

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON PARISH WAS HELD ON TUESDAY 25TH MAY 2021 AT 7PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL, WORCESTERSHIRE

PRESENT: J Butterworth (Chair), R Bessant, T Pell, R Small, R Roberts, R Booker, R Hales, A Hales, L Wild, M Hubball, L Hubball, P Williamson, S McGechie, S Boniface, M Williams, A McGechie, R Turner, M Boniface, P Crouchman, M Griffiths

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor M.Ward & Newly elected County Councillor L Robinson.

1. APOLOGIES

Jason and Louise Lee, John Yeo

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held in May 2019 were reviewed, the actions were read by Janet Butterworth.

Issues about speeding - 30MPH Roundels had been installed as had Vehicle Activation Signs (VAS) and there is budget for another VAS.

Ruth Bessant had brought a supply of 30mph signs to go on Wheelibins to this meeting for anyone to take with them.

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Mr Booker raised a point from actions arising from the 2019 meeting and asked if Severn Trent had done a review of the Drakes Broughton drainage system. The Chairman confirmed that the review had been done and a report written but we had not had sight of this and no date for the improvement works had been notified.

Nothing else remained outstanding.

4. REPORTS

(a) Parish Council

Mrs J Butterworth read the annual report as the Chair of the Parish Council:

It's been a busy and productive year for the Parish Council. Legislation was changed that enabled us to continue to hold monthly meetings, albeit virtually, throughout the year. Meetings were well attended and we have enjoyed fruitful discussion and a lot of interesting debate from our living rooms. As required by legislation in June we will return to meeting in person again. For most of the year we have had a full council and despite some turn over in the last couple of months we are now back to full strength. We said a fond farewell to 5 members, including Wadborough representative Michael Gardner who I think had been a Parish Councillor for circa 50 years. I thank the retiring Councillors for all they have done for their communities during the years of service. I feel very fortunate that we have recruited some talented and capable people join the team and fill in the gaps; Steve Quinton (Pirton Ward), Joanne Murphy (Wadborough Ward), Maureen Williams, Sheila Boniface & returning Councillor Mark Griffiths (Drakes Broughton Ward)

We have reviewed and commented on numerous planning applications and we have represented our local community in meetings and discussions with Wychavon as part of the review of the South Worcestershire Development plan (SWDPR). We have, with other local Parish Councils, submitted a paper with questions and objections about the SWDPR to Wychavon DC and more recently submitted a response with Stoulton Parish Council to object to the contents of Sustainability appraisal of the SWDP to suggest it should be reviewed again as there was no mention on of COVID and its impact upon the way we live on any of the 404

pages. We believe that they should be reconsidering the size of the proposed settlement that is being planned for just because there is a train station.

The Parish Council are required by law to follow due process as laid out in two governing documents; The Standing Orders and The Financial regulations. During the year these documents have both been reviewed and updated and the revised documents agreed and adopted. These are important documents and will ensure that we are doing things in the way that they are supposed to be done. At the end of the financial year, we were fortunate to move to use a new database to record and report our financial transactions. This will make the task of managing and overseeing our finances much easier particularly in the short term as we wrestle with accessing and spending money from a whole range of sources that include Precept & grant, Lengthsman grant, Community infrastructure levy (Cil money), New Homes Bonus money, s106 money from 5 different s106 agreements for 5 housing developments and grants from a variety of sources, including a Wychavon Community legacy grant.

Access to this money is not always straight forward; we have to know what the money can be used for, decide exactly what we want to do and then prepare detailed specifications. Armed with this information we then make an application for access to the money from the right source and often the application has to be approved at committee before access is granted. Once we know we have access to the money we then go out to tender to find and appoint suppliers. With this done we draw up contracts, oversee the work, receive the invoices and then submit claims for the funds and also make sure we reclaim the VAT included in the invoices from HMRC as grant money is paid net of VAT. It is great to have access to this money but actually accessing it and spending it does require a lot of time, effort and determination!

During the last year as well as doing the things the Parish Council normally do we have focused our effort on two community assets in Drakes Broughton; the Playing Field and the Village Hall. Using money made available through s106 agreements with housing developers we purchased and installed a wonderful new play park in Drakes Broughton. Timing was on our side and as the nation went into the first lock down as the contractors moved on site and the installation started and we had the good fortune in being able to open it in time for the school summer holiday. This park has been incredibly popular and has been the go-to place for many people from across Wychavon during this past year.

