



# Brean Parish Council

Mr. B. Hunt (Clerk), Brean Post Office, Church Road, Brean, Nr. Burnham-on-sea, TA8 2RR  
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## APPROVED Minutes

Minutes of the Brean Parish Council held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2009 in the Brean Village Hall at 7pm.

### PRESENT

Councillor Mr Petrie Chairman

Councillor J Harris Vice Chairman

Councillors Mrs H Guy, Mrs J Jackman, D Scott, T Hicks, M Chatterton

Electors of Brean totalling 16 persons

In attendance B Hunt, Clerk of the Council

By Invitation Cllr T. Grimes (SDC)

### APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the following:--

Cllr Alan Ham (SCC)

### MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2009 were approved without amendment by the members and signed by the Chairman.

These are now in the “public domain” and are available from the Clerk at [breanparish@aol.com](mailto:breanparish@aol.com) or on the website [www.brean.org](http://www.brean.org) and are published in Coastline magazine.

### MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The following issues arose from the last meeting :-

#### KITE BUGGIES

Representatives of the Kite Buggy Club (SWATK) and the Brean Land Yacht Club will be attending the July meeting.

The Chairman requested that any queries/suggestions/issues be advised to the Clerk IN WRITING 7 days before the July meeting, in order to provide a structured discussion and response.

#### DONATION TO St BRIDGETS CHURCH

Further to circulation of a letter from St Bridgets church it was proposed that a donation of £400 be made. Proposed Cllr Harris Seconded Cllr Mrs Guy.

#### ELECTORS OF BREAN ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Electors of Brean raised the following issues for Council attention:-

The Chairman invited the following residents to speak:-

Richard Bigwood advised that there was no toilet open, nor toilet rolls available at the beach entrance toilet over the Whitsun holiday.

Cllr Grimes to raise with SDC and the Clerk to contact "Clean Surroundings"

ACTION 010609

Robert Munn advised that the state of the roads around Brean was poor due to many potholes.

Clerk to contact Highways.

ACTION 020609

Rita Regan thanked the Parish Council for the donation of £400 to St Bridgets Church but advised that costs had increased considerably and parishioners were having to organise work parties to undertake the maintenance of the grounds.

The Chairman offered to provide details of someone who could cut the grass at a reduced cost.

Ron Frewin advised that the warden did not appear to be on the beach between 5pm and 8pm on Saturday over the bank holiday, Cllr Harris advised that the warden had to respond to an "incident" at Berrow around this time.

Also the ice cream concession had been seen dumping ice cream cones for the birds. Clerk to write to him

ACTION 030609

Cllr Chatterton queried the time of the beach closing and requested that the beach warden advise the person on the gate when they were leaving the beach.

ACTION Cllr Harris

Dave Bailey advised of the traffic congestion at Pontins on Fridays and Mondays

PCSO Tracey Grobbeler will speak to the General Manager

Clerk to contact Chris Betty to assist with this problem.

ACTION040609

Rowena Findlay queried the location of the beach warden as she had "never seen him" by the posts or in the vehicle free area but she had seen him "speeding " on the beach.

ACTION Cllr Harris

## PLANNING

The following applications were reviewed by members and following responses sent:-

06/09/00004 YERTIZ – handed out for review by Cllr Mrs Guy & Cllr Chatterton

## MATTERS DEALT WITH BY SEDGEMOOR DISTRICT COUNCIL

The following applications were reviewed by SDC

NONE

## BEACH MANAGEMENT 2009

Cllr Harris provided the following report :-

We had experienced a very successful Whitsun holiday due to the excellent weather, many people had commented on the superb state of the beach and the new signage.

Thanks were advised to Richard Bigwood for his hard work in cleaning the beach to this very high standard.

Sand was building up in the road opposite the car park entrance, it was proposed that we apply to Highways for the road sweeper and the installation of a “slippery bend “ sign to be installed

PCSO Tracey Grobbeler to follow up

Clerk to contact Highways

ACTION 040609

The refreshment concession at the rear of the Seagull had not turned up and had not paid his first instalment

Clerk to write to concession to establish his intentions

ACTION050609

We had been approached by a potential concession for a “bouncy castle”. It was agreed to offer him a trial weekend

Cllr Mrs Guy requested details of the vehicle recently submerged in the tide, and asked what lessons could be learned.

It was suggested that we display photos of the incident and that the beach warden should carry copies.

Cllr Chatterton requested details of the insurance claim letters.

Cllr Mrs Jackman advised of a dog being killed after falling of Breaan Down, although there were instructions regarding keeping dogs on a lead located by the map to the area at the base of the Down these were not always noted.

ACTION Cllr Mrs Jackman to contact Mark Courtier.

## OTHER CURRENT MATTERS

The following current matters were reviewed by the meeting :-  
Report from POLICE - PCSO Tracey Grobbeler advised of our new beat officer ..Stuart Curtis.

The beta surgery would be held on Tuesday at the Village Hall  
Report from SALC - NONE

## CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was reviewed for action/filing or circulation

Mr Don Holland – Councillors and Voting Rights

Mr Holland was advised that there were SEVEN members (and this had been the case for many years) and that the quorum is THREE. The remainder of the questions were not relevant as no dispensations had been applied for.

The following letters required input from the councillors and were placed on circulation :-

Mr Richard Smith – Kite Buggy Risk Assessment

Mr Richard Smith – Chairmans Report / response to correspondence.

