resources, infrastructure and business opportunities. Cllr Gwilliam confirmed that the District Council has a Carbon Reduction Officer who would be pleased to speak to the Parish Council.

947. Planning Matters

(653) P0120/19/LD1 Hopyard Cottage, Ross Road, English Bicknor

Application under Section 191 to determine whether the occupation of the dwelling without compliance with occupancy condition (holiday let) is lawful.

This application is still pending.

(655) P0270/19/FUL (amended) Bicknor Cottage, Ross Road, English Bicknor

Conversion of existing outbuilding to holiday let incorporating timber decking, conversion of existing outhouse to washing facilities and utilities room with creation of new vehicular access.

This application is still pending.

(659) P0747/19/FUL Arnells, Church Hill, English Bicknor

Extension to existing dormer on rear elevation of dwelling providing bathroom to first floor.

Full permission granted on 4th July 2019.

(660) P0778/19/FUL Lower Tump Farm, Tump Lane, English Bicknor

Erection of a first floor extension over existing single storey.

The Parish Council supports this application.

948. Accounts for payment

- 1) Miss W Lawrence - Clerk's wages and expenses - £330.35
- 2) PAYE on clerk's wages - £75.13
- 3) Miss W Lawrence – 40mph wheelie bin stickers - £17.98

A copy of the overview of finances had previously been circulated, while copies of the latest bank statement were available at the meeting. Acceptance of the accounts and proposed payments was proposed by Cllr Gunter, seconded by Cllr Braithwaite and agreed by all present.

949. Highway Matters – the Eastbach Road

Mr A. Middlecote has confirmed that the remainder of the Eastbach Roads are NOT to be resurfaced during the current financial year, as they are concentrating on A and B roads. The clerk will contact him to ask if the road could be resurfaced in the next financial year.

950. Footpaths in the Parish

Recently a new arrow has appeared on the Wysis Way footpath in Hillersland pointing walkers away from the usual path and down a very short, narrow road which brings them out onto Hillersland Road on a blind bend. The clerk has contacted the PROW Officer to ask if this sign can please be removed as the original route takes walkers to a junction where the road can be seen clearly in both directions.

951. Correspondence received since last meeting

1. A letter has been received from Cllr Drew offering his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect as his house has been sold and he will soon be moving away from the area. A letter of thanks will be sent to him and the District Council notified.
2. A letter has been received from a parishioner concerned at the speed limits along Hillersland Road, where the speed limit is 30mph at Christchurch, then 40mph from the junction with Hillersland Lane until Redinhorne, when the limit changes to national speed limit until the border with Herefordshire, a distance of just half a mile. This last half a mile, at Symonds Yat Rock, includes sharp bends, a hill, car park entrance and a very narrow road. The parishioner asks whether the 40mph speed limit could be extended to the county border. The clerk will write to County Highways to ask if this could be done and will confirm to the parishioner that Highways have been contacted. County Cllr T Hale advised that a Pressure Group has been set up to look at speed limits.
3. A letter has been received from a parishioner who has produced a map showing where vehicles can park safely when attending events at either the school or church. The map has been circulated to funeral directors and schools. The parishioner offered to be trained to undertake speed monitoring in English Bicknor. The clerk will write to thank him and advise that the Parish Council will contact him if speed surveys are carried out in English Bicknor in the future.
4. An e-mail has been received from Mr J. Britton advising that he recently carried out an inspection of the Symonds Yat flagstaff, when he found that the security strap on the locking box had been removed. He has carried out a temporary repair and advised what would be required for a more permanent repair. The clerk will contact him to ask if he can carry out the repair, with any materials paid for by the Parish Council.

952. Any other matters affecting the Parish Council

Highways have asked for confirmation of details relating to winter maintenance. Cllr Bowen has confirmed that she is willing to continue as Snow Warden for the Parish and has requested 20 bags of salt to be delivered. Highways have also asked for the location of all grit bins in the Parish. Councillors will check where they are and confirm to the clerk, who will ask Highways for a map onto which the location of the grit bins can be added.

953. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 7th October at 7pm at English Bicknor Village Hall.