We are incredibly grateful to Les Wild, Chair of the Open Space Committee, for his determination to make sure that the Play Park is as good as it is, and for all the work in ensuring it got installed. We are grateful to retiring County Councillor Rob Adams who found £1000 for us to help pay some of this additional cost associated with the Play Park that we will incur this year. As s106 money hasn't been allocated to the Village Hall the Parish Council has had to look elsewhere for funding. Under the title "Upgrading Drakes Broughton Village Hall: A Revitalised Heart for a Growing Community" The Parish Council successfully applied for a Community Legacy Grant of £200,000. A small working party with representation from Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council and the wider community are working to make sure we have a rejuvenated community hall. Other funding has been secured and the tendering process is nearing completion. We are planning for building work will start towards the end of the summer. The hall will be closed for up to 6 months but it will all be worth it! The rejuvenated hall will be a great venue for activities and parties, but probably more importantly it will be somewhere to go to for a coffee and to meet up with friends. We hope everyone will support the community fund raising activity for additional funds towards this project.

I want to end this year's report by saying a huge thank you to all the people who have supported the work of the Council during this year. They included our retiring Councillor Rob Adams, District Councillor Mark Ward, lengths man Brian Arrowsmith, members of the Open space review Group, member of the Village Hall rebuild working party, and our footpath warden, and of course all the people who contact the Council to bring matters to our attention. I want to thank all the people out there who quietly just do things to make it better for everyone. I say a special

thank you to Nikki, our Parish Clerk, for all that she does for the Parish Council and the local community.

And finally, my thanks go to the members of the Parish Council for all they do. They are very special people who have all signed up to listen to what you say and bring local issues to the attention of the Council so we can do what we can to try to improve things. I am looking forward to another busy year in which we will continue to make good progress on many fronts for the benefit of our local communities

(b) County Council & District Council

Worcestershire County Councillor

Newly elected County Councillor Robinson gave her report as follows:

Hello Drakes Broughton. It is a pleasure to be with you this evening and thank you to those of you in attendance. It rather feels like coming home as I only live round the corner at Windmill Hill and lived there for 25 years. So, I have witnessed first-hand many of the changes the village has gone through and still is.

The benefit of my local knowledge will I hope prove invaluable in understanding your local issues.

Many of you will be aware that following the retirement of your long-standing County Councillor Rob Adams, I stood for election in the recent County Council elections. I had the second highest turnout in Wychavon of 34%, beaten only by Broadway and I was delighted to receive 68.23% of the votes cast.

Continuing Rob's legacy will be a challenge but I am looking forward to my new role as your County Councillor. I am so fortunate though to have had the support and guidance from Rob for the last 14 years since I first became a District Councillor for the Upton Snodsbury ward, so I have a fair idea of what my new role entails.

I signed my declaration at County Hall last Monday and attended Worcestershire's Annual Council meeting in person last Thursday. I have to confess that I was slightly less keen on doing the COVID mandatory lateral flow test shortly beforehand! My life is currently consisting of many Induction meetings. I have been made Vice Chairman of the County's Planning Committee which I am looking forward to as I particularly enjoy Planning and know it will be quite different to Development Control on Wychavon as it is far more strategic.

My thanks also go to your retiring County Councillor Rob Adams for all he has done our Communities since the inception of Worcestershire County Council back in 2005 when he first stood.

I am pleased to already have a strong working relationship with your District Councillor Mark Ward and am confident that as a team we can work well together with your Parish Council for the benefit of your community.

All Highways queries should now come to myself and Barry Barnes who remains your County Council Highways office through your Parish Clerk.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all better and providing support where I can.

I would welcome any questions you may have but please forgive me if I do not know the answers just yet.

End of Report

District Councillor

Councillor Ward gave his report. He said that COVID had been challenging and was not over yet because of the Indian variant. He said that Wychavon had allocated over £60 million in grants to help businesses through the Covid-19 crisis.

Councillor Ward thanked the Open Space Committee, especially Les Wild, for the superb open space that had been created and said that he looked forward to the Village Hall project next, as a vibrant hub for Drakes Broughton.

Councillor Ward said that the next review of the South Worcestershire Development Plan would be later this year and that he would notify the Parish Council when it comes out as there will be 6 weeks of consultation and he will be our liaison and support where he can.

