

MEETING HELD ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2023 AT BROMPTON RALPH VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

Attendees: Councillors S Baker (Vice Chair), J Elliott (Chairman), P Heard, D Holmes, C Mowat, A Sellick
P Bainbridge (Clerk)

Also in attendance: Somerset Council Councillor F Nicholson
Public Question Time: None

Members of the Public: 5

1. Apologies accepted: Cllr S Merritt

Apologies Received: Somerset Council Cllr S Pugsley

2. Declarations of interest: Cllr P Heard Item 4a

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was unanimously agreed that the minutes of the meeting on 21st July 2023 were a true and correct record and were signed by the Chairman Cllr J Elliott at the meeting.

4. Planning

Planning Applications for Comment/Received

Cllr P Heard left the room

- a. 3/02/23/008 Application for Prior Approval for the creation of a wetland habitat with extension of out-pipe from existing pond for formation of additional pond and 4 No. bunded scrapes within a fenced area with filling in of defective pond Middle Stone Farm, Brompton Ralph to Gandstone Cross, Brompton Ralph, TA4 2RT – no comment. *Cllr P Heard returned.*

Planning Applications Decided – for full conditions see Somerset Council Planning Portal

- b. 02/23/006 Removal of post box, replacement of shop front and door with removal of shop sign Beers, Forches Cross to Brompton Ralph, Brompton Ralph, Wiveliscombe, TA4 2RU – GRANT
- c. CMA/02/23/001 Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Change of use from Commercial, Business and Service (Use Class E) to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3) – GRANT
- d. 3/02/23/007 Application for prior notification of an agricultural track Little Parks Farm, Gandstone Cross to Parks Lane, Brompton Ralph – it was decided to submit comments about the increase in large traffic accessing the track as widening the visibility splays was also required and whether there is an agricultural need - PRIOR APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED
- e. 3/02/23/003 Erection of one and a half storey rear extension Long Paddocks, Pitsford Hill, Brompton Ralph, Taunton, TA4 2RR – GRANT
- f. 3/02/23/001 Erection of two storey front extension and porch plus single storey rear extension with balcony at Shodden Farm, Ford Road, Brompton Ralph, Taunton, TA4 2RW – GRANT
- g. NMA/02/23/001 Application for a Non-Material Amendment to application 3/02/22/002 for amendments to block/landscape plan to include an outdoor swimming pool Pleasant View, Parish Quarry Road, Brompton Ralph, TA4 2SA – REFUSE

Planning Applications Awaiting Decision

- h. 3/02/21/001 Erection of 1 No. agricultural workers dwelling and garage Sandpit Meadows, Brompton Ralph to Gandstone Cross, Brompton Ralph, TA4 2RT

5. Website Update – It was proposed by D Holmes and seconded by S Baker and unanimously agreed to accept the Introduction of a monthly charge by Hugo Fox (£9.99/per month + VAT) from October. The Clerk to proceed and set up a direct debit.

6. Finance

- a. **Bank Balance** - 31st July 2023 - £13,428.07 and 31st August - £13,273.90. The bank reconciliations were presented and checked against the bank statements and signed by Cllrs A Sellick and P Heard.
- b. **Income Received** – HMRC VAT Refund £124.60 for the financial year 2022/23
- c. **Payments for Approval** – S Baker proposed, and A Sellick seconded and the following payments were unanimously approved and the cheques signed at the meeting.
 - i. Clerk's Wages September & October: 2 x £154.17 (includes payments to HMRC)
 - ii. Scribe Accounts - £142.56 (includes VAT)
 - iii. Community First Insurance - £205.49
 - iv. St Mary's PCC Brompton Ralph- £100.00
 - v. Citizens Advice West Somerset - £100.00
 - vi. Hugo Fox - £9.99 pm + VAT (Direct Debit to be set up)

- d. **Pre-budget discussion** – Suggestion to support an annual village event possibly tied in with the 80th Anniversary of D Day in 2024, maintenance of the war memorial and allocation of donations. Clerk to prepare.

7. Matters Outstanding

- a. Pitsford Hill Defibrillator – It was unanimously agreed to purchase new pads/batteries at an approximate cost of £165.00. The Clerk to organise.
- b. SALC Grant Funding and Working Group update – Cllr Mowat gave an update on meetings of the working group which includes members of the public to discuss the SALC Wellbeing Grant. Cllr Mowat informed that further consultation with the parish would take place before an application for the smaller grant would be made early in 2024.
- c. Roads & Traffic Issues – Councillors to continue to report to the Clerk issues to be submitted to the Highways Steward. Issues can also be reported on Somerset Councils website. It was reported that changes to a gateway in Parish Quarry Road had been made following the correct procedures.
- d. Training – Cllr Mowat had attended Code of Conduct training delivered by SALC.
- e. Brompton Ralph Post Box – A request for a new post box on the Village Triangle had been submitted by the Parish Council. The Post Office had requested confirmation of what was to happen to the old one following a request to keep it. It was confirmed that the Village Hall will display it on an internal wall together with the old shop sign.
- f. Grass Cutting – The Clerk will obtain quotes to cut the grass on the triangle and road edges until Cllr Mowat has undertaken Chapter 8 training.
- g. Local Community Network Exmoor (LCN) – The Clerk attended the September LCN meeting virtually where sub-groups were set up to focus on areas, including economic regeneration and housing. There are still opportunities for councillors to be part of these sub-groups. SC Cllr Nicholson informed the meeting because the pilot project LCN had focused on highways it remains a major component of the meetings although the budget for this will most likely be reduced in the future. Cllr Sellick offered to attend the LCN meetings if the Vice Chair was unavailable.

- 8. Clerk's Report & Correspondence** – Wiveliscombe Community First Responders had written thanking the Parish Council for the donation of first aid training equipment. Following requests the Clerk will organise defibrillator training, Wednesday evenings was considered the preferred option. An email of introduction from the new secretary of Brompton Ralph Cricket Club had been received. Concerns about nuisance dogs barking and possible dog breeding had been received via email. The Clerk had provided information directing them to Somerset Council who can deal with noise complaints and the licensing of dog breeding. The Clerk had attended an extended Teams Meeting for Town & Parish Council Clerks which occur fortnightly at which the finances of Somerset Council was the key topic.

- 9. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas** – none

- 10. Date of next meeting** - Thursday 7th December 2023 at 7.30pm at Brompton Ralph Village Hall.

Chair Cllr J Elliott declared the meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Chair:

Signed as a true and correct record

Date: