

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk)

PUBLIC: None

1) APOLOGIES: County Councillor Robinson, District Councillor Liz Turier and District Councillor Rob Adams & Cllr Small.

It was noted that Cllr Murphy had resigned due to family and work commitments, members agreed this was a loss and thanked Cllr Murphy for her proactive input over her 3 years on the parish council.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

Public Participation:

One Wadborough resident was in attendance, they asked when the proposed works would commence at Wadborough crossroads. The Chair advised that WCC were initially consulting on the proposals and once the consultation period ended there would be a need for the traffic order to be applied for prior to works being started.

The resident asked for further information about the proposed new town at Parkway Station. The Chair signposted the resident to Stoulton PC website where all the up-to-date information could be viewed. She also advised that there would be a public consultation meeting run by the 7 different developers at Norton Village Hall on 17th October and one at Drakes Broughton Village Hall on 4th November. The Chair advised that she thought that the major concern about impact for our local community was that the development will need to be infrastructure lead and this may not happen.

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

The Chair advised that there were now three vacancies and members should think of people who could join the Parish Council. The clerk would re-advertise all three vacancies.

4) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 7th September 2023 were proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Abercrombie, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

Bus Shelters – B4084

The Chair advised that there was still no contact or correct person/department to talk to at WCC regarding the s106 money. She advised that circa £60K was allocated in 2 s106 agreements to be used for bus shelters in Drakes Broughton and what was needed was clarification about whether the PC needed to budget to replace the PC owned bus shelters on the B4084 out of the precept or would the s106 money be used by WCC to replace the shelters, and would WCC then take ownership with regard to cleaning and maintaining them.

Storm Drain – Pirton

The Chair advised that County Councillor Robinson had advised that the next stage was a CCTV review.

6) FINANCE

The monthly bank reconciliation for September was completed by Cllr Skeys.

Financial subgroup meeting – The chair advised that it was being held tomorrow evening.

The Chair proposed that the circa £15K held in the difficult to administer NS&I investment account be moved to the Lloyds bank saving account which would mean the PC can see the funds and move to a better yield account once that is decided. She proposed to move the funds and close the NS&I account. Cllr Pell seconded, and all members agreed.

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

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary September– S/O	£559.64
b) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – September	£TBC
c) SSE – Streetlighting monthly electricity	£462.84
d) Smart Cut Ltd – grass cutting, and Play Park surfaces	£423.91
e) WDC – Uncontested election fee	£50.00
f) E.on – Upgrade Column 2 Shrubbery Road (CIL)	£1665.60
g) E.on – Upgrade Column 11 Keepers close (CIL)	£1665.60
h) MWH Building and Property Care – Play Park gates & Steps repairs as advised by annual safety inspection.	£628.00

Remittance: WDC Precept 2 £12532.00 and precept grant 2 £525.00 = £13057.00

7.) WADBOROUGH CROSSROADS

As noted in public participation. The PC await the outcome of consultation and WCC advising on timescales.

8.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD – Football store, Progress update on Open Space phase 2, Play Park safety checks and maintenance.

The Chair advised that DBRFC were selecting a metal style storage shed and examples of what was being considered had been circulated for members to review. Cllr Bessant raised concerns regarding the quality of some metal storage sheds and the ease that they could be dented. Cllr Abercrombie advised that the metal style storage would be much more secure, overall members thought a good quality one, with longer term durability was advisable.

The Chair advised that she and Mr Wild (Open Space Committee Chair) had met with the representative from One Ltd to finalise the drawing up on the concept plan for Phase 2 of the open space development in July. The main changes were relocations due to consultation feedback from residents who's properties boarder the Playing fields. The Parish Council will receive that in the next fortnight. Cllr Booker raised his ongoing safety concerns regarding the pedestrian access and the service gate access from Walcot Lane. The Chair advised that these would be addressed during the Phase 2 redevelopment.

