

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7th APRIL 2022 AT 7.30 PM AT ST BARNABAS SCHOOL.

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr T Pell, Cllr A Tanfield, Cllr R Bessant, Cllr J Murphy, Cllr M Williams, Cllr A Crouchman, Cllr S Cullen, Cllr Boniface, Cllr Small & Cllr Turner.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Linda Robinson & Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk)

PUBLIC: None

1) APOLOGIES: District Councillor Mark Ward, Cllr J Yeo and Cllr R Roberts

2) MEMBER VACANCY PIRTON

The Chair advised that the vacancy for the Pirton Ward remained unfilled but was still widely advertised.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4) MINUTES

The notes from the meeting held on 10th March 2022 were proposed by Cllr Crouchman, seconded by Cllr Murphy, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

Trees on Playing field – The Chair advised Members that local tree surgeon Martyn Harley has said he is happy to have a look at the trees on the whole of the boundary of the Playing Fields and will provide a brief report about the condition of each tree at no charge. This will allow the PC to have informed conversations with local residents as necessary about any actions or remedial works that are required

Litter Bins on playing field- The Clerk reported that following a site visit with the WDC litter officer. the best and most cost-effective solution would be to remove the two unlined/unlidded Sutcliffe Play litter bins and replace directly with the two WDC litter bins already on site. The WDC litter officer suggested two litter bins at those locations would be ample coverage for the size and expanse of the Play Park. The benefits are that WDC already service these bins weekly. The cost of re-siting the bins would be £70 and Brian Arrowsmith had offered to remove the two Sutcliffe litter bins for £20 each. The Clerk was awaiting comparative removal price from WDC but it was thought unlikely to be more competitive. Members were strongly in agreement with the solution and the action was proposed by Cllr Bessant, seconded by Cllr Williams and unanimously agreed by all.

Cllr Small advised that the WDC litter bin at the Worcester Road pedestrian entrance was not being emptied. The Clerk would notify WDC.

Signage play park –The Chair thanked Members for a swift response to agreeing to purchase the Maximum age limits signage for the infant play park. The Chair advised this had been ordered and thanked Cllr Turner for collecting the signs and saving the PC the delivery charge. Cllr Turner advised that it would be installed tomorrow.

Playpark snagging – The Chair advised that the PC have received confirmation that Sutcliffe Play will be returning to site W/C 9th May to carry out all the remedial work to the park including resurfacing the wayfarer path. It is envisaged that the work will take most of the week. Residents will be informed from notices placed in Villager, on Facebook and in the school newsletter.

6) FINANCE

Street Lighting electricity contract renewal – The Chair thanked Cllr Ray Roberts and the Clerk for their work on this. The Parish Council have a new contract for a 48-month term to provide electricity for the 41 streetlights in Drakes Broughton. There is an increase in price of more than 100% on the amount currently being paid. The increased amount is within this year's budget.

Lengthsman's hourly rate – The Chair advised Members that a request had been received from the lengthsman asking to increase his hourly rate from £11 per hour to £12 per hour. This request was expected as Wychavon have increased the grant they provide for the PC for lengthsman services by £390.28 per annum (the Parish Council will now receive £2992.16 p/a). The increase was proposed by Cllr Butterworth, seconded by Cllr Pell and agreed by all. The Chair asked the Clerk to draw up the relevant paperwork.

Clerks Salary. – The Chair advised that the unions have agreed a 1.75% increase on the SCP rate to be back dated until 1st April 2021. The Clerk is currently on SCP 20 which means the hourly rate has increased from £13.51 per hour to £13.75 per hour. The Chair advised that the Clerk would prefer the back payment to be spread evenly across the next twelve months meaning her monthly take home pay would be £501.55pcm until April 2023 when it would revert to £495pcm. The Chair advised that the Staffing Committee had been consulted and were happy with this arrangement. The Chair advised that as the Clerk was paid the same amount it would make sense to set up a standing order for her salary, the financial regulations allowed for this. It was proposed by Cllr Tanfield, seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by all.

