

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023 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 R Small, Cllr D Skeys, Cllr R Booker, Cllr Yeo & Cllr Roberts

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

**PUBLIC:** None

**1) APOLOGIES:** Cllr J Murphy

**2) CO-OPTION OF MEMBER TO REPRESENT DRAKES BROUGHTON**

Mr E Thomas was co-opted onto the Council to represent Drakes Broughton. The co-options forms were signed in front of the clerk and Cllr Thomas was welcomed to the meeting.

**3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**4) MEMBER VACANCY PIRTON**

The Chair advised that Cllr Tanfield had resigned during the month. Members expressed their thanks for her service and especially overseeing finances and CIL. The vacancy was advertised.

**5) MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 were proposed by Cllr Pell, seconded by Cllr Williams, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**6) MATTERS ARISING**

**Trees on Playing field** – Members advised that there had been no further action since the Clerk had written to the owner of the trees.

**Flooding on the playing field** – District Councillor Ward advised he would approach M Cross at WDC for an update.

Cllr Booker advised the playing field had no standing water and was good condition for the time of year.

The Chair advised that there was a lot of water on the Elan site and residents have raised complaints about flooded gardens.

**Pirton – Covered land drain, Worcester Road** – The Chair reported that the drain had been located and WCC Highways were working on restoring it.

**Walcot Lane – HGV restrictions**

County Councillor Robinson advised that WCC Highways were not keen to put further restrictions on the lane, due to the need for HGV's to access the farm.

**7.) FINANCE**

The monthly bank reconciliation for November & December will be checked by the Chair. The Chair will then set up a briefing with Cllr Booker, Cllr Pell & Cllr Murphy so they could complete the bank reconciliation going forward.

Final financial statement from the Village Hall rejuvenation project: The Chair advised that the snagging is completed and the final invoice has been paid. The total spend on the project was £346,197.55 funded by £200,000 from the WDC legacy grant, section 106 monies and NHB money. Records show that there was an overspend of £3030 which was taken from the PC reserve.

Precept budget 2023-2024 – The Chair explained the precept process for new members. She explained that this year’s calculation from WDC had an adjustment for ‘bad debt’ that had increased on previous years due to the cost-of-living crisis. The result was that, despite additional housing in the area, requesting the same precept money as last year was all the PC could do without there being a % rise for council taxpayers. The figures in the budget discussed last month had been reduced as the members unanimously agreed they did not want to burden council tax payers further. The new budget had been circulated and members agreed that any additional unexpected expenses occurring in the coming year would need to come from the PC reserve. The precept request of £25157 was proposed by Cllr Butterworth, seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed by all.

The SSE payment made during the month for streetlighting electricity was noted: £463.85

The final payment to Paul Richardson Building & Contactor Ltd of £9296.94 had also been made.

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

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| a) Paul Richardson Building & contractor Ltd – Final payment of the retention fee for the village hall rejuvenation project. (Legacy Grant) | £9296.94 |
| b) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary – December (S/O)   | £559.64  |
| c) Mr B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – December   | £240.00  |
| d) SSE – monthly streetlighting electricity   | £TBC     |

Remittance: WCC Lengthsman reimburse November £240.00

#### **8.) VILLAGE HALL – Community events for 2023 including insurance for community events held of Playing Field.**

The Clerk advised that the PC insurance would only cover events that were solely organized and run by the Parish Council and that the Village Hall events committee would need to have bespoke event insurance for each event it was planning.

#### **9.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD – flooding shed, memorial bench & car park.**

The Chair advised that the flooding shed was now secured. Cllr Pell advised that it was now inaccessible to review the contents and what was needed and where it could be stored. Cllr Small thought the flooding shed could be repaired for circa £400, but it was thought that there was a requirement to move the shed due to phase 2 of the Open Space development. The clerk advised that she had a inventory of the contents which she would supply Cllr Pell with.

Cllr Bessant advised that a resident had raised a concern linked to the vandalism, that youths congregated on the bench near the service gate late at night and perhaps moving that particular bench might reduce late night antics of youths at the Play Park. The Chair reiterated the need for all incidents to be reported to 101, the more reports, the more likely there would be more police patrols. Cllr Pell advised that there would be a neighborhood policing event held at the Village Hall on the morning of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January.

The Clerk advised that she was awaiting a date to meet on site with the family who had requested the memorial bench. It was confirmed that the bench would be owned and maintained by the Parish Council but the initial funding and installation would be funded by the family and the Just Giving appeal had been circulated to all members.

#### **10.) AREA OUTSIDE THE SHOPS – update**

The Chair advised that the letter sent advising about to liability and responsibility for safety of apron and steps – as advised to the Parish Council by WDC - had created some upset. It is clear that the PC cannot address the work required as its private property and residents need to approach the shop keepers themselves to raise their concerns.

#### **11.)DBRFC – Report back from Decembers meeting.**

The Chair advised that during the month there had been a successful meeting with the football club and that there were currently no issues. The regular meetings would continue to ensure things continued to run smoothly. There had been a request and agreement for a Sunday home match on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

The football container owned by the football club that was due to be moved to the playing field was too large currently for the FC needs. They are currently considering options.