The Chairman advised that “in his opinion one of the letters contained a libel and he requested that members should not discuss the letter outside of the council”

Newsletters to be circulated.

## RESPONSE TO PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk provided a précis of the following correspondence and the Councillors provided the following responses:-

Mr Richard Smith – closed meetings

The Chairman advised that the Council, having taken legal advice, had already responded to these matters and Mr Smith had been advised that “no further correspondence will be entered into on this issue”.

Mr Richard Smith – Kite Buggies

1. The Risk Assessment was inadequate.
2. Kite Buggies were dangerous and an accident waiting to happen
3. The Parish Council needs to take account of residents views
4. A request for a “working party” to discuss residents views

Cllr Harris responded as follows :- Our Risk assessment was an excellent document and compared favourably with both Berrow and Burnham. The Council were happy with it and were taking the recommended actions. The Council did not consider the Kite Buggies were dangerous especially on a nearly deserted beach on two days a week in winter months in a restricted area. However we have invited the SWATK club to the July meeting to review the residents concerns. The comment re “working parties” was also raised in Shirley Smith letter (below) and it was agreed to respond to this as one combined response.

Mrs Shirley Smith – various issues

Mrs Smith had provided an update to her original letter prepared for the “jet ski” meeting but requested that she only required the answer to three questions. These were given as follows :-

1. **THE ROLE OF THE PARISH COUNCIL** – A Parish Council is the first tier of local government delivering limited, village based services and offering local knowledge to District and County Councils. The council is a statutory body which is responsible to fund and manage village open space and community areas, in our case the beach, bus shelters, public seating, bins etc, normally with funds raised by a precept. Therefore, Parish Councils are self funding and do not receive monies direct from central government. Councillors are unpaid and normally elected for a four year term. They must be proactive in serving both the electorate and businesses within their area and be responsible for robust financial accounting.
2. **THE ROLE OF THE CHAIRMAN** – The Chairman is elected by members of the Council and serves twelve months in office. He or she must preside over meetings and is duty bound to sign approved minutes when necessary. He or she has the casting vote in meetings in the event of any tie and should represent the council at public engagements.
3. **WORKING PARTIES** – Most Councillors already put in a lot of unpaid time and effort for the village. A fully representative committee would need to be very large to accommodate all village viewpoints. Sub committees and working parties would put unacceptable workloads on councillors. Therefore all business is transacted at monthly meetings.

Mrs Jane Gauntlett – kite buggies/beach funding

A letter containing NINE detailed questions was responded to as follows:-

The Chairman advised that this was a good letter asking specific questions which could be responded to simply and accurately.

1. A MINIMUM CHARGE OF £5 – SWATK had often paid the concession on entry and the Parish receives a fixed fee from the concession. In addition we had received a donation of £350. Fees would be discussed with SWATK at the July meeting
2. NO ACTIVITIES IN BANK AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS – the club only operated on Saturday and Sunday from November to March (tide and wind permitting)
3. MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS ON VIEW – they wear arm or leg bands
4. EMERGENCY ACCESS TO VEHICLE FREE AREA – when the kites operate the beach warden is on duty and has a key, the emergency services also have a key.
5. USE OF SAME STRETCH OF BEACH AT SAME TIME – this has not occurred
6. STAND ALONE SIGNS – we agree and will discuss this with them in July
7. SUNDAYS ONLY – a trial/demonstration was agreed for a Sunday when they first started, as feedback from this was positive they were allowed to operate on Saturday also. (tide/wind and location permitting)
8. VOTES IN FAVOUR – of the five votes in favour only one had a business which was in operation at the time of use. No direct financial benefit was gained, rather the village as a whole.
9. NOT ONE ACTIVITY ONLY- we would welcome suggestions for other activities
10. Extra separate question - COPY OF BYE LAWS – the Clerk advised that these were available on SDC website – Mr Holland advised that they were not, in fact they are but due to an error by SDC a page is missing. They have been advised by Mr Holland and now the Clerk. The Clerk has obtained a full copy if you wish to see it.

#### MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

The Members raised the following issues for attention

Cllr D Scott raised the following issues:-

SEWAGE WORKS – continuing problems should be reported on 01934 622669 Emergency Helpdesk and these will be forwarded to Mark Ponsford.

#### HOLE IN ROAD/ FOOTPATH

A 3ft hole had appeared near Northam Farm, it had been temporarily filled.

Highways to be advised

ACTION 070609

The development at the top of Grass Road was continuing to be dangerous, the situation has been advised to the Environment Agency and we were awaiting their response.

Cllr Mrs Guy raised the following issues:-

Queried the process for the disposal of needles on the beach, Cllr Harris to ensure the Warden had a “sharps box” and was aware of the procedure.

Hilary had advised the warden and the police of a vehicle loading stones near Brean Down. The Warden had made the vehicle return and unload the stones and had advised the driver (possibly foreign) that he could not do this.

Cllr Chatterton queried the following :-

Cllr Harris advised that there had been 7 vehicle incidents on the beach that had been reported during May.

Martin queried why the beach gate could not be closed to vehicles in the winter on weekdays when there was no warden.

He had spoken to “Taunton” who advised that we must keep the bridleways (rights of way ) open but not necessarily the vehicle access.

Cllrs Harris and Scott advised that if we closed the beach and a resident lodged a complaint “we would lose” as they was an ongoing historical right for vehicles to enter the beach.

#### DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 7pm in the village hall.

#### ACTION LIST

The list of outstanding actions is attached to the current copy of the minutes

