

English Bicknor Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th February 2022 at English Bicknor Village Hall.

Those present were as follows:

Councillor Mrs P. Drinkall – Chairman
Councillor Mr D. Gunter

Councillor Mrs D. Owen
Councillor Mrs A. Bowen

County Councillor Mr T. Hale

District Councillor Mr T. Gwilliam

112. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from Cllr K. Braithwaite, Cllr J. Carrick and Cllr P. Warden.

113. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

114. Reading and confirmation of the minutes of the last Parish Council meetings

The minutes of the bi-monthly Parish Council meeting held on 13th December 2021, were proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority of those present, following which they were signed by the chairman.

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

87 Village Hall Committee and Football Club A meeting was held between representatives of the Village Hall Committee and the Football Club with GRCC acting as an impartial mediator, but the meeting had to be held via zoom. Since then, as suggested by GRCC, a meeting has been held between the mediation representatives of the Village Hall Committee and the Football Club.

571 Parking at school Councillors have noted that cars are still parking on the bends near the school at the start and end of each school day. Councillors will continue to monitor this, and a meeting with the school and the PCSO will be requested following the next Parish Council meeting.

754.1 Speeding in Hillersland Results of the speed survey carried out in Hillersland have been forwarded by Mr D. Holland, who has taken over from Debbie Powell at Road Safety and Traffic Management. As the 85% speeds were rather high, he had contacted the Team Leader of the camera enforcement team to assess the viability of enforcement being conducted on this stretch of road. Once this has been established, he will contact the Parish Council to discuss a way forward. The clerk was asked to contact Mr Holland to question what enforcement would be carried out.

Speed sign in English Bicknor Residents have indicated that they are pleased to see the speed sign in place in English Bicknor. The first set of results have been forwarded by Cllr Braithwaite. The clerk was asked to put in the Parish magazine rules with regard to speed signs, as residents have asked why the speed sign is not in the village on a permanent basis.

782.2 Street lighting in Hillersland Cllr T. Hale will contact Saskia to ask if they have yet looked at street lighting in rural areas.

951.2 Speed limit approaching Symonds Yat Rock A list of traffic incidents at the bends approaching Symonds Yat Rock has been forwarded by a local resident and forwarded to Mr. A. Middlecote at County Highways. It was agreed to contact Highways to ask if a sign could be put up warning that there is an entrance to a car park on the bend at Symonds Yat Rock.

26.4 Lime Kilns County Cllr Hale will ask the contractor who is to spray the weeds in English Bicknor whether he will also spray the weeds at the Lime Kilns.

38.3 Drain at the bottom of Church Hill The Areas Highways Rep has reported that this drain is clear.

49.2 Footpaths in the Parish The clerk will contact the PROW Officer to ask if part of the large tree trunk on REB48/1 at Hillersland can be removed in the next financial year to unblock this

path.

50. The Definitive Map The clerk will contact the County Council to ask if it is now possible to view the Definitive Map.

82.1 Verge near Dove Cottage The clerk will contact County Highways to ask if a better repair can be carried out on this verge.

83.1 Gate from private residence onto playing fields A letter advising of the Council's decision was forwarded to the property owners, with a copy forwarded to Mr P. Gwilliam as Chairman of the Village Hall Committee, who has sent a reply expressing his dismay at this decision. The clerk will acknowledge receipt of his e-mail.

84.1 Trees on verge opposite Cowmeadow Farm County Highways' Tree Surgeon has met with Cllr Gunter and agreed to remove the dead Oak tree-trunk near his farm gate.

84.3 Road name signs New road name signs have been put in place, however, a new sign saying Murrells Road was put in place instead of a second sign for Redhouse Lane. The clerk will contact the District Council to confirm the location of the sign for Redhouse Lane which still needs replacing.

84.5 Designation of Redhouse Lane Mr A. Middlecote has confirmed that he will look at this lane with County Cllr T. Hale when time allows.

95. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Trees The two Oak trees have been delivered and are now in place. These are part of the Queen's Green Canopy to celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. A letter was received from the Secretary of State suggesting other ways for communities to celebrate this Jubilee.

102. Weed spraying in the Parish A map has been supplied to County Cllr Hale so that he can obtain quotes for weed spraying to be carried out from his budget.

105. Precept for 2022/23 The Precept request has been forwarded to the District Council.

106. Oak trees near Sterts Farm The Tree Inspector has been asked to inspect these trees.

106.8 Ditch along Bicknor Street County Highways' Street Works Inspector has visited the site, following which a defect has been issued on Gigaclear to clear the ditch.

