

BREDON, BREDON'S NORTON AND WESTMANCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Bredon Parish Council Meeting held by Zoom Video Conference on **Monday 11th January 2021**.

Present: Councillors: Mr Rob Bell, Mr Nick Bradley (Chairman), Mr Richard Coghlan, Mr Matt Darby, Mr Kevin Falvey, Mr Phil Handy, Mr Neil Leyden, Mr Ed Pyke (co-opted at Item 3), Mr Andrew Rhodes, Mr Declan Shiels, Mr Rob Sly and Mr Brod Whiting.

In Attendance: Mr Tim Drew (Clerk), Cllr Adrian Hardman.

1. Apologies for Absence.

None.

2. Declaration of Interests.

Councillors were reminded to update their Register of Interests with Wychavon.

Cllr Darby declared a Prejudicial ODI for Item 7 a) i Application 20/02640 (neighbouring woodland), a Prejudicial ODI for Item 7 a) iii Application 20/02675 (owner of adjacent land) and a Prejudicial ODI for Item 10 (Landowner).

Cllr Falvey declared a Prejudicial ODI for Item 10 (Chairman of Bredon Star RFC).

3. Co-option of 12th Parish Council Member.

Following the recent resignation of Mrs Jo Lawlor, the Clerk had received an application for co-option from Mr Edward Pyke. It was **agreed** unanimously by Councillors to support the application and Cllr Pyke duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

4. Adoption of the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 14th December 2020.

These minutes were **approved**.

5. Finances.

a) Invoices to be paid:

Village Hall:

Jo Lomasney	Balance of Wages – December 2020	£126.38
CW Group	Consumables	£51.70

Parish Council:

Timothy Drew	Balance of Wages – December 2020	£355.03
Wychavon	Annual Charge – Cotswold Close Dog Bin	£90.97
Kemerton Conserv'n Trust	Playing Fields Rent 2020-21	£425.00
TV Licencing *	Parish Council Office TV	£157.50

* Paid & ratified.

The above payments were **agreed**.

b) Financial Report:

The December 2020 bank statements and cash book were **approved**.

6. Precept for 2021-22.

The Clerk explained the basis for the budget requirement calculation, as recommended by the Executive and Finance Working Group, with the precept at the same level as 2020-21 (i.e., 0% change). It was proposed by Cllr Rhodes, seconded by Cllr Whiting and **agreed** to submit of a precept which was neither an increase nor reduction.

Although subject to confirmation, it is anticipated that Worcestershire County Council would increase their rates demand by 2.5% and Wychavon District Council by 0%.

7. Planning.

a) For Ratification:

(Cllr Darby left the meeting for these items).

- i. 20/02640/FUL Land off Kemerton Road, Bredon

Change of use of land to provide gypsy/traveller pitch and associated works including mobile home, touring caravan amenity block and hardstanding.

The parish council objects. A letter was forwarded with full objections.

- ii. 20/00076/LB The Red House, Back Lane, Bredon, GL20 7LH

Installation of three external CCTV cameras at the location and an additional security light.

The parish council has no objections provided Officers are satisfied that the application satisfies privacy requirements and does not harm heritage assets.

- iii. 20/02675/HP Pippins, Westmancote, Bredon, GL20 7ES

Demolition of garage and replacement with two storey extension.

The parish council has no objections in principle, but objects as it does not comply with the Bredon Neighbourhood Plan. A letter has been forwarded with objections.

b) For Approval:

- i. 20/02774/HP&LB Lower End Cottage, Lower Lane, Bredon's Norton, GL20 7FB

Demolition of existing outbuildings and carport. Erection of single storey extension, carport, enlarged opening to kitchen and removal of stud partition.

The parish council has no objections, subject to Officers being satisfied that it will not result in any loss of off-road parking.

- ii. 20/02836/HP Croft Cottage, Back Lane, Bredon, GL20 7LH

Proposed ancillary outbuilding.

The parish council objects, although it has no objections in principle to a proposed outbuilding. However, in-line with the neighbourhood plan, all buildings in conservation areas must reflect Cotswold vernacular building styles and materials.

The parish council's comments for a) & b) above were **agreed**.

c) Approved (at Planning Committee after Consultation):

- i. 20/02152/FUL The Pound, Westmancote, Bredon, GL20 7ES

d) Refused:

- i. 20/01592/FUL Meadow View, Mill End, Bredon, GL20 7LQ

e) Other General Planning Matters.

The Garden Town / Ashchurch Railway Bridge (GT/ARB) is expected to be listed for the Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) February Planning Committee (on 16th). It was previously agreed in December to write to individual TBC Councillors.

The Chairman has received and circulated a draft from Richard Buxton Solicitors, challenging the Sustainability Assessments, relating to the Mitton Bank applications. This will be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer of Wychavon District Council (WDC) with copies to the two local MPs, the Leader of WDC and Director of Planning and Infrastructure (WDC). Highways England have requested a three-month extension to mid-March for the Mitton Bank development application (18/00771/OUT).

