

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8th JUNE 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT ST BARNABAS SCHOOL, DRAKES BROUGHTON.

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr T Pell, Cllr D Skeyes, Cllr R Bessant, Cllr J Murphy, Cllr M Williams, Cllr Roberts & Cllr Turner.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor L Robinson, District Councillor Liz Turier, District Councillor Rob Adams & Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk)

PUBLIC: 3 Residents in attendance, viewing the meeting with a view to joining the Parish Council.

1) APOLOGIES: Cllr R Booker, County Councillor Linda Robinson was arriving late. Cllr Small was unwell. (Members sent him well wishes)

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3) VACANCIES FOR MEMBERS TO REPRESENT PIRTON WARD, WADBOROUGH WARD x2 AND DRAKES BROUGHTON WARD.

The Chair advised that there had been one application and another interested party for the two Wadborough vacancies.

The Vacancy for the Pirton Ward remained unfilled but was still widely advertised.

The Vacancy for Drakes Broughton Ward also remained unfilled and widely advertised. The Chair asked Drakes Broughton members to mention the vacancy to anyone they knew, who is community minded that maybe interested in joining Parish Council. The Clerk would put the advert on Facebook again during the month.

4) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 11th May 2023 were proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Pell, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

Memorial Trees on Playing field – The Clerk advised members that during the month she had met with Craig Wood who is an advisor from the Woodland Trust on site regarding the vandalised trees. The good news was that despite being snapped off, they were both sprouting and showing signs of growth; Craig thought they would make a full recovery. He inspected all four trees and sadly the one nearest the Play Park was found to be dead and the likely cause was small rodents nibbling at the bark at the base of the tree. Craig advised that the grass around each tree base should be taken back to bare earth and that wood chip or mulch applied. Removal of the grass would hopefully stop the rodents. The woodchip/mulch would keep the ground moist and nourish the roots. Brian had already cleared down to earth for us, and Cllr Pell would apply wood chip next week.

The dead tree was removed and would require replacing with a bare rooted tree in the Autumn, it was not one of the memorial trees so the cost would be a Parish Council cost. Craig did not think more wraps or guards were necessary and would be likely to attract, rather than deter youngsters.

The Clerk advised that the Woodland Trust worked with schools with tree planting initiatives. She had sent this information to the school; they maybe could consider trees as a barrier between their Playing Field and the Sanctuary Homes development. Cllr Bessant said she would follow this up.

6) FINANCE

The monthly bank reconciliation for May had not been completed, this would be completed during the month or at the July meeting.

The Chair reported that the internal audit report had been completed, there were no problems. Members were reminded that advice was that all signatories when signing the cheques need to initial the check stub and the corresponding invoice. The internal auditor had also suggested that a year to date spend spreads sheet should be in place when looking at the budget for the precept request. This was usually done but the year being audited had been the year when an emergency meeting to agree the budget was convened in the play park to due to Covid lockdown! The paperwork exists but is not recorded as being a draft.

It was proposed by Cllr Skeys and seconded by Cllr Murphy to authorise the following payments:

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary – S/O May	£559.64	
b) Mr B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – May	£260.00	
c) SSE – monthly Streetlighting electricity	£TBC	
d) Mr B Arrowsmith – reinstate damaged Play Park sign	£40.00	
e) Signs Direct Ltd – x2 police parking buddies	£466.74	(grant from WCC)
f) Smart Cut Ltd – Grass cutting & Play Park strimming & blowing, additional collecting Pirton	£793.75	
g) S Carlyle – Internal audit fee	£80.00	

Remittance: WCC lengthsman reimbursement March £240.00

7.) REPORT FROM PARISH MEETINGS

The Chair advised that there had been a good turnout in Pirton, there was a fun poem from Anne Price about litter picking and there had been reports from the Book club, Walking Group Friends of St Peters and Pirton Village Committee. Two items were raised by the public for the PC to pursue, one was the Pirton polling station being reinstated the other was some concern regarding verges being sprayed with weedkiller.

