

English Bicknor Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th December 2021 at English Bicknor Village Hall.

Those present were as follows:

Councillor Mrs P. Drinkall – Chairman	Councillor Mr K. Braithwaite - vice-chairman
Councillor Mr D. Gunter	Councillor Mrs A. Bowen
Councillor Mr P. Warden	Councillor Mrs D. Owen
County Councillor Mr T. Hale	

98. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from District Cllr T. Gwilliam and Cllr J. Carrick.

99. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

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

The minutes of the bi-monthly Parish Council meeting held on 4th October 2021, were proposed, seconded and agreed by all present, following which they were signed by the chairman.

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

87. Village Hall Committee and Football Club Both committees agreed to an offer of impartial mediation from the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. No reply has been received to the letter sent to the Village Hall Committee on 11th August. Copies of minutes of meetings, plus several e-mails outlining recent events between the two committees, have been forwarded to the Parish Council. It is alleged that the member of the Football Club who had a new set of keys to the village hall cut is someone who regularly works voluntarily behind the bar and does many odd jobs in the village hall. He claims that it had been suggested to him that he should have his own set of keys and that the vice-chairman of the village hall gave him the keys to copy. The clerk checked the e-mail received from District Cllr Gwilliam and confirmed that this correspondence made no reference to a business being run from the Village Hall.

571 Parking at school From time to time, PCSO Jayne continues to monitor the parking at the start and end of the school day. She has reported that very few cars are parking on the bends, but she has expressed concern at traffic speeds, so would try to attend with the speed camera. However, councillors who live nearby still report many cars parked on the bends, so they will continue to monitor this and take photographs. It was agreed to request a meeting with the Head Teacher of the school and PCSO Jayne in the Spring, and to ask whether the PCSO has been able to attend with the speed camera.

754.1 Speeding in Hillersland A speed survey was carried out in Hillersland by Gloucestershire Police during the first two weeks of December. The results will be forwarded to the clerk.

Speed Sign in English Bicknor The hedge has now been cut, and once the speed sign is fully charged, Cllr Braithwaite will arrange for the sign to be placed in English Bicknor.

782.2 Street Lighting in Hillersland County Cllr Hale will continue to liaise with Saskia to monitor the situation.

951.2 Speed limit approaching Symonds Yat Rock The Parish Council will continue to liaise with residents with regard to the situation at this location.

26.4 Lime Kilns The weeds will be sprayed again in the Spring.

34. Sign on Tump Lane The new sign is now in place.

38.3 Drain at the bottom of Church Hill The new grip is now in place, but due to the volume of water accumulating here, the sump will probably need clearing out soon.

48.4 Junction Hill Markers along the edge of the road where there is a sheer drop have been put in place.

48.7 English Bicknor sign The new English Bicknor sign at the top of Junction Hill has been cleared of vegetation.

49.2 and 3 Footpaths in the Parish Mr J. Wheeler, the PROW Officer, has confirmed that clearing the fallen trees from footpath REB47 has been added to his list, but the size of the tree trunk on REB48 means that finances are not available at the moment to remove it.

50. The Definitive Map The County Council confirmed on 16th November that the map room is still closed, however they hope to re-open it within the next month or so. The copy at Shire Hall is the only copy.

51. Floodsax Cllr Mrs Bowen confirmed that 20 Floodsax have been delivered to her property.

55.5 Royal British Legion Figures The two figures were delivered in time for Remembrance Day and put in place in English Bicknor and Hillersland, for which thanks were expressed to Cllrs Carrick and Braithwaite. A short service of dedication took place at the figure in English Bicknor on 11th November, led by Rev Helen Rodwell.

82.1 Verge near Dove Cottage County Highways advised the clerk that the work to repair the verge had been completed; however it remains unrepaired. The clerk will contact Highways.

83.1 Gate from private residence onto playing fields To date, the Parish Council has not received any minutes from the Village Hall Committee which indicate permission was given for the gate to be put in the fence between the playing fields and a private property. The Parish Council were forwarded a copy of a letter dated September 2016 which confirms that the Village Hall Committee intended to close the gate in the boundary between the playing fields and another property. In any case, legal and GAPTC advice confirm that the Parish Council, as owners of the land, should decide on the matter of breaching the boundary and creating a private access. The chair summarised the situation and, after discussion, it was proposed, seconded and agreed by a majority that the owner be asked to put the gate permanently out of use. The clerk was asked to write accordingly to the property owner and also to the chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

84.1 Trees on verge opposite Cowmeadow Farm The low branches have been removed, though County Highways have not contacted Cllr Gunter as asked. The lengthsman will be asked to remove the brambles under the trees.

84.3 Road name signs The District Council confirmed that an order for new street signs was placed in November.

84.5 Designation of Redhouse Lane While the Parish Council does not want Redhouse Lane re-opened to vehicular traffic, in view of the number of walkers who use the lane, the clerk was asked to contact County Highways to ask for the deep mud to be cleared from the bend just past The Redhouse to the junction with Folly Lane at Hillersland.

