

The Minutes of Berrow Parish Council
Held at Berrow and Pendock Village Hall on Monday 10th December 2012

Present: Cllrs Richard Fellows, Stan Morse, Geoff Shail, Mike Thomas and Ruth Coates.

In attendance: Clerk and 2 members of the public.

The meeting was adjourned for **Public Question Time**, notes of which are appended to these minutes.

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Morgan
2. **Declaration of Interests:**
 - a. **Councillors dispensation to set a precept:** As all Councillors were disqualified from setting a precept based on having a disclosable pecuniary interest under the Localism Act, dispensations were requested from each councillor until the next ordinary election in order that they may participate in any discussion or matter concerning the setting of the council's budget and annual precept. *Dispensations were given to all Councillors.*
 - b. **Personal Interests:** No personal interests were declared in respect of items on the Agenda.
3. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September were approved and signed.
4. **Progress Reports:**
 - a. **Berrow & Pendock Village Hall Lease:** The Chairman introduced the Rev. Mike Rogers who had requested the opportunity to clarify certain aspects of the proposed revised lease which were causing concerns within the parishes.
He pointed out that it was the intention of the Church to sell the vicarage after he retired and the request to use the top floor of the Village Hall was so that the new vicar could use it as an office for the administrator – some 4 or 5 hours a week.
The request for the use of the hall on Saturdays was to run marriage preparation days as so many weddings were now taking place at Birtsmorton Court. These would be booked in the normal way and would not take precedence over other bookings.
He acknowledged that under the circumstances some agreement would need to be reached concerning running costs and building repairs, and it was suggested some form of ratio by square foot might be appropriate.
He also suggested that perhaps the way forwards would be, upon the appointment of 2 members from each of the Parish Councils together with 2 members of the PCC, the vicar call a meeting to agree terms of the revised lease to take back to their respective councils.

After much discussion which raised particular concerns over security and the practicalities of using the upper room of the village hall, together with reminding the meeting of the alterations, repairs and general improvements that had been achieved during the current lease, it was eventually agreed that Cllr Geof Shail and Cllr Ruth Coates represent the Parish Council in order to arrive at a way forwards.

The Clerk reported that Masefield Solicitors had requested a further advance on their fees and it was agreed to send a further £150 towards the final estimate.

- b. Netherley Lane:** The condition of the lane had been reported to the highways department with the result that they advised there was nothing they could do immediately, and that any of the large ruts in the verge due to excessive use of a single width carriageway could be filled with soil or similar.
- c. Parish Website:** The clerk reported that the village website was now up and running – any notices, minutes and agendas can be either read on line or downloaded.

- 5. Co-Option of a New Councillor:** Following the resignation of a councillor earlier this year a members of the parish had offered her services as a councillor. The meeting considered the application and it was duly proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that Mrs Angela Tomkinson be accepted to the Council. Cllr Tomkinson duly signed the Acceptance of Office and took her place on the Parish Council.

6. Financial Report:

- a.** The Clerk reported that no payments had been made since the last meeting however the second tranche of the Precept had been received leaving a bank balance of £2,008. The Clerk requested authorisation to settle following invoices:

	£
Lesley Turpin for Clerks duties 2011/12 -	500.00
Clerk's salary and admin. Costs Sept –Nov. -	141.33
Hire of Hall for Parish Council meetings 2012-	32.00

The Rev. Mike Rogers asked the Parish Council for a donation towards the upkeep of the churchyard, and it was proposed and agreed to contribute £250 towards PCC costs. It was also agreed to settle the above invoices.

- b. Budget for the coming year:** The Clerk presented the draft budget for 2013/14 and highlighted that there was probably going to be a shortfall in 2012/13 of some £600. It was hoped that savings could be made on insurance and audit next year, but that an increase in the precept would be necessary. It was proposed and agreed to accept the budget as it stood.
- c. Parish Precept:** Based on the agreed budget it was proposed and accepted that the precept should be raising in 2013/14 to £1,750.

7. **Section 137 Grant:** A request to support the application for Discretionary Rural Rate Relief FY12/13 from The Duke of York was discussed. It was proposed that the Parish Council should support this as the business is of benefit to the local community. It was agreed that no financial contribution would be made but the 25% Discretionary Relief would be recommended.

8. Correspondence for Information:

- a. A letter had been received from MHDC reminding the parish that Cavity Wall insulation and Loft Insulation was on offer completely free of charge to anyone living in the District.
- b. It was reported that Community First had set up a community Oil buying Scheme that was available to anyone on a subscription basis. Further information was on the website or could be obtained from the Clerk.

9. Councillors' reports :

- a. Cllr Morse reported that he had heard nothing further in respect of bus services and that as far as he was aware the mid-week service would terminate at the end of this month.
- b. The Clerk requested that if she could obtain a suitable Parish Noticeboard with a door to protect notices from the elements and funded by the Community First communications grant would she get the Council backing. This was approved on the above basis.

10. Date of next meeting : 8pm on Tuesday 5th March 2013 at Berrow and Pendock Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....

Notes of Public Question Time

Two members of the public were in attendance but raised no questions during question time.