

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER 2022 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr R Turner, Cllr A Crouchman, Cllr Pell, Cllr Bessant, Cllr Williams, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Skeys, Cllr Booker, Cllr A Tanfield, Cllr Yeo & Cllr Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Linda Robinson, District Councillor Mark Ward and Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk)

PUBLIC: None

1) APOLOGIES: Cllr R Small

2) MEMBER VACANCY DRAKES BROUGHTON

The Chair advised that a resident had expressed an interest in the Vacancy. She asked if a member would meet with the person to give them more information on the role with a view to co-option at the January meeting. Cllr Bessant volunteered to meet the applicant.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 3rd November 2022 were proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Pell, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

Trees on Playing field – Members advised that there had been no further action and the clerk was asked to write to the owner of the trees again.

Flooding on the playing field – District Councillor Ward advised he was awaiting a response from the WDC legal team. Cllr Booker advised the playing field was muddy but playable. The Chair advised she would contact the 3 residents on the Elan estate that were experiencing flooding and water retention in their gardens.

Pedestrian Crossing Worcester Road – The Chair advised that the crossing was still not operational. Members expressed their upset on this and suggested the press should be informed. Cllr Bessant expressed her upset that last month the County Councillor had asked for 24 hours to give WCC teams to get a plan in place and that a full month on the lights were still not working and there was still no concrete plan to get them working!! County Councillor Robinson asked members to wait until Monday as she was sure the switch on was imminent.

Pirton – Covered land drain, Worcester Road – The Chair reported that after a local resident had raised a complaint this was back on the WCC to do list.

Walcot Lane – HGV restrictions

County Councillor Robinson would raise this with the Highways Liaison Officer & have an update for the January meeting.

Drakes Broughton Community Notice Board

The Chair advised that the key holder for the new notice board was Cllr Pell. The board was to advertise community events not for commercial adverts. Sanctuary Homes who donated the notice board have been

formally thanked. Cllr Pell advised that the DigiBus would be attending the Village Hall for a Community Day and this was advertised on the notice board.

6.) FINANCE

The monthly bank reconciliation for November had not been completed as the bank statement had yet to be received. This would be reviewed during the month and reported on in the January meeting. The Clerk asked if Cllr Booker would be an additional Cllr with responsibility for the bank reconciling, Cllr Booker agreed and Cllr Williams took on the planning co-ordinator role for Drakes Broughton.

Clerk salary increase: The Chair advised that unions had agreed upon a £1 per hour pay increase for all Clerks back dated to April 2022. The back dated pay and the increase would be spread over the coming 12 months. This had been agreed with the clerk & the staffing committee. The clerk's salary from Jan 2023 – Jan 2024 would be £559.64, reverting to £531 in January 2024.

Precept budget 2023-2024 – The Chair explained the precept process for new members. She explained that each parish paid a slightly different contribution due to differing services. E.g. Drakes Broughton Ward paid more due to the streetlighting. The Chair talked through the budget so far and advised that further details would be made available once the calculation had been received from WDC with a view to finalising the amount at the January meeting.

The SSE payment made during the month for streetlighting electricity was noted: £449.72

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

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary – November (S/O)	£501.55
b) Mr B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – November	£240.00
c) Mr L Wild – reimburse materials for zip line repair	£134.40
d) E.ON – site visit & assess need col 28	£156.00
e) Smart Cut Ltd – grass cutting Sept	£333.71
f) Smart Cut Ltd – Safety surfaces Play Park Sept	£105.00
g) Mr S Mitcham – clerk annual software and antivirus	£128.98
h) SSE – monthly streetlighting electricity	£TBC
i) E.on – bulb changes for Col 9 & 35	£220.80
j) WDC – new play park bin & annual servicing	£780.47
k) WDC new Wadborough bin & annual servicing	£369.06
l) Smart Cut – Playing field hedge cut	£330.00

Remittance: WCC Lengthsman reimburse September £240.00

7.) VILLAGE HALL – Update

The Chair advised that the DBVH management group are continuing to make sure all the snagging is completed before the final payment of circa £7700 is made.