Platinum Jubilee Grants- The Chair advised that WDC are providing financial support for the celebrations. DBWPPC has been allocated £275 based on the 2022/23 Council Tax base. This money is to be used to provide events and activities in our area. The Chair proposed that the Parish Council provide a grant for each ward and the PC makes the money up to £280 (to make is easily divisible by 14) and allocate it based on the number of seats on the Parish Council (3 x Wadborough, 3 x Pirton and 8 x Drakes Broughton) . This will result in payment amounts being £60 Wadborough, £60 Pirton and £160 Drakes Broughton. The Members agreed this was a fair approach, it was proposed by Cllr Pell, seconded by Cllr Murphy. The Chair advised that each area will need to advise the Clerk what the money is being spent on so that the WDC return can be completed so WDC release the grant.

Quote for street light column 7 repair/upgrade- The Clerk advised that the price to upgrade Col 7 was £1125, which is slightly cheaper than expected. It would be the 4th upgrade the PC will have completed this year. The PC will have upgraded 9/41 Streetlights. The Clerk advised that each upgrade does reduce the UMS certificate and improves efficiency. The Chair advised there was budget for this upgrade, but any further upgrades in the 22/23 year would have to be carefully considered, depending on the new electricity billing. The upgrade was proposed by Cllr Boniface and seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed by all.

The monthly bank reconciliation for February and March had been completed by Cllr Tanfield.

It was proposed by Cllr Butterworth and seconded by Cllr Pell to authorise the following payments:

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary – March	£488.45
b) Mr B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – March	£220.00
c) Mr B Arrowsmith – Play Park grounds maintenance – March	£66.00
d) OPUS Energy Ltd – Monthly streetlight electricity	£10.06
e) OPUS Energy Ltd – Monthly Streetlight electricity	£198.09
f) Worcester Container Hire – VH Container March (Legacy Grant)	£72.00
g) WDC – Clerk Payslip administration Annual	£43.20
h) E.ON Energy Solutions Ltd – Upgrade to streetlight No. 24	£1379.63
i) E.ON Energy Solutions Ltd – Upgrade to streetlight No. 23	£1379.63
k) Elan City Ltd – VAS purchase	£2508.00
l) Mr B Arrowsmith – Bus Shelter Cleaning x2 Quarters	£60.00
m) Mr B Arrowsmith – Annual weedkiller	£70.00

The Clerk advised that there had been an increase in the purchase cost of the weedkiller, increasing from £50 PA to £70PA.

Remittance:

WDC New Homes Bonus £34502.00 (second payment)
WCC Lengthsman reimburse – December £220.00
WCC – Lengthsman reimburse – February £188.88
HMRC VAT Claim Dec – March - £ £30,697.20

7) DRAKES BROUGHTON PLAYING FIELD ISSUES UPDATE

Flooding on the Playing Field – The Chair advised that the PC were copied into an email on 29th March from Elan homes to Wychavon DC. It reads “Our contractor was onsite yesterday carrying out a trace and cctv survey I am awaiting the report. I do however think they will require a revisit. I hopefully will have an update later this week with our next steps.” WDC have again chased Elan Homes as now the work Elan Homes did to infill the ditch the ditch is collapsing. It is disappointing to note that Elan Homes have not been in contact with the Parish Council about this matter since September 2021.

8.) VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT – progress update

The Chair advised that the transformation of the building is nearly complete and the project is coming in almost on time and within budget. She advised that this is a remarkable achievement. There will be a phased return to use for the hall with some activities taking place to check that everything is working and everything is in place before a formal event that’s being planned for the end of May to officially declare that the rejuvenated hall open. It will also be open and available for everyone to visit during the Big Lunch event in Drakes Broughton on 5th June.

The Chair advised that obtaining the s106 funded bike stands via WCC was slow and difficult but she was hopeful they would be obtained.

The Village Hall Committee would be holding their AGM in the Hall on 19th May so anyone wishing to attend could have a first look at the fresh new Hall!

Members made comment on how the refurbishment had improved the look and feel of the entire area and blended in well with the Play Parks.

9.) AREA OUTSIDE THE SHOPS – progress update

The Chair advised that discussions on the best way forward was ongoing. There was a feeling that further expertise from WDC was required in the form of a retail architect or someone with experience of redesigning and getting the frontage fit for purpose in the modern environment. County Councillor Robinson commented that WDC had done a transformation that looked fantastic in Droitwich and she thought getting WDC assistance was a good idea. The Chair advised that as the frontage was not publicly owned this could be complicated and that any upgrade work would potentially require a grant from the PC and funding from the shop keepers. The Clerk was obtaining a basic quote to repair the steps and tidy the area which maybe an interim solution whilst the PC peruses redesign options with WDC.