Councillor Ward said that looking at the frontage of the Village shops to improve these and increase local trading would be a focus this year.

He thanked Councillor Rob Adams who was very supportive and looks forward to working with Councillor Robinson.

Councillor Ward invited questions and comments.

Mr Booker requested of Councillor Ward that hedges under threat should be reviewed before they are removed as in the case where Elan Homes still have not re-instated the hedges re their development.

(c) Open space committee – Les Wild

Mr Wild said that he is the Chair and one of the 6 members of the committee. He had formerly been a parish councillor and was responsible for the creation of the Neighbourhood plan (which is now due for review) before that. He has lived in the village for 35 years and his children and grandchildren have been brought up here.

The Open Space committee commenced work in 2017 and its' first job was to create a master plan and do a design exercise. The plan "Open Space Master Plan went to planning in 2019 and was passed in 2020

The Open Spaces committee manage the recreation field, the play area and car park and the other green spaces around the village and propose how best to spend money.

The play area was completed in July 2020 and there have been 50,000 visitors since and has been very busy because it is new and because of localisation.

Mr Wild said that other parishes have been in touch for advice on how to procure such a facility.

Mr Wild said that there is an ongoing responsibility for Health & Safety and that he personally performs and logs 2-weekly inspections. Maintenance of equipment, grass, hedges has to be managed, monitored and budgeted for.

There is a need to establish a sinking fund to establish and guarantee the future of the park.

Mr Wild said there had been some issues with dogs. He said it is the villagers wish that the play area should be dog-free.

Mr Wild said that future developments are being worked on by the committee via Zoom meetings and walk-rounds. They have been consulting with the village via 2 Facebook posts, articles in the Villager magazine and via questionnaires at St Barnabas and Pershore High schools.

From 175 responses:

42% wanted a bike trail

18% a MUGA (multi-use games area)

16% an outdoor gym

10% an outdoor amphitheatre

6% bowl alley

6% skateboard area

Mr Wild outlined other ongoing issues as:

- The area outside the shops where there is no disabled access and which is considered to let the village down
- Constraints on developing new facilities as 75% of the open space is used by two football pitches
- The piece of land adjacent which under the SWDP is to be developed as extra recreational space
- Drainage on the field which was cut off last year with no notice and resulted in having to suspend football

END OF OPEN SPACES REPORT

(d) Report from Drakes Broughton Football Club

The report from the football club was read out by M Williams as no-one from the football club was able to attend but they sent in the following report:

The Football Club in Drakes Broughton was established in 1987 by a few parents whose children attended St Barnabas School. One team was assembled and the side was entered into the Evesham Youth League.

The club are aware however, that an adult team played at Walcot Lane as far back as 1954 under the name Drakes Broughton FC. We believe this side disbanded in the late 60's or early 70's.

Since 1987 the club has grown and has usually entered at least 4 age group teams in local leagues each season. At present we run a Mini-Kickers section and Under 8's, 9's, 11's, 12's, 13's and 16's, with over 90 players in total.

The ethos of our club is "To provide a safe, enjoyable and friendly environment for youngsters to play football".

We have an excellent reputation both within Worcestershire County Football Association and also Evesham Youth League. We strongly promote good sportsmanship and respect to all opponents, match officials and spectators.

Over many years we have been fortunate to have some very strong teams and we have been successful in winning various League Titles and Cup Finals.

Since 2004 we have held the FA Charter Standard Accreditation, which in essence means the County FA recognise we are well run club by;
Holding regular Committee Meetings, submitting Annual Accounts, having a Dedicated Child Welfare Officer, all coaches holding Coaching Certificates and DBS Certificates.

To assist families we aim to keep player subscriptions as reasonable as possible. With our annual expenditure appx £11,500 we are fortunate to have several local companies who sponsor the club.

We have spent a sizeable amount on getting both Walcot Lane pitches shockwaived, which involves vertical drilling. Along with Parish Council drainage improvements this has led to amazing improvement with not one single game lost to a waterlogged pitch.
In June we are having Arc Groundcare returning for more pitch improvements including scarifying both pitches.

In 2013 our eldest side the Under 18's finished their last season in youth football and established Drakes Broughton Rangers Adult Section. It should be noted this section is separate to ourselves and have their own Committee. The adults relocated to Upton Snodsbury several years ago but still play under Drakes Broughton name.