Bookings for the hall are continuing to increase both for activities, clubs and societies and for private party bookings. The Events Group are working really hard to organize and run community events for everyone to enjoy and they are to be commended. Tickets are currently on sale for the “Lolly Parton Christmas Party” which is on 18th December; please support the work this group are doing if you can.

The Chair advised that some of the of events being considered in next year's program would need to include using space on the playing field. The Parish Council will need to give permission that the area can be used and maybe be involved with helping to arrange and running the event.

The events are:

Easter Egg hunt and disco – 10th April 2023, members agreed.

Fete/ vintage cars – 2nd September 2023 access arrangements and the grass were discussed. It was noted that this was something residents have requested return.

Car boot/ white elephant – 24th June 2023 – Members agreed but thought it should be held on the car park and not on the grass area.

Cllr Booker raised a query regarding the insurance and the clerk was asked to investigate if there were any insurance concerns.

8.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD – flooding shed, memorial bench & car park.

The Chair advised that vandalism had occurred to the wooden posts of the Zip wire. Mr Les Wild was liaising with Sutcliffe Play regarding the repair but that would not take place until January. A discussion was held regarding safety and if the zip line needed to be closed. The Clerk would ask Mr Wild to assess and advise and prepare notices should closure be required. It can be achieved by removing the seats.

Members asked that this vandalism and the costs associated be reported on the Village Facebook page, much effort had gone into the creation of the lovely Play Park, members were appalled at the level of disrespect.

The request for a memorial bench was discussed. A homemade bench a friend had offered to make the family was discussed but it was thought this would have potential insurance and H&S concerns so the original bench from a reputable supplier was the preferred option. The suggested location overlooking the Viking swing was agreed. It was discussed that the PC would need to own the bench for insurance purposes and agreed to offer the ongoing maintenance of the bench to the family.

The flooding shed was suffering more damage by youths and members asked the Clerk to see if the lengthsman could secure/tape it off, further thought would be required on rehousing the contents and removal of the shed permanently at the January meeting.

9.) AREA OUTSIDE THE SHOPS – update

The Chair advised that responsibility for repair of the apron, steps and wall had been identified by the WDC communities' officer to be with the shopkeepers, despite the ownership being retained by the original four owners. It has also been advised that liability should an accident occur lies with the shop keeper of the shop the person is visiting, not a joint liability. The Chair suggested the Parish Council write to the shop keepers to advise them of this. The Chair suggested any further complainants be advised of this and encouraged to report their concerns to WCC regulatory services, it is thought that should there be enough complaints H&S may be enforced. Members agreed on this course of action and the clerk was asked to draw up a letter.

10.) SWDPR – Update on community involvement, progress against plan, what next

The Chair advised that since the last PC meeting there has been a Joint Parishes Committee meeting and another liaison meeting with Wychavon.

Information has been made available in our communities - with the concept plan being permanently displayed in the Village Hall and readily available in Wadborough and Pirton. There have been several comments about how unapproachable it all is – so much information and not the easiest route to actually submit comments. There have also been several comments from parishioners about what they are expected to comment on.

WE have very recently been advised that people can in fact email in their comments and not just use the consultation forms as previously stated.

DBWPPC will submit its own submission as well as backing the submission being drawn up by the joint parishes committee. It must be stressed to the public to comment on what they don't like and WHY and what should be done about it. There are proposals for a further 50 houses near the back of Williamson way in the proposals that the PC will object to, the Chair and members agreed that Drakes Broughton has taken more than its share of development. The discussion included a wholesale objection to the SWDPR regarding the destruction of open countryside and ecology affecting flooding, wildlife, global warming. The lack of

brownfield sites that could be sourced from Worcester City. The members discussed infrastructure and that the local existing roads could not sustain years of development use and that the money from developers to improve the infrastructure would be retrospective after the properties were built and sold! Cllr Murphy was looking to develop an online petition to enable large numbers to object more easily. The Members discussed they had 12 days to get the word out and help people respond to the consultation.