Cllr Williams understood there to be grants available for disabled access and volunteered to look into this.

Correspondence had been received from a shop keeper regarding the WCC notice regarding limiting the parking in the front of the shops to 2 hours. The Clerk had asked WCC if it would be possible for the shop keeper to issue exemption vouchers for clients with long appointments. She was awaiting a response on this. Members discussed the parking area at the back of the shops. It was noted that there is an empty shop but it’s thought there is potential for this to be let out soon.

10.)SWDPR

The Chair advised Members that she had met with Cllr Pell, Cllr Williams & Cllr Murphy to start planning how the PC should approach providing information about the SWDPR and in particular about the proposed development by the Worcestershire Parkway to our parishioners for them to feel able to participate in the consultation event about this that will run in July and August this year. It was decided that we need a campaign and should use the Parish meetings to start to provide information. The working group will be meeting again to work out more detail. The Chair advised that she & Cllr Pell also attended a Parishes Committee meeting where it was agreed that the joint Parish Councils would work together to share information with parishioners and to try and make sure that the areas of focus and messages delivered to all local parishes are consistent. All the parishes are planning to run a session about the SWDPR at their parish meeting and plan to share resources, which will help with consistency of message.

11.)VAS

The new Elan style VAS has been delivered and once the clips and padlock arrive it will be put up on Stonebow Road. There was a discussion regarding the girth of the pole and County Councillor Robinson thought that it may require a wider girth pole. she advised that WCC had received a delivery of these poles but there was a backlog getting them out to the Parishes.

The Clerk advised that the smaller solar VAS currently on Stonebow Road would then be moved to Wadborough and that data can then be collected.

The battery-operated VAS would then move back to Pirton.

12.)MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - DBFC

The Memorandum of understanding requires review prior to the July meeting. The PC will need to form a small working party to review it and make recommendations for amendment for consideration by the full Council. It is an important document and a pertinent time to review with the second phase of the Open Space development and the refurbished Hall opening. It was noted the football club seem to have intensified activities with 3 practice nights and back-to-back matches at weekends, it was agreed that consideration is required regarding parking, residents as well Hall /Play Park users.

Cllr Murphy advised that DBFC were a large a successful club and that it was the one very successful local sporting activity run in Drakes Broughton.

13.)PLATIMUM JUBILLEE CELEBRATIONS

The Chair advised that celebrations are being planned in our communities. In Drakes Broughton celebrations will include a Big Lunch event on the Playing field and in the Church and Village Hall on 5th June, in Pirton plans are being made for an evening event on Thursday June 2nd and a Big Lunch event on 5th June and in Wadborough a celebration is planned for Friday 3rd June.

14.)PARISH MEETINGS 2022

The Chair advised that there is a requirement to hold a Parish meetings in May, one for Drakes Broughton and Wadborough and another one for Pirton. Dates for the meetings are Drakes Broughton and Wadborough 12th May (7.30pm St Barnabas school) and Pirton 24th May (7.00pm at St Peters Church).

Agenda items for both meetings will include:

- o Reports from the Parish Council, District Council and Worcestershire Council
- o SWDPR community briefing session, in particular about the proposed Market Garden Town at Worcestershire Parkway ahead of the formal public consultation
- o Consultation on second stage of Open Space development

The Chair advised Members to encourage people to come if they can. There will need to arrange further meetings to inform people about the SWDPR – one in Wadborough and another one in Drakes Broughton as a minimum.

15.)DEFIBRULATOR WADBOROUGH

The Chair advised that our communities are grateful to County Councillor Linda Robinson for the generous grant of £ 1,235 to be used to fund a defibrillator. Cllr Murphy confirmed that the residents committee would make any short fall in the purchase and mounting cost. There may be an ongoing maintenance charge, Cllr Murphy would advise the Clerk and this would be discussed at May's meeting.

16.)REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – Reports from County & District Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting

County Councillor Robinson:

Cllr Robinson advised that the County had begun receiving Ukrainian refugees and a large number of sponsors and people offering homes had been received which was really pleasing to see. She had met some of the refugees' at a meeting she attended and said that it had been emotional to meet these displaced people with their young children.