Cllr Skeys advised the members that St Peters Church in Pirton was once again taking part in the Heritage weekend, this year's theme being 'creative' Hornby model railways have a replica of St Peters Church and there will be a model railway enactment the train journey from Wadborough to Pirton including some old footage from when there were stations in each village.

The Chair reported that disappointingly the Drakes Broughton & Wadborough Parish meeting was not well attended by residents this year and some thought of how to increase awareness is required for next year. There was one Wadborough resident who came to raise the visibility issues at Wadborough crossroads. This has been addressed by County Councillor Robinson.

The Chair advised the DBRFC had come and given an informative presentation and it was good to have a successful relationship between DBRFC and the PC.

District Councillor Adams advised that he had sent a copy of the litter picking poem to the WDC press officer, he thought it was worthy of being included in the Wychavon magazine!

8.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD – Vandalism on the Playing Field, report from Open Space phase 2 meeting & football garages.

The Chair advised that during the month the Play Park entrance sign by the Village Hall side gate had been uprooted by youths. Brian had been instructed to concrete back in ASAP, so the sign was not more damaged and couldn't go missing!

The Chair advised that during the month some screws had fallen out of the Zip line and thanked Cllr Pell for her help with this and Cllr Turner for his swift replacement, repair.

The Chair advised that a meeting of interested parties regarding phase 2 open space development had taken place during the month. There were still not enough volunteers to take the project forward and there was a reluctance from some parties to encourage more use of the outdoor space.

At this stage it is important to finalise the master plan document as it has all now been agreed by public consultation. Due to a time lapse some more work is required from One Ltd, one to two days at a cost of £500 per day. Without a complete master plan, it will be difficult to share the plan with WDC who need to be consulted to access the 106 monies to complete the project. The Chair proposed the Parish Council agree to spend up to £1000 to get the master plan finalised. This money would be 106 money, but the members need to agree the spend. Cllr Murphy seconded the proposal, and it was agreed by all.

The Chair advised that she had had a verbal update from DBRFC regarding the store. It maybe be too difficult to move one of the garages to the location originally for the football storage container and the club will probably buy a new one. Both garages would need to be removed, which may be done as part of phase 2 development.

Cllr Bessant suggested advertising for more volunteers to take the phase 2 project forward in the school newsletter.

9.) ROAD SAFETY – Speed Watch, Road safety pavement signs and VAS data.

The Chair advised that the pavement parking buddies signs had arrived swiftly and thanked Cllr Bessant for progressing this so swiftly. The Chair thanked County Councillor Robinson for funding these. Cllr Bessant advised that the school was very happy and that the police depicted on the signs had the school logo on their badges, which was agreed by all as a lovely touch.

Cllr Murphy advised that she had been approached by a resident living near the B4084 in the new development very concerned regarding speeding and maybe interested in joining the community speed watch, Cllr Murphy would give Cllr Bessant the contact details.

It was raised that walking along the B4084 with the speed of traffic was tricky, but this is made worse by the pavement being very narrow and encroachment of verge and hedges. Cllr Roberts would report this to Highways.

The speed watch training would start as soon as the police vetting of volunteers had finished.

There was no progress on VAS data.

County Councillor Robinson joined the meeting.

10.)WALCOT LANE FORD

County Councillor Robinson advised members that a meeting regarding the dangers and options had taken place at the Highest level include the cabinet member for Highways.

Unfortunately, the ford is too wide to be able to have a safety cable fitted like the one a Shell Ford. What has been agreed is that there will be a site visit with the cabinet member, members of the PC and Highways teams and that all the warning signage would be refreshed by September. It had also been agreed to

replace the gabian baskets, 2 Pershore side and one Drakes Broughton side and also replace the verge masters; no time scale has been agreed for the last 2 items. Cllr Butterworth & Cllr Roberts agreed to attend the site meeting on behalf of the PC.

Cllr Roberts advised that he had reporting that the depth gage had been dislodged and was no longer visible from the Pershore side.

County Councillor Robinson had details of what needed to be recorded in the log suggested at the meeting in May, she would liaise with Cllr Roberts on the details required.

11.)PIRTON POLLING STATION

The Chair advised that the resident from Pirton was still putting pressure on WDC to reinstate the Pirton polling station. District Councillor Adams thought that the Church maybe a public alternative to the private house use and maybe a more acceptable option for Wychavon. The residents of Pirton would prefer a return to the polling at 1 Elm View but a local polling station at the Church would be preferable than travelling to Drakes Broughton.

12.)DRAKES BROUGHTON SEWERAGE

The Clerk advised that during the month a report of illegal fly tipping of sewerage from the Sanctuary Homes site into a drain on Stonebow Road was occurring. Using some existing contacts that the Parish Council has at Severn Trent, the Clerk was able to swiftly ascertain that the initial two discharges into the Stonebow drain had been agreed and authorised by Severn Trent but only these two. The contractor Midland Drainage had continued to discharge until this was raised by the Parish Council. Severn Trent immediately asked them to stop and asked Midland Drainage to discharge at the local treatment plant.

This raised the question about whether the sewers actually have enough capacity. In terms of the Sanctuary Homes development the issue has arisen due to there being occupation prior to completion of drainage. A specialist piece of equipment is needed and during the waiting period, Midland Drainage is contracted to remove the sewerage, once the drain is completed this would no longer be a requirement.

This was not linked to the blockage seen a few weeks earlier on Stonebow Road.

Further to this correspondence the Clerk asked Severn Trent for an update on the capital project to upgrade all the drainage in Drakes Broughton that had been discussed a few years ago and it was thought the upgrading would begin late 2023 to early 2024. Sadly, Severn Trent reported that clean water infrastructure projects had taken priority and Drakes Broughton drainage upgrade scheme would not be starting until after March 2025 at the earliest and that was subject to change with the priorities of the business.

Cllr Williams raised her concerns regarding the continued applications to build houses and how the concern regarding the drainage must be raised to the planners. The Chair advised whilst it was a concern, drainage was not a material consideration and as such was not considered to be a reason for a development to be turned down.

13.)PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair drew attention to the agreements made on who was responsible for what area at the May meeting.

The Chair advised that we also need to look at the asset register and check and report on the condition of the assets. This hasn't been done since 2021. Previously each asset had been allocated a custodian and this needed review in line with members leaving and re organisation of areas of responsibility. Each item now required a condition report - a visible check to see what maintenance was required. The Chair will circulate some information and ask for members to make reports to the clerk/ Chair so that the register can be updated and any actions that are needed can be agreed and scheduled at the July meeting.

14.) UPDATE REPORT FROM DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

The Chair advised that this agenda item would be included monthly as DBVH as a condition of their lease should be reporting regularly to the PC and submitting annually a copy of the VH accounts for information to the Parish Council.

The Chair advised that DBVH is being well used and that having the links to outside works really well in the good weather. The DBVH management group are hoping to see a return of the toddler group this month. DBVH are still looking for more trustees and more people to join the management team; the management team are looking into ways to better communicate with the wider community.

15.) REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – Reports from County Councillor Robinson had been circulated prior to the meeting.

County Councillor Robinson drew attention to the worrying waiting lists and changing of CEO again at Worcester Royal Hospital.

Cllr Robinson commented that there was much public disappointment in the late grass cutting and visibility issues cause by this.

Cllr Robinson advised that e-scooters were illegal in the entire of Wychavon district.

Cllr Robinson advised that she had visited the residents at Wadborough crossroads but advised they hadn't been in. Cllr Murphy said the hedge had been very much cut back in last day or so.

District Council report

Cllr Adams drew members attention to 'Vic's Update' circulated prior to the meeting with a round up of WDC current initiatives.

Cllr Adam asked how the District Councillors were advised of the Parish Councils views on planning applications. The Clerk advised that once the members had agreed their comments, she uploaded these to the portal and each application was listed in monthly agenda. Cllr Adams asked how controversial application were taken to planning committee by the past DC. The Clerk and Chair assured the District Councillors that any planning that was outside of the Neighbourhood Plan and unwanted development, they would ensure the DCs were advised.