The Chair advised that a system of recorded regular checks at the Play Park was required. It was important that the clerk was notified when the checks had been done and any actions required were noted, planned and actioned. The Clerk gave an overview of the advice from the annual safety inspector as to the requirements. There needed to be regular visual checks, it is suggested weekly in the high use season and less so during the winter months, in addition it is useful to have a quarterly operational check, these can all be done by any nominated person and no specialist skill or training was required. Cllr Turner volunteered, and Cllr Pell suggested her husband would likely assist Cllr Turner. It was noted that during the month the resurfacing of the embankment slide steps, and the spring closures of the infant play gates had been addressed. The clerk and Cllr Turner would meet to review the other advisories from the Play Park annual safety inspection, none of which were urgent and would form part of the winter maintenance programme.

The Chair advised, regarding an injury a member of the public had sustained walking into the guide wire of the Monkey bars. This had been fully explored with the safety inspector and the installers of the park, who advised there was no safety issue to address, and the equipment was installed safely and as per manufacturers guidelines.

9.) WALCOT LANE FORD

The Chair advised that County Councillor Robinson has informed the Parrish Council and the public that WCC Highways have at last agreed to increased warning signage and depth markers to be installed at the ford and it was pleasing to note the work was scheduled for 13th October. Members agreed this was really good news.

It was noted that a distressing rescue from earlier in the year had featured on Crime Watch UK.

10.) PIRTON POLLING PLACE

The Chair advised that the residents of Pirton and Parish Council are still awaiting the outcome of the consultation from WDC.

It was noted that the original polling place, 1 Elm View was scheduled to be visited by WDC electoral services.

The resident taking the lead on this for the Parish of Pirton has written to WDC once again, as the process is taking a long time and there is still not an agreed polling place for the Parish of Pirton.

11.) PIRTON PLAYING FIELD – Progress update

The Chair advised that during the month a request to site a storage box for the Pirton Village tents and associated equipment on the Playing Field in Pirton had been received. The Village Committee had been granted permission with advice from the landlord regarding screening and that they fully assess the need for any planning permission.

12.) ASSET REVIEW UPDATE

Mr B Arrowsmith had been instructed to sand and varnish the notice board and bench in Drakes Broughton as well as the notice board in Pirton. It was noted there was a delay due to a short period of illness.

13.) RISK ASSESMENT

Cllr Abercrombie had worked with the Chair to draw up a new detailed risk assessment, this had been circulated to all members for review. Cllr Abercrombie gave a briefing of how and why it was developed, members asked Cllr Abercrombie questions, and all looked through the new register and agreed it was much easier to understand. Members agreed to adopt the risk assessment register and were asked to review all the risk levels noted so that the annual review on the new register could be agreed and signed off in the November meeting.

14.) ROAD SAFETY – Speed Watch /VAS Data

Cllr Bessant advised members that only one speed watch session had taken place in September due to holidays and other commitments of the volunteers. Cllr Bessant advised that 2 more volunteers had been trained and signed off. There were still only 5 volunteers, a successful speed watch really needed 10-14 volunteers so there was more availability to run more sessions. There was an advert on the village Facebook page for more volunteers currently. Cllr Bessant advised that the session had been held in another location and there had been one person caught speeding at the entrance to Woodleigh. Cllr Bessant was awaiting a data review as to whether the speed watch can run at a location on B4084.

It was noted a member to be responsible for the VAS data in Wadborough was required.

15.)STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Chair advised that the members of the staffing committee were now: Cllr Butterworth, Cllr Pell, Cllr Skeys, Cllr Williams and Cllr Abercrombie. The clerk should receive an annual appraisal each year, this had not happened since Covid. The Chair advised that her appraisal was booked for November and asked members to send her any feedback to her directly to prepare for the appraisal.

The staffing committee are asking CALC to do a salary scale review on the job role to ensure the clerk was being paid on the correct salary point. The review would cost circa £100.

16.)REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS –updates from County Councillor and District Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that members felt it was disappointing that no representative from the District Council or County Council was in attendance this month.

Members Reports

Cllr Abercrombie advised members not to click on the link in the ecology vote correspondence recently received, he also thought that the PC should not back the campaign.

Cllr Booker raised his concerns and those of residents regarding the state of repair of the steps at the shops in Drakes Broughton. The Chair advised that many avenues regarding how the PC could help get the steps improved had been explored in 2021 and due to the fact that the steps are on private property, not public land and are leased to shop owners, the Parish Council has no remit to do anything other than advise members of the public to complain to the shop keepers who have joint responsibility for the up keep of the steps and the apron, or raise the complaint to Worcester Regulatory Services who can then get involved.