90. Fibre broadband in Hillersland Gigaclear have confirmed that Hillersland is included with Christchurch in their plans and their current forecast is for completion during the second quarter of 2022. Currently they are negotiating how to redirect traffic while works are carried out, and looking at bus routes which will be affected.

95. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Trees Cllr Mrs Bowen confirmed that the stakes and guards have arrived, but the two Oak trees have yet to be delivered.

96.1 Clearing around traffic island Letters of thanks have been sent to Mr Sproat and Mr Fyffe.

96.2 Parking on grass at Smithy Close Two Rivers were contacted, and replied to confirm that they will ask their tenants not to park on the grass.

102. Report of the County Councillor

County Cllr Hale reported that an airborne bug is affecting Larch trees, so Forestry England are now taking down large areas of Larch trees, which has caused concern at the amount of run-off due to there being less trees to soak up water. County Highways have resurfaced over 560 miles of road

in the last year. The clerk will provide County Cllr Hale with a map indicating the areas of the Parish where the Council would like weeds to be sprayed. He will then get a quote for this work to be done from his County Councillor budget.

103. Planning Matters

(680) P1825/21/FUL Eastbach Farmhouse, Eastbach
Change of use of existing utility, barn and old dairy to a small scale rural pottery.

Councillors supported this application.

(675) P0983/21/FUL Ferndale, Hillersland

Erection of a two storey rear extension.

Due to the non-determination of this application, an appeal was lodged in November.

(676) P1075/21/FUL The Bungalow, Blackthorns Farm, Hillersland

Variation of condition 09 (ownership) of planning permission P1172/12/FUL.

Full permission was granted on 13th October 2021.

(679) P1649/21/FUL 1 Birch Marsh, Eastbach, English Bicknor

Erection of replacement outbuilding with associated works.

Full permission was granted on 22nd November 2021.

104. Accounts for payment:

Miss W. Lawrence – clerk's wages, office allowance and expenses £477.69

HMRC – income tax on clerk's wages - £93.96

English Bicknor Village Hall – annual mowing grant - £300

English Bicknor Village Hall – rent for meetings - £30

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.

105. Precept for 2022/23

A budget calculation document had been forwarded to all councillors prior to the meeting. After discussion, and an agreement that prices are probably set to rise in 2022, it was proposed and agreed to set the Precept for 2022/23 at £4,165. The clerk will forward this figure to the District Council.

106. Highway Matters

The list of outstanding Highway matters was discussed.

(1) Although Highways confirmed early in 2021 that there were no plans to change the drains on Chapel Hill, it was agreed to leave this item on the list.

(2) The Council are still waiting for two sections of Eastbach Road to be resurfaced following the resurfacing of one section in 2019.

(8) Concern was expressed that the ditch on the edge of Bicknor Street which formed a boundary between the field and the road, was used by Gigaclear to place a fibre optic conduit. There is therefore no longer a ditch to take any run-off from the field.

(9) County Cllr Hale agreed to keep a check on the man-hole cover which was located near the containers at the entrance to the playing fields. Highways will try to locate the man-hole cover at the bottom end of the playing fields.

County Cllr Hale asked that he be contacted if any salt bins in the Parish need filling.

The Parish Council have reported their concerns about the trees at the top of Chapel Hill to County Highways on a number of occasions, but each time Highways have reported that the trees are safe. In recent storms, an Oak tree on Highway land blew onto the road.

107. Footpaths in the Parish

The small lane opposite the village hall has been kept clear of weeds by the lengthsman for the last

few years. Railings at the entrance are to deter people from dumping garden refuse in the lane. Concern was expressed that these railings restrict the landowners' ability to access the lane with machinery in order to carry out work on the hedge and trees on both sides.

108. Wild Boar

It was reported that the Boar situation in Hillersland is worsening.

109. Correspondence received since the last meeting

1. A new poster, including contact details, has been received from our MP, Mr M. Harper. The poster has been placed on the Parish notice board in English Bicknor.
2. An e-mail has been received from the Manager of the Dean Heritage Centre asking for stories which local residents feel are important and should be told by the museum. It was agreed that this e-mail be forwarded to the editor of the Parish magazine.
3. An e-mail has been received from the co-ordinator of an organisation asking for support for their campaign to make 20mph a county-wide residential speed limit. Councillors were invited to join an on-line workshop to be held on 15th December.

110. Any other matter affecting the Parish Council

An article in the local newspaper highlighted concerns after a woman waited 40 minutes for the code to gain access to her local defibrillator. The article then gave information of a national database developed by the British Heart Foundation and urged all owners to register their defibrillator with the network. The clerk was asked to do this. County Cllr Hale will forward information on this to the clerk.

111. Dates of meetings in 2022

The dates for Parish Council meetings in 2022 were set as follows:

7th February; 4th April; 6th June; 1st August; 3rd October and 5th December.

The above are all Monday evenings and meetings will begin at 7pm.

The date for the Annual meeting and the Parish Assembly in May will be set at a later date.