8. Covid-19 Update.

Cllr Hardman updated the parish council as follows:

- Cases are rising in Worcestershire but are below the national average.
- Increase in cases for under 40s but decrease in over 60s and 80s.
- There are 25 cases in South Bredon Hill (Eckington, Bredon & Ashton).
- Oxford vaccine roll-out commenced on 7th January 2021.
- Three Counties Showground is the local site for mass vaccinations.
- The Village Hall has been offered as a Test and Trace Centre.

There was no update from WhatsApp groups.

9. Current Byelaw Provision.

The following was **agreed**:

- Post the most recent byelaws on the parish council's website.
- Provide and install ownership signage on land owned by parish council (with a reference to the parish website).
- Investigate legal advice relating to unauthorised occupancy on land owned and process for updating byelaws.

10. Bredon Star RFC Pitch Drainage.

Cllrs Darby and Falvey left the meeting for this item. The Rugby Club had provided a Method Statement, which addressed the concerns relating to underwriting damage to footpaths, clarification on the number of headwalls, depth of drainage and work schedule (time and duration). It was **agreed** to permit the pitch drainage works.

Greenworks are investigating the damage to the path to the brook following the recent flooding and the need for urgent remedial work, for Health and Safety reasons.

11. IT Hardware.

It was **agreed** that the T&MWG would purchase three trial Laptops (>£250 including VAT each), for selected Councillors, with further purchases to follow.

12. Ecological Requirements including Wildflower Planting.

Cllr Bell has researched suitable locations for wildflower planting around the parish and will circulate details to interested Councillors. These are all grassed areas, although it was acknowledged that some were Worcestershire Highways maintained verges.

Cllr Shiels will form and recruit for a Rewilding Group of volunteers following the successful Glebe Field funding initiative.

13. Slow Ways.

Cllr Sly provided details of the Slow Ways project to create a network of walking routes that connect all Great Britain's towns and cities as well as thousands of villages. Using a wide variety of existing paths or lost rights of way, Slow Ways are routes for walking between neighbouring cities, towns and villages. A proposal to engage with the project will be made at a future meeting.

14. Correspondence for Information.

The Clerk provided the following update:

- Wychavon Planning Training on 2nd March 2021.
- Membership of the Rural Market Towns Grouping.
- Letter relating to a New Year's Eve Fireworks Display (referred to Worcestershire Regulatory Services - Clerk to respond).
- Broken Sewer at Cherry Tree House Lower Westmancote (Clerk to respond).
- Playing Field Lease, from Kemerton Conservation Trust.

15. Progress Reports and Updates

a) Clerk:

- Cllr Leydon had highlighted the recent flooding in the Eckington Road car park. It is hoped the Lengthsman will return to work next week and will be asked to investigate the drainage.

b) County & District Councillor:

- There are currently consultations at County and District to set budget and council tax for 2021-22.
- Highways aware of the flooding issues around the parish before Christmas and are reviewing the flood mitigation budget requirement. The locations include the Bredon's Norton Junction, Chains Corner, Kinsham, Bredon's Hardwick Junction and Queensmead.
- The broken Sewer in Lower Westmancote is Severn Trent's responsibility, but the Lengthsman will check the grips in Lower Westmancote.
- There is a proposal to review the funding of the 540 bus services due to low uptake, although this is largely due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- Broadband speeds are poor in Bredon's Norton and Westmancote.
- Complaints received about a hedge obstructing the footpath at Queensmead. Clerk to write to the occupier.

c) Defibrillators and SmartWater.

- The two kiosks at Westmancote and Queensmead are being monitored for tidiness. It was **agreed** to spend >£200 to purchase bookshelves.
- No update on SmartWater.

d) Transport & Organisations Working Group.

- No update and no Police Report received.

e) Assets Working Group.

- The Village Hall is now closed due to the Covid-19 lockdown.
- The Grass Cutting Tender was advertised in the Evesham Journal dated 7th January 2021. The closing date for bids is 27th January 2021.

f) Executive and Finance Working Group.

- Bredon AFC requested that the balance of monies owing for their annual rental payment be postponed. It was **agreed** not to support this request because it would be unfair to the other three clubs, who have all paid their rent and are up to date. It was noted that clubs are also eligible for Business Rate Grants from Wychavon. Clerk to respond.

g) Technology and Media Working Group.

- The posting of email with attachments onto 365 for Business is being reviewed.
- The February Parish Magazine content will cover Volunteering for the Rewilding Group and a Coronavirus Update.

16. Councillor's Reports and Items for Future Agenda.

Cllr Darby requested that the method in which meeting papers are circulated be included on the next agenda.

Cllr Whiting commented on the debris on the new Eckington Road footpath. Lengthsman to review.

It was noted that when Worcestershire was in Tier 3 Covid-19 restrictions, police turned people from Tier 4 areas away from some areas of the parish.

Planning for post Covid-19 celebrations will start when more clarity on lifting of restrictions is available.

The Chairman will contact Ed Pyke to discuss his membership of Working Groups.

17. Date of Next Meetings.

Monday 8th February 2021.

Meeting closed at 09:45pm.