106.9 Man-hole cover in playing field County Cllr Hale confirmed that Highways will try again to locate the man-hole cover at the bottom of the playing fields when they have the necessary equipment available.

107. Swanpool Lane (REB18/1) The clerk will contact the PROW officer to ask about regulations relating to the width of access to public footpaths and whether the railings at Swanpool Lane comply. The railings had been put in place to stop people depositing garden refuse in the lane. It was noted that the landowners who own the hedgerows on either side of the lane do not want to see the access widened.

109.2 Local stories for Dean Heritage Centre The e-mail was forwarded to the editor of the Parish magazine.

110. Defibrillator The clerk registered the defibrillator at English Bicknor Village Hall with the British Heart Foundation. However, following this the clerk was contacted by Webnos, with whom the defibrillator is currently registered, and told that a defibrillator cannot be registered with two different organisations, so the registration with the British Heart Foundation was cancelled. After consulting The Community Heartbeat Trust, councillors agreed to put the cabinet code (and post code) on the village hall notice board, while a resume of the procedure for activating the defibrillator will be put in the parish magazine.

111. Dates of meetings in 2022 Dates of meetings in 2022 have been confirmed as 7th February; 4th April; 6th June; 1st August; 3rd October and 5th December. The clerk will book either the 9th May or 23rd May for the annual meeting and Parish Assembly. It was agreed that, due to the current situation with Covid, there will be no guest speaker and no refreshments will be served.

116. Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr T. Hale has checked the salt bins in the Parish, but he should be contacted if bins do run low on salt. The new health centre for Coleford based at The Gorse has been delayed. The County

Council have put £100million in their budget for roads. The Build Back Better Scheme is to help local organisations which are struggling as a result of the pandemic. English Bicknor Gardening Club asked for £300 from this fund, but they do not have a bank account. Following advice from GAPTC, councillors agreed that the money could be paid to the Parish Council, who would then pass the funds on to the Gardening Club. The County Council also have a speed safety fund of £300,000 whereby local residents and local councils are asked to highlight areas where there are speed related issues. Concerns have been expressed about speeds along Bicknor Street, where there is no speed restriction. County Cllr Hale will look into this.

117. Report of the District Councillor

District Cllr T. Gwilliam reported that demolition has started at the Five Acres site. The District Council is now looking at its Local Plan, as they need to build 4,000 new homes above the present allocation, in the next five years. The District Council will be contacting Town and Parish Councils to ask for their input.

118. Planning Matters

(675) P0983/21/FUL Ferndale, Hillersland

Erection of a two-storey rear extension.

This appeal was dismissed on 21st January 2022.

(680) P1825/21/FUL Eastbach Farmhouse, Eastbach

Change of use of an existing utility, barn and old dairy to a small scale rural pottery.

This application has not yet been determined.

119. Accounts for payment:

Miss W. Lawrence – clerk's wages and expenses £348.24

HMRC – income tax on clerk's wages - £83.52

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

120. Highway matters

The list of outstanding highway matters was updated.

121. Footpaths in the Parish

The PROW Officer will be asked to check REB10/1 on the Heritage Trail, where the path has been washed away as it slopes steeply through Chepstow Woods and is now not safe.

122. Correspondence received since last meeting

1. A notice has been received from the County Council that the road between Eastbach Court and Eastbach Cottage is to be temporarily closed between 9th and 11th March.
2. Part of Tump Lane, from Eastbach Farm to Tump Farm, will be closed for a distance of 20 metres between 1st and 3rd March.
3. A leaflet from the District Council regarding flooding was distributed to councillors.

123. Any other matters affecting the Parish Council

1. The Trustees of the former English Bicknor Nursery have funds remaining which are required to be used to help nursery aged children. The Trustees wish to establish a playground for under 5s on the playing fields. They have contacted the Village Hall Committee and received costings. It was pointed out that any play equipment would need to avoid the drainage ditches. The Parish Council is not being asked to fund any on-going costs. All present supported this initiative should it be requested formally by the Village Hall Committee prior to the next Parish Council meeting.

2. The clerk will contact the District Council to request a litter-pick on the road between Dryslade Farm and Sterts Farm.
3. Celebrations were held in English Bicknor on 18th January at the home of Dr R. Simpson-White, who became the first local resident in living memory to reach his 100th birthday.

124. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 4th April, starting at 7pm.