Finally, the club are looking forward to the improvements planned for the Village Hall which shall benefit both home and away clubs with better facilities.

(e) Report from the Chair of the DB Village Hall Committee – Tina Pell

It's definitely not been a typical year for the village hall and its committee this year!

We have endeavoured to make the hall available for use whenever we could though out the year, COVID regulations permitting. And it's so nice that in more recent times we've been able to open the doors and activities and clubs have been able to restart. We are very grateful to all the people who have helped to keep the hall safe and clean during these difficult times. Thanks, in particular to Linda (the lady who cleans) and to the people who have turned out day and night in all weathers to close and lock the gate to the car park. This has really helped us keep the area safer for everyone.

It's great to have the Cuppa, cake and chat sessions running again and to be able to run the tuck shop on Friday afternoons and we're planning more community drop-in sessions like "community café" and table top sales for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you to everyone who has joined the Hundred plus club. It's now in its second year and there have been quite a few lucky winners to date. It has also generated funds that are needed to go towards the upkeep of the hall and also to build up funds to help with the Rejuvenation project.

In March 2020 the Parish Council were awarded a grant of £200,000 from the Wychavon Community Legacy Fund towards a project to breathe new life into this community building.

Other funding has been secured and plans approved to change the hall so that it can be used with the outside space. There will more windows and doors, a veranda, and a space for a café. This has been and continues to be a huge piece of work and we are grateful to the Parish Council for their support and to the small working party who are pushing ahead to make sure that the rebuild happens. The work will be starting at the end of August and the hall is going to be closed for about 6 months. But it will all be worth it!

We still need to raise more money to pay for the work and for fixtures and fittings and will be really grateful for any support you can give to help raise funds.

I am looking to the end of August with mixed emotions – it will be sad to empty the hall and close the door, and I don't expect to enjoy seeing the building team move in, however we are really excited about the hall that will emerge in early 2022 and we're looking forward to a really big community celebration just as soon as we can "open for business" again.

5. ANY MATTER AN ELECTOR WISHES TO RAISE

Drainage:

Mr Booker said that since the development of Walcot Lane 3 years ago by Elan Homes there has been a problem of flooding which was raised after the original Elan developed was proposed and went to an enquiry.

3 properties in Brickyard Lane now flood. There are also 5 properties with Clavester systems which drain onto frontages. However the council drainage is only 150mm pipes but the residents pipework is 225mm.

Mr Booker says a surveyor who has examined the problem says that the responsibility for infrastructure lies with Worcestershire County Council. He feels that the residents issue will be resolved if the playing field issue is resolved and when the "missing pipe" is found.

Mr Booker said that under the SWDP the field behind Brickyard Lane is earmarked for development and this will just exacerbate the problem.

Mr Wild stated that the problem with drainage from the playing field only started when the Elan development was done.

Mr Booker asked the District and County councillors to help as the village needs help as Elan keep stalling.

Speed Limits:

Mr Booker asked if we can have a 20mph speed limit through the village. Ruth Bessant confirmed that the village has been accepted for a community speed-watch scheme but said that the level of speeding is not sufficient to warrant speed bumps.

Mr Booker expressed concern about Walcot Lane which is used by big lorries but where there is an obscured entrance/exit to the play park. Mr Wild said that the new houses in Station Road are using Walcot lane as a rat run via the ford as are big concrete lorries. He asked if this road could become access only especially as it is used by children walking to Pershore High school.

Councillor Robinson said that she had been asked to provide top 10 issues for Highways and that controlling speed through the village seemed sensible. She wondered why traffic does not use Windmill Hill Lane as an alternative to going through the village and there was then a

general discussion about whether the village could be made non-HGV. Councillor Robinson will pursue this.

Speed on the B4084 – there was a discussion on the speed limit on the main road and Mrs Butterworth said that the original plan was to sort out the crossing from the Bovis development before the houses were built. Now apparently the exercise to look at this cannot be done until when the schools are closed for the summer holiday.

Mr Booker suggested that the road should be a 30mph limit like Stoulton and that the 30mph limit should go all the way up to Stoulton.

Rural police – Councillor Robinson said that Pershore rural police will be at the village hall on Thursday 27th May and encouraged everyone to go and see them in order to encourage them to visit regularly. They are planning to visit monthly but this may lapse if they do not have a good response.

Mrs J Butterworth thanked all for attending.

The Meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

DRAFT