Cllr Adams advised that he and Cllr Turier were planning to attend the Friday, cuppa and cake gathering at DBVH and would do this regularly as a way to meet and get the views of the residents.

District Councillor Turier was sitting on the planning committee at WDC. She suggested the PC consider getting an independent ecological survey of 'Josies Orchard' Cllr Turier had a contact at Worcester Wildlife and would send this to Cllr Bessant who would look into any cost implications.

Members Reports

Cllr Bessant wondered if the PC should advertise for a litter picker for the Play Park. The Chair advised that there should be 3 community litter picks a year and that the equipment is available via Cllr Pell. This needed someone to organise volunteers in Drakes Broughton. Cllr Boniface used to do this.

Cllr Pell advised that WCC had received 1.5million from central government for bus services but this was in fact a tiny amount to try and run rural bus services but there is a push to ensure the rural community is served by public transport.

The Chair advised that a written proposal from Pirton Village Committee regarding levelling of the Playing Field had not as yet been received. As a condition of the lease the gate and the fence would need repair.

16.) WORCESTERSHIRE BOUNDARIES COMMISSION REVIEW CONSULTATION

The Chair advised that unfortunately due to the timings of the briefings no members had been able to attend.

The Chair asked County Councillor Robinson to find out some more details and direct the members to what the proposals are.

17.) PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

The Chair thanked Cllr Roberts for his continued work in reviewing the Highways and reporting local issues. Cllr Roberts asked that the lengthman be asked to restore the grips at Besford Road, Wadborough.

18.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The update had been submitted by the Clerk.

19.) PLANNING

The next joint Parishes meeting – The Chair advised the Cllr Pell and Cllr Murphy will attend the next Parishes meeting with Cllr Pell as the Chair is unavailable. The Chair advised that the planning consultants representing the 3 of the landowners/developers for Parkway were coming to talk to the committee. The Chair advised that it was thought the SWDPR would go to the planning inspectorate for review during the summer.

Neighborhood Plan - The Chair advised that she had contacted Kirkwoods the consultancy who was employed to develop the NP originally about how to update and keep current. If there are material changes then it would need to go back through public consultation and referendum.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/22/02744/OUT amended plans and access arrangements for 30 dwellings off Stonebow Road (Josie Orchard) Objection, stands nothing has changed, still outside village boundary.
W/23/00764/HP 11 Hawthorne Close, Drakes Broughton. Demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey extension. No objection.
W/23/00843/OUT Freshfields, Stonebow Road. Outline planning for up to 25 dwellings. Objection outside the Village Boundary.
- b) Applications Approved: W/23/00596/HP Woodground Cottage, Chevington Lane, Drakes broughton. Proposed extensions and new gated access for improved highways visibility.
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: N/A
- e) Planning correspondence: N/A

20.) CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident regarding Fly Tipping of Sewerage, as discussed under item 12.
- Resident re Worcester Road streetlights and barrier damage. The Clerk explained that the hedge cutter had damaged the barrier and the resident was concerned regarding exposed wires. This had been resolved by Highways and there were no exposed wires.
- Cllr Regarding phone lines cut by WCC grass cutting Wadborough. The Clerk advised that the WCC had been informed and the service had been repaired by BT.
- Cllr regarding fires at DB Playing field. Cllr Murphy advised that a football coach had found that there had been fires on the land under the DBRFC bollards, The bollards had been removed.
- Sanctuary Homes regarding inaccurate reporting re planning application Stonebow Road. An inaccurate article reporting that Sanctuary Homes were the developers applying for the houses at 'Josie's Orchard' had appeared in the Evesham Journal.
- Resident regarding the public footpath across Sanctuary Homes site. The footpath was now open, and Cllr Turner advised it had all now been cleared.

- DBRFC Notification of annual pitch maintenance. The Clerk advised that the annual scarifying had now taken place.
- Resident re overgrown verges Croome Close. This had been addressed by the lengthsman.
- Resident regarding vandalism of Play Park sign. As discussed under item 8.

21.)INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council will be meeting on **Thursday 6th July 2023** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.20.