Due to the loss of funding, there had been no action/agreement regarding the removal of the garages. One garage is owned by the Village Hall and one by the school – via the association with pre-school.

#### **12.)OPEN SPACE – Consultation and next steps**

The members agreed that the consultation for the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the Open Space Development would be held on at the Village hall on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February from 2-7pm.

The consultation is to help decide the lay out with three options proposed by the Open Space Committee, these options had been driven by consultations with the residents of Drakes Broughton and its youngsters on what was wanted. It is imperative that all the properties surrounding the Playing Field are advised and consulted on this next stage and the Chair asked for volunteers in Drakes Broughton to leaflet drop the advert for the consultation to those properties. The event would also be advertised on the notice boards and social media.

#### **13.)ROAD SAFETY – Community speed watch progress.**

Cllr Bessant advised that the vetting of the volunteer forms is still subject to delay. She explained that the forms are vetted by the same dept that vets the new recruit police forms and that she had been advised that the new police recruits are taking priority currently and we must just wait.

Cllr Bessant has requested the mobile speed camera visit Stonebow Road in the meantime.

Cllr Bessant was advised by the Safer Road Partnership that other traffic calming options could be reviewed and employed.

Cllr Yeo was thanked for recently circulated information on an automated community speed watch camera available for purchase following trials in Wiltshire. Cllr Bessant was investigating this as an option.

Cllr Crouchman advised that the VAS in Wadborough was intermittent, a discussion regarding solar panel angle, tree branches and lack of sunlight was had and the Clerk was asked to ask the Lengthsman to review angle, trees and battery charge and advise if an engineer visit was necessary. Cllr Ward advised that similar concerns had been had re the solar panel VAS in Stoulton.

#### **14.)BUS SERVICES - update**

Cllr Pell updated members regarding the County bus services. Of the 200 current routes only three are financially viable. WCC didn't secure central government funding and are having to be creative in their approach. The idea being to run a core number of central trunk routes with demand led community bus services from rural areas to the central hubs in the towns. Demand led meaning call and ride, this has been funded by 106 monies up until Easter 2023.

#### **15.)REPORT FOLLOWING INSPECTION OF PIRTON PLAYING FIELD**

The Chair advised that Cllr Skeys had met the tree surgeon onsite and a quote to reduce the trees along the western boundary was circa £300. The community are looking into the cost to level the playing field off to make the surface more user friendly so that more events can be held. Additionally, the fence and gate need some work. The Chair advised that there was £500 unspent budget from last year that could be used towards these improvements.

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

Walcot Ford: County Councillor Robinson advised members that the automated gates that had been promised for years are no longer an option for Walcot Lane ford. She also advised that even manual gates were not favoured by the Highways Dept due to different vehicles having different heights of water they could safely pass through. A discussion was had about closing the ford permanently but there was thought to be little appetite locally for that. There had been one death and still a large number of vehicles getting stuck in the ford. County Councillor Robinson asked that a list of ideas be compiled, prioritised and sent over to her so she could lobby for more to be done. Signage was discussed and the depth marker and its visibility. Cllr Small wondered if the camera could be better utilised and the road closed signage being left when the ford was passable is leading to confusion.

County Councillor Robinson was still trying to get the flashing lights at the school operational. Some members advised that the lights do work but not at the correct times of the day. County Councillor Robinson advised that the need for an additional crossing patrol person was being addressed by the County school crossing dept. and there was a person interested from another school where there was no longer a crossing patrol requirement.

Cllr Robinson advised that there would be a likely 4.94% increase in Council Tax from the WCC this equates to circa £70 per band D property this would be agreed at the full Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

District Councillor Ward congratulated the Drakes Broughton events committee on a fabulous 'Lolly' Parton night he had attended in the rejuvenated Hall.

### **Members Reports**

Cllr Turner advised that there were a number of hedges overgrown in Drakes Broughton obstructing the pavements. Cllr Turner would supply the clerk with a list.

Cllr Thomas advised that the post & rail fence at the Bovis estate entrance was affecting the visibility display.

## **17.) PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW**

Cllr Roberts advised there was nothing to report this month.

The Clerk advised that she will report the unfilled digi holes in Pirton to WCC.

## **18.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION**

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

## **19.) PLANNING**

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/22/02503/CU Land at (Os 9405 4842) Walcot Lane, Drakes Broughton. Comment made re screening hedge/conditions.  
W/22/02124/FUL Timber Yard, Wadborough. Objection.  
W/ 22/02408/HP - Two Springs, Wadborough. Objection, recommend refusal.
- b) Applications Approved: W/22/01723/HP Birchwood House, Mill Lane, Wadborough. Erection of single storey side extension.  
W/22/01946/HP Narrow Wood Barn, Station Road, Wadborough. Proposed garden room porch and 2NO rooflights.
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: N/A
- e) Appeals: N/A

## **20.) CORRESPONDENCE**

- Query re wildlife eradication from Pirton resident – this had been investigated and was periodic ditch clearance which was permissible.

## **21.) INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council will be meeting on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.30.