Cllr Robinson commented that with the SWDPR briefings it was important to consider the infrastructure and how this would be funded. She also raised that the proposed new town was set to be larger than Droitwich!

Members Reports

Cllr Tanfield advised that Pershore Volunteer Centre were looking for a volunteer bookkeeper to do their accounts if anyone knew of a retired accountant who might be interested.

Cllr Pell raised her concern regarding local people being able to apply for the social housing being built in the village. The Chair suggested she contact District Councillor Ward directly about this.

Cllr Boniface suggested it was time to organise another Community Litter pick, the Members agreed and ideal time would be before the Jubilee celebrations. Cllr Boniface would organise and call out for volunteers.

Cllr Bessant advised that SWARCO had fitted an external ariel to the small solar VAS and now at last she can retrieve the data easily. Cllr Bessant would show a Wadborough member how to collect the data when the VAS moved to Wadborough.

Cllr Bessant raised her concerns regarding the development potential of 'Josies' orchard. The Chair confirmed it was outside the development boundary in the Neighbourhood plan and could not be developed. It was also noted that the site is not included as a potential development site in the proposed SWDPR.

Cllr Turner – advised that the 20MPH sign at the school was unlit.

Cllr Turner advised he had attended the Parish games AGM there was to be a small increase in the entry fee from £60 to £80. The person who normally organises the Drakes Broughton entry hadn't attended. Cllr Turner would follow this up.

Cllr Butterworth – Thanked Cllr Roberts for progressing the issue with the trees in Pirton. She advised that some remedial work and removal of one tree had taken place. There was some further work being pursued. This work has been outstanding for many years and it is pleasing to see that work has at last taken place and the issue beginning to be resolved.

17.)PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

The Chair thanked Cllr Roberts and Cllr Small for reviewing the Highways and reporting local issues. The Clerk confirmed that the blocked drain had been rectified by the lengthsman.

18.)VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The update had been submitted and included date and time of the Parish meetings and advice regarding the SWDPR consultations.

19.) PLANNING

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon DC: 22/00540/IPI Greenacres, Mill Lane, Drakes Broughton. Application for permission in principle for a 1NO. self build dwelling. Objection submitted, outside the development boundary.
22/00371/HP Fire Tree Cottage, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Rear extension to replace conservatory, and alternations to side entrance. No Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: 22/00176/HP 2 Sydgate, Mill Lane, Wadborough. First floor side extension, single storey extension and new porch.
22/00193/FUL 28A Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton. Single storey rear extension (removal of condition 3 Ref. 18/00902/FUL
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: 22/00649/HP The Old Coal Yard, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Conversion of roof space and dormers to front and rear roof elevations.
22/00330/FUL Crabbe Farm, Crabbe Lane, Wadborough. Provision of stable block and tack room to replace existing.
- e) Appeals: N/A
- f) Planning Correspondence: Applicant letter regarding 22/00540/PIP
Applicant letter regarding 22/00330/FUL

20.) CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident regarding litter bin relocation – a resident has written to the PC suggesting that one of the PC litter bins is wrongly located on his land. The Clerk advised the litter bin is sited as approved by WDC on WCC 30pmh sign. She was awaiting confirmation from Highways that the sign and the bin are on the adopted highway.
- WM highways regarding M5 evening/night closures 19th & 22nd April.
- Pirton resident complaint regarding manure burning - Cllr Tanfield liaising with the residents and regulatory services.
- Cllr Murphy had been contacted by a Wadborough resident regarding the speed of the gritting lorry – County Councillor Robinson took note of this.
- Correspondence regarding the limited waiting time proposal at Drakes Broughton shops – as discussed earlier.

21.) INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish Council will be meeting on **Thursday 5th May 2022** at 7.30pm at St Barnabas First & Middle School.

The Parish meetings are as follows:

Drakes Broughton & Wadborough – Thursday 12th May 7:30pm St Barnabas School, Drakes Broughton
Pirton – Thursday 24th May 7:00pm Thursday 24th May St Peters Church, Pirton

****Note the Queens Jubilee Bank Holiday 2nd June so the Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 9th June.**

Meeting closed 21.05.