11.)DBFC – UPDATE INCLUDING MEMORADUM OF UNDERSTANDING, STORE & GARAGES

The Chair advised that the PC have now received a copy of the signed MOU from DBRFC. A hard copy is now needed for the files.

The Village Hall management team and football club are currently working together to try to open the café on Saturday mornings; more volunteers are needed.

There has been no progress with making a plan to move the new store to site and the funding that was in place to remove the Village Hall owned garages is no longer available. These items will both discussed at the next meeting between the Football club, Village Hall and Parish Council.

12.)OPEN SPACE – Consultation and next steps

The Chair advised that more consultation is needed about the second phase of development for the playing field. This includes consultation with the residents of the neighboring properties and a few awareness sessions at the Village Hall. Cllr Butterworth & Cllr Bessant had yet to meet to create a plan of action this was deferred until January 2023.

13.)ROAD SAFETY – Community speed watch progress, speed on B4084

Cllr Bessant advised that a mobile speed van may visit Stonebow Road whilst they are awaiting the volunteer verification that is in the hands of West Mercia Police. The process has a backlog and is taking some time to be completed, which is very frustrating as the Council has been working on this since before the pandemic.

14.)FEEDBACK FROM POLICE/SECURITY MEETING PEOPLETON

Cllr Pell advised she had attended the Peopleton meeting and was in the process of organizing one for Drakes Broughton, to be held at the Village Hall.

15.)REPORT FOLLOWING INSPECTION OF PIRTON PLAYING FIELD

The Pirton members had assessed the need for the playing field to be levelled up to allow more usage, the lease had been reviewed and this is thought to be permissible. Prices will be obtained to do this, and the clerk was contacting the tree surgeon for a quote regarding the overhanging trees to the left side boundary of the Playing field. Thoughts to provide a picnic table has been suggested. The Chair advised there was money in last year's budget that could be used for these suggested improvements.

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

County Councillor Robinson echoed the doubts raised regarding infrastructure surrounding the proposed SWDPR and the new town around Parkway Station.

District Councillor Ward advised that both Pershore & Broadway were offering free parking this weekend to encourage shoppers.

Members Reports

Cllr Skyes advised that the footbridge on the footpath down from the Church in Pirton needed remedial work. Cllr Turner, the footpath warden would report this to the countryside Centre.

17.)PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

The Chair thanked Cllr Roberts and Cllr Small for completing this and reporting issues observed.

Cllr Crouchman thanked Cllr Roberts for his assistance getting the Besford Road sign replaced.

18.)VILLAGER SUBMISSION

It was noted this was required by Friday and the Clerk & Chair would liaise regarding the content.

19.) PLANNING

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/22/01723/HP Birchwood House, Wadborough. Erection of single storey side extension. Comments made.
W/22/01993/FUL 7 Greenfields Close, Drakes Broughton. Erection of a new single dwelling. No Objection.
W/22/02074/HP Woodground Cottage, Chevington Lane, Drakes Broughton. Proposed two storey extension and new gated access for improved highways visibility. No Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: N/A
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: W/22/02302/FUL The Firs, Wadborough. Full planning application for change of use of the existing annex to an independent dwelling as a sub-division of the existing property.
- e) Appeals: N/A

20.)CORRESPONDENCE

- Pre application consultation from developers re 'Jossie Orchard' - It was noted that there was considerable public negativity and that the area proposed was currently outside the Village Boundary as defined the Neighborhood Plan and was also not included in the proposed SWDPR. A formal application had not yet been received by WDC. It was noted that there was no right of access point via the Sanctuary Housing estate.
- Cllr re Station Road/Narrow wood, Wadborough. The Landowner would be taking no action regarding the broken fence and mess left by the lopping – it was deemed ecological for materials to be left to naturally degrade.

21.)INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council will be meeting on **Thursday 5th January 2023** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.45.