

English Bicknor Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st August 2023 at English Bicknor Village Hall.

Those present were as follows:

Councillor Mr D. Gunter (Chair)
 Councillor Mr K. Braithwaite (Deputy Chair)
 Councillor Mrs P. Drinkall
 Councillor Mr P. Gwilliam
 Councillor Mrs A. Bowen
 Councillor Mr H. Cole

254. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from County Cllr Terry Hale. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

255. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

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

Proposed Cllr Braithwaite.

Seconded Cllr Gwilliam.

Amendments are to be made to 207 changing 'who are' to 'who may be able'.

Resolved.

The Clerk would circulate an update sheet before the next meeting.

177. Play Equipment. A local organisation had promised to pay £1,000 to the Village Hall when the playground fund gets to £10,000. This money has been paid in.

754.1 Hard standing for Speed Camera Van. No progress as yet. Police have arranged a meeting for Councillors to attend and view the site together. Previously, it had been stated that the police do not find the area suitable for a camera. This was due to previous traffic surveys, although these have been done outside of the busiest hours, affecting the results.

951.2. Speed limit approaching Symonds Yat Rock. It was reported that the yellow lines on the road had not yet been cleared of the debris covering them. The area also needs clearer parking signs. The trees in the area also need to be cut back. A meeting with Andrew Middlecote of county highways had been arranged to discuss these issues.

951.3 Community Speed Watch Camera. Cllr Braithwaite reported that if a device is based in Hillersland, the Parish Council would be responsible for sending its information forward to the police. This would be done in intervals with reports posted to the police. The Council would also be responsible for managing its data security and paying the postage for these. There was confusion over which party would fund the installation of camera. When the camera is set up it would also need a sign to be put in place.

84.5 Redhouse lane. The build up of silt needs to be removed and Councillors could look at doing this work themselves.

106.9 Two Rivers. A follow up letter to Two Rivers had received no response. A new letter would have to be drafted and sent again.

159. Footpaths. These current complaints concerning REB24/1 had been reported via the online website.

186.1 Warning sign on footbridge at Symonds Yat Rock. At a meeting between Councillors and Andrew Middlecote of county highways, it was agreed to look into the reinstatement of this sign as, since its removal several lorries had driven passed and got stuck. Andrew Middlecote agreed to look into the cost of a replacement sign.

206. Bottom of Junction Hill. Mr Middlecote will find out when the verge markers are to be installed.

207. ANOB Grants for kissing gates. New grants could be obtained by Parishioners who are not farmers but who have styles on their land they would like to replace with kissing gates.

219.2 Pavement Weed Spraying. The weeds were reported and no progress has so far been made. The previous attempts of weedkiller on the pathways did not work because this was done at the wrong time of year. Alternatives may be salting the earth and/or burning.

219.3 Safety checks on Beech and Oak trees in Parish. The beech trees at Chapel Hill had a previous safety check. New checks may be required.

219.4 Lorries travelling to Stowfield Industrial site. The issue of the lorries leaving Stowfields estate would be deferred until Cllr Hale is able to return to his role.

249. Highways matters. There were reports of spring water leaking on to the road at junction hill. Cllr Cole will look into this.

250. Wild Boar. A phone number to report sightings and other incidents had been made available and the Clerk will put online on the Council's website. This would also be conveyed to the Parish magazine.

259. Annual Meeting. Councillor's declaration forms had been sent to the district Council.

260. Planning application.

P0396/23/FUL Oak Farm Ross Road English Bicknor. Change of use of land to mixed agricultural and equestrian, demolition of existing agricultural building and replacement building along with associated development.

P0663/23/FUL The Grange, Braceland, Christchurch. Refurbishment of existing annexe to include new roof and associated works.

The Council supported both of the above two applications at a meeting held at 3rd July 2023.

P0786/23/PIP Land South of Balls Hill, English Bicknor, Gloucestershire. Permission in principle for the erection of No.4 dwellings.

This application had recently been commented by the Parish Council at the meeting to discuss this attended by many local residence. The Parish Council submitted several observations and objected to this application. Subsequently the application had failed at the planning officer stage. It was refused formally on 27th June 2023. As it conflicted with the conservation area.

262. Payments.

Miss W. Lawrence – clerk's wages, office allowance and expenses - £362.79

HMRC – income tax on clerk's wages - £83.74

English Bicknor Village Hall – Jan 2023 to Sept 2023 - £150.00

Resolved on all except the Village Hall invoice. The invoice from the Village Hall will be queried as there is confusion as to the exact number of sessions that were booked and what rate they were charged. The Clerk would also provide a rough financial forecast for the remaining of the financial year at the next meeting.

263. Highway Matters. The following issues would be reported. Drain covers blocked by debris opposite the Village Hall. The sign entering the Village near Dryslade farm had fallen off and would need to be replace/ or repaired.

264. Wildlife and Pest matters. See item 250.

265. Correspondence received since last meeting. No new correspondence received.

266. Any other matters affecting the Parish Council. The vehicle activated sign will be placed near the Lytch gate English Bicknor but the hedges present a problem in that they obscure the sign. The hedges should not be cut until sept 1st unless obstructing the highway. Cllr Cole will establish when the hedge is likely to cut.

A pothole would be reported at Bicknor street.

267. Date of the Next Meeting. Tues. 3rd October. 7pm.

Ended. 8:45pm