

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

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

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

PUBLIC: 4 Residents in attendance.

1) APOLOGIES: District Councillor Liz Turier, Cllr Small, Cllr R Roberts, Cllr Booker & Cllr Abercrombie.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Williams for planning application: W/23/1318/FUL

The Chair closed the meeting for representations from the public:

A resident from Wadborough raised his concerns and the concerns of the other 3 Wadborough residents in attendance, regarding the ongoing safety issues at Wadborough Crossroads. The resident explained his background within the police force. He explained that there had been two accidents in recent weeks one resulting in a serious whiplash injury. He raised concerns that three of the approaches were national speed limit, he advised that it was only a matter of time before a cyclist was hit. He explained there was a long history of accidents and near misses at the crossroads and asked that something be done before there was a fatality.

It was noted that one accident was from Besford side and the other was from the Stoulton approach and both drivers appeared to have ignored the give-way signage.

The restricted visibility caused by the residential hedge on the Stoulton side was raised.

County Councillor Linda Robinson advised that her update from the WCC Highways liaison officer was that it was difficult to comment without the facts of what happened and WCC Highways are not informed unless an ambulance attended. Cllr Murphy explained that an ambulance and 8 police officers had attended. Cllr Abercrombie who owned the hedge had footage of both accidents that had been shared with the police. Cllr Murphy advised that the driver had used google maps and thought the road was not give way, and that the police have decided not to prosecute the driver.

It was noted that the police had suggested the signage is inadequate, and that one suggestion would be to make the junction a stop junction, that way those ignoring the signage would be breaking the law.

It was noted that monitoring strips had been laid, no one was sure what monitoring this was. Cllr Murphy advised that monitoring during August when people were away and the children were off school was not going to achieve accurate results.

County Councillor Robinson acknowledged that there were high emotions and suggested that the residents put together a petition to be delivered to a full County Council meeting.

The resident advised that he had seen some VAS signs in Cornwall that display the drivers number plate, which is very personal and could have more impact than the current VAS. The Clerk explained

that the PC purchase and own the VAS's but are advised and restricted by WCC Highways on where they can be located.

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

The Chair advised that the two vacancies remained and were widely advertised.

4) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 6th July 2023 were proposed by Cllr Pell, seconded by Cllr Williams, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) WADBOROUGH CROSSROADS

As discussed in public participation.

6) MATTERS ARISING

Bus Shelters – B4084

The Chair thanks Cllr Adams for the contact details at WCC to discuss releasing the s106 allocated from the new builds towards bus shelter replacement.

Beech Ave footpath bridge

The Chair advised that the bridge had been replaced by the Countryside Centre and Cllr Pell advised that the replacement was of a very high standard.

7) CLERK ADDITIONAL PARISH

The Chair advised that following a successful application and agreement from DBWPPC the clerk would be appointed as clerk to Sedgberrow PC starting from 1st September.

8) FINANCE

The monthly bank reconciliation for July was completed by Cllr Skeys and Cllr Murphy.

Financial update – The mid-year budget and year to date spending was reviewed by all members. The projected spend was on track and within budget. All members were happy. The Chair advised that she will arrange a Team's financial briefing for new members in the autumn.

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

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary – S/O July	£559.64
b) Mr B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – July	£260.00
c) SSE – monthly Streetlighting electricity	£TBC
d) Smart Cut Ltd – Grass cutting & Play Park strimming & blowing.	£413.93
e) Mrs N Nicholson – reimburse clerk BB/Phone Quarterly	£60.00
f) Mrs N Nicholson – Quarterly OPE	£19.63
h) WDC – Litter bins annual empty and cleanse (Walcot Lane & beech Ave)	£220.49
i) Mr B Arrowsmith – under payment lengthsman May	£19.30
j) Rynat Ltd – Play Park inspection	£144.00

(The cheque was raised but would not be sent until inspection report was received)

Remittance: WCC lengthsman reclaim April £247.00
HMRC VAT reclaim £1672.95

9.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD – Progress update on Open Space phase 2.

The Chair advised that she had met with Les (Chair of the Open Space Committee) and a representative from One Ltd to create and finalise the phase 2 Master Plan.

The Chair advised that a member of the public/parent had made initial contact as a potential project manager for phase 2.

The Chair advised that DBRFC had just this week made contact to request to install the 'compound'. The Chair provided a little background information for new members. The football club currently use one garage as storage, but the garages are due to be removed as part of the phase 2 development. It was agreed 2019, for a wooden clad shipping container be installed at the top left of the playing field for DBRFC storage. The ground was prepared to site the container however it was subsequently found that DBRFC did not require such a large storage facility. At one point they considered moving the existing garage, this has since been ruled out and the new proposal is a fenced 'compound' area that would house the portable goals and a smaller metal storage shed. DBRFC has a contractor lined up and would like to start W/C 14th August. The Chair advised that she was liaising with Les and checking that the overall size of the 'compound' did not differ from what was originally agreed as it could affect the perimeter pedestrian and cycle path proposed in Phase 2. As soon as the Chair had these details, they would be circulated to members to review.

It was noted that there was a good working relationship with DBRFC.

10.) ROAD SAFETY – Speed Watch /VAS Data

Members congratulated Cllr Bessant on at last getting the Community Speed Watch up and running. Cllr Bessant confirmed that the first training session had taken place and the first session of speed watch had taken place. Cllr Bessant advised that they had monitored 120 vehicles and none of them were speeding. (It was noted that the speed watch its-self, high vis and handheld speed camera, would be a deterrent)

Cllr Bessant advised that there were still ongoing issues with the vetting process and only 3 people are training & vetted as one volunteer is trained and not vetted. Cllr Bessant has been advised that vetting can take up to 8 months!

Cllr Bessant advised that unfortunately the scheme cannot operate on the Worcester Road as they can only be on 30MPH roads. Cllr Bessant advised that an additional site near Williamson Way had been added and that there is the option to add locations in Pirton/Wadborough dependant on volunteers.

Cllr Bessant advised there had been no further progress on downloading VAS data. The Chair thought that quarterly the data should be downloaded and reviewed. In light of the Wadborough Crossroads discussion – it was thought that the data should be periodically downloaded and reviewed from the Wadborough VAS. The Wadborough Councillors would ask their community if there was a volunteer to download and monitor the data.

11.) WALCOT LANE FORD

County Councillor Robinson advised that there had been no feedback from WCC on the petition that was delivered regarding the ford.

Cllr Robinson advised that some work had taken place at the ford, the signage had been cleaned and the reeds had been cut back, making the area brighter. The Planned work to the Gabian baskets had been postponed again, due to the ford being in flood.

During a site visit with WCC Rachel Benson an escape route to allow one to decide not to enter the ford even if a larger vehicle was behind you had been suggested.

The Clerk advised that she had become aware of a way for WCC Highways to ask Ordnance Survey to remove the route from SAT nav's. County Councillor Robinson would follow this up.

It was noted that drivers ignoring the signage and requiring rescue would not be covered by their insurer.

District Councillor Adams had attended the County Council meeting to support the delivery of the petition.

Cllr Williams advised that at times even the footbridge was waterlogged, and she had heard of people taking shoes and socks off to cross it.

12.) PIRTON POLLING STATION

The Chair advised that she had met with Cllr Skeys and the resident from Pirton who raised the issue of the removal of Pirton Polling station.

The main purpose was to make Parishioners aware of the consultation that is being undertaken by Wychavon about where the polling station should be for Pirton Parishioners.

The Chair advised that the Clerk had displayed details of the consultation on the notice board and that information had been circulated on the Pirton Pool WhatsApp group.

The Chair and Cllr Skeys had formulated a letter from Pirton members of the Parish Council to be used for letterbox drop to all households providing information about the choices and how to participate. Members reviewed the letter and agreed on the contents.

The draft submission to the consultation from Parish Council was reviewed and the content was agreed by all members. The Chair asked the clerk to submit the comment.

Members agreed to collect signatures on a petition supporting retaining the polling station in Pirton at 1 Elm View for submission to the consultation.

13.) REVIEW UPDATED ASSET REGISTER

The Chair advised that a quote for rubbing down and varnishing the Pirton notice board and the notice board and bench in Drakes Broughton had been received, £30 for each. It was proposed by Cllr Pell and seconded by Cllr Butterworth to accept the quotes and get the work done.

14.) STREETLIGHT UPGRADES

The Chair advised that column 2 had been reported as unlit and as agreed via the budget an upgrade had been ordered and CIL money would be used to pay for the upgrade.

The Clerk advised that column 12, a concrete column had been identified as in poor condition and suggested that it maybe wise to get this upgraded.

The Chair asked The County Councillor if there was any headway on having the streetlights adopted. The cost of the upgrades alone 22/23 had come to £12000, more than twice the precept let alone the ongoing running costs. Cllr Robinson had no further information on adoption. She agreed to investigate how many villages in Worcestershire faced a similar streetlighting burden.

Cllr Bessant proposed that column 12 was upgraded, this was seconded by Cllr Pell and agreed by all members.

15.) REVIEW ANNUAL RISK ASSESMENT

The Chair advised that Cllr Abercrombie was helping tighten up the risk assessment and hoped to review it and sign it off in the September meeting.

16.)PIRTON PLAYING FIELD

The Chair advised that the Pirton Playing field landlord had agreed in principle to the improvements the Village Committee wanted to make to the field. The landlord had advised that the entrance and access route to the field gates would need to be retained and accessible during and after the works. The agent had advised against making it too 'pretty' as it was still an agricultural access and could get cut up during the winter months.

Members discussed and thought that as the PC was the lease holders, they should oversee the works and ensure that the work completed is satisfactory. It was agreed that the next stage would be for representatives of the PC to meet with the Pirton Village Committee once the PC are satisfied of a methodology, to be reviewed at a full PC meeting. The Village Committee could then apply for the lottery grant to fund the works.

It was noted that there could be other WDC community grants available.

17.)REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS –The monthly Report from County Councillor Robinson had been circulated prior to the meeting and would be available on the PC website.

County Councillor Robinson advised the members that a small group of longstanding residents in various locations in Drakes Broughton were suffering from flooding issues.

County Councillor Robinson read a letter to the Parish Council from one of the residents.

The letter advised of 5 inches plus of water running from Walcot Lane into her garage, very hard job of bailing out. The land drains on Walcot Lane were being overwhelmed with the volume of water in recent heavy rain. County Councillor Robinson advised that the WCC Highways liaison officer had visited all the residents and was looking into raising the pavements and removing some unnecessary dropped curbing where the water was channelled from the Highway into the drives and gardens of the residents. Cllr Bessant advised that she was aware of issues in Shrubbery Road and Huntsman Close and said that support from Severn Trent had been minimal. The Clerk suggested that land drain clearance was WCC highways responsibility and perhaps the gully sucker could be requested to the drains in the locations. It was also noted that the PC owned pumps that can be requested should the garage flood again.

District Council report

Cllr Adams drew members attention his circulated WDC information leaflet. Cllr Pell offered to put it on the community notice board at the village Hall.

Cllr Adams advised that he had attended a meeting regarding youth activities and advised that a new music bus was available on request to the villages. Cllr S Roberts was interested in offering space on the Mason Arms car park to accommodate this.

Cllr Adams advised that he was now vice chair of the Police and Crime panel.

Members Reports

Cllr Skeys asked if there was an update on the storm drain on the Worcester Road in Pirton. Ref no 11570 was given and Cllr Robinson advised she would look into it.

Cllr Turner advised there was a number of residents with hedges encroaching onto the pavements in Drake Broughton. The Clerk requested a list and letter would be sent advising the householders of their responsibilities.

18.)WORCESTERSHIRE BOUNDARIES COMMISSION REVIEW CONSULTATION

It was noted that the consultation had been extended until September.

County Councillor Robinson advised that there were no proposed changes for DBWPPC.

The Chair encouraged members to review the proposal and a formal comment would be compiled for agreement at the September meeting.

19.) PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

The Chair advised that there was nothing outstanding to follow up at this time.

20.) DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE FETE

The Chair advised that the Village Fete at the Village Hall was planned for 9th September from 2-5pm.

21.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The villager was on summer break and an update would be compiled for submission to the autumn edition by 7th September.

22.) PLANNING

Neighborhood Plan - The Chair advised following a meeting with WDC she had been advised that the rewording of the policies suggested needed to be reviewed by Gem Teal. The main policy change the PC is looking to make is where any future developments 106 money is allocated, the current NP has it allocated to the Village Hall build and the Sports Pavilion and the playing field, so with the Village Hall completed and open space phase 1 complete and phase 2 already funded the new wording includes other open spaces(which could potentially include Wadborough) . All members agreed with the changes proposed.

The Chair advised that correspondence had been received from a Parish Council in Staffordshire advising that a recent planning inspectorate decision had been in direct contravention of their Neighbourhood Plan and could set a precedent for the future of all Neighbourhood Plans they have requested that all PC's with current Neighbourhood Plans write to their MP's. Members agreed this was a worrying development and agreed that the PC write the letter suggested.

SWDPR – Progress update, letter to MP

The Chair advised that the letter from the Joint Parishes committee had been circulated to all members, the Joint Parishes committee now await a response from the MP.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/1318/FUL Land at (Os 9194 4873) Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. No Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: W/23/00447/CU Wadborough Hall Farm Barns, Abbotswood Road – Mill Lane, Wadborough. Construction of detached garage and store.
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: W/23/01381/FUL Stonehall farmhouse, Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Change of use of land from agricultural to residential. Construction of new garage.
- e) Appeals: APP/H1840/W/23/3319304 Lea Haven, Mill Lane, Drakes Broughton. Permission in principle for proposed 1 no. self-build dwelling. It was noted that WDC had turned this application down due to it breaching a number of policies within the DBWPPC Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed that a comment be drawn up to be sent detailing the policy breaches and fully supporting WDC in the decision to decline the application.

District Councillor Adams drew attention to the still as yet undetermined application for 12 houses on Walcot Lane on land adjacent to the Playing Field and which is outside of the development boundary as determined by the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr William advised there was an amendment to the Freshfields application that required comment on. Members agreed that nothing had changed it was still a development outside of the development boundary as defined in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was not thought to be a site allocated in the SWDPR.

23.)CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident regarding open space project management.
- WCC Document Validation review
- Rooftop re shared ownership properties being built in Pinvin
- Resident reporting streetlight Col 2 unlit
- CALC Update 23-07
- The Fourth Annual Local Government Event
- JPC letter to Nigel Huddleston MP
- Notice from Croome Estate regarding planned removal of dead ash trees at Pirton Gorse.

24.)INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 7th September 2023** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.30.