# BICKLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL (MID DEVON)

Clerk: John Vanderwolfe FSLCC Chartered MCIPD

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**Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Bickleigh Village Hall on Tuesday 10th December 2019, commencing at 7pm**

**Present:** Cllr’s M Turner (Chairperson ), M Wright, C Williams and A Somerwill

**In Attendance**: Mr J Vanderwolfe (Clerk) and four members of the public.

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| **047** | **Apologies**An apology was received from Cllr R Deed. Agreed to accept this apology. An apology was also received from County Councillor M Squires. |
| **048** | **Declarations of Interest**Cllr M Wright declared a pecuniary interest in Planning Application 19/01954/CAT as this was for his property. He announced that he would leave the room prior to any discussions on this application taking place. |
| **049** | **Minutes**The Minutes of the meeting held on the 12th November 2019 were adopted as a true record; and were signed by the chairperson. |
| **050** | **Matters Arising**No matters arising |
| **051** | **Democratic Period** It was brought to the attention of the council that in the past a member of the parish council had sat on the Village Hall Committee. The chairman of the Village Hall committee was present and stated that he would be pleased to have a representative on the committee. It was agreed that Cllr A Somerwill would represent the parish council on this committee. It was also understood that there was in the past a member of the council on the Recreation Grounds committee. No approach had been made from that committee so no further action could be taken. There was a general discussion regarding open space areas in the parish including the status of Jones Orchard. Agreed that this required further investigation and possible legal advice. |
| **052** | **Planning**19/01954/CAT Cleave Barton: Remove 4 Poplar trees in a Conservation Area. **Note Cllr M Wright not present for this discussion, having declared a pecuniary interest.**No objection to the proposed works having noted that trees would be replaced. |
| **053** | **Determinations** It was noted that the appeal made by the applicant for development at Highfield had been rejected by the Secretary of State. A similar application made whilst the appeal was being dealt had resulted in MDDC refusing to determine the application because of the similarity of the application under appeal. |
| **054** | **Accounts for Payment** The following accounts were agreed for payment**:** Devon Valley Fabrications £1,234.72, Salaries £429.00, Greenbarrow Ltd £1662.49, Bickleigh Village Hall £88.00. |
| **055** | **Financial Update**Members had been circulated with a balance sheet as of the 8th December 2019 which showed current financial assets of £18,566.  |
| **056** | **Budget and Precept Demand** Figures had been prepared for members showing the predicted balance at the end of March 2020, being the end of the financial year. It was agreed that it was important to maintain some reserves to ensure that any special projects could be financed. The clerk made the point that the precept for this parish was fairly low compared to many other parishes of this size. **Resolved that the Precept be increased to £4,000. The budget would be £4545.** The D rate will be £36.09 per year, an increase of £8.29. |
| **057** | **Repairs and renewals** It was hoped that work would commence before Christmas on the former telephone box. Councillors agreed that the fitting up of shelves and other items in the box could be done locally. Cllr Williams informed the meeting that two of the noticeboards would be replaced with one new one at a cost of £1,662. Joan’s Orchard to be the subject of further discussions regarding the legal standing and future. Concerns raised regarding damaged fencing on the main road by Bickleigh Mill. The clerk would contact our county councillor about this. The clerk would also contact our county councillor regarding possible yellow lines on the unadopted road by the school. |
| **058** | **Matters of Urgency**No matters brought forward  |
| **059** | **Closing of Meeting**The meeting was closed at 7.55pm |
| **060** | **Next Meeting** After a brief discussion it was agreed to keep the schedule of meetings as previously agreed, second Tuesday in the month. Next meeting Tuesday 11th February 2020. |