Cllr Booker raised his concerns regarding different sites notably in Brickyard Lane included in the SWDPR, referring to a map showing some unexpected inclusions. The Chair thought the map was an old version and would investigate and fully confirm to all members which sites were included in the SWDPR – it is thought to be 50 houses in total for Drakes Broughton.

Cllr Booker and Cllr Williams raised concerns regarding PIP (Planning in Principle applications) Once PIP is gained it is unlikely to be refused at the detailed stages but often design and scope can change considerably.

Cllr Booker wondered if Wheatcroft Farm could be asked to restrict their farm machine movements during the school open/close hours to reduce danger to pupils. Members asked the Clerk to write and request this.

Cllr Williams raised her concerns regarding applications in Windmill Lane/Stoulton with lack of residents in the area to raise objections to the WDC planning consultations.

Cllr Pell advised that she would be attending a meeting regarding the buses in the coming weeks. WCC was due to review the funding and feedback by November. She would update members at November's meeting.

Cllr Skeys advised that he had been following up the expression of interest in a funded defibrillator the Parish Council had made for Pirton. He had applied to two companies one of which, the first 100 applicants receive a full funded defibrillator, and a further 1900 applicants will receive a match funded defibrillator, requiring PC to match fund £750. Cllr Skeys also had a quote from London Hearts to include a cabinet as currently the phone box in Pirton is a book exchange there is a thought in the community to mount the defibrillator on the rear of the phone box, the fully inclusive price was £1317. (the defibrillator requires a power source)

Cllr Skeys advised that the Pirton heritage weekend had raised £1370 and that the model railway had been invited to both Tewkesbury and Cheltenham model railway shows.

Cllr Skeys reminded members that the Pirton Christmas tree festival would be held 15/16/17 December. The Clerk would send details to St Barnabas School.

17.) PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

The Chair advised that there was nothing outstanding to follow up at this time and thanked Cllr Roberts for continuing to monitor the Parish Highways.

There was a request for the lengthsman to clear out/sweep the Wadborough passing bays at Abbotswood.

18.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The villager report had been compiled for the November edition.

19.) PLANNING

Neighbourhood Plan - The Chair advised that since the last meeting WDC had changed its advice on how to update the NP. From previous correspondence it was expected the plan would need to go through regulation 16 – but now it seems as if it has to go through regulation 14 and regulation 15. This is not what was expected and will take considerably more time and effort to progress and given that when SWDPR is adopted it will take precedence over the neighbourhood plan it would seem more sensible to now put amending the Neighbourhood plan on pause until the SWDPR is adopted.

The Chair advised that she and Vice-Chair Pell had alongside District Councillor Adams met with Ciaran Power from planning at WDC. It was a detailed meeting regarding the larger applications that have been submitted to Drakes Broughton. Ciaran has been provided with details of the

Severn Trent upgrade plan (Now; notably postponed) as it shows only future capacity plans for 50 additional homes.

They discussed the volume of sites being applied for and it was noted that our District Councilors will be invited to all the Planning Meetings regarding these sites.

Joint Parishes committee meeting report – The Chair advised that the report had been circulated to all members. Stoulton Parish Council were putting all the updates and information into the Villager magazine and all the information is available on Stoulton parish Council Website.

SWDPR – Parkway Liaison meeting – progress update.

The developer wishes to meet regularly with the Join Parishes representatives and the public to move things forward.

It was noted that factories are not required, and that development will probably all start with house building around the station. The public will have the opportunity to be involved in what is being built as the developers want to build houses that are desirable and will sell.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/01525/FUL Crabbe Tree Farm, Besford Road, Wadborough. Formation of pool and wetland planting area including soil bund. No objection.
W/23/01738/FUL. Teal Farm, Wadborough. New accessway off the road for the purpose of agriculture. No objection.
W/23/01946/PIP Land at (OS 9215 4883) Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in principle for the construction of up to 3no. dwellings. Objection.
W/23/01681/FUL Thornleigh Nurseries, Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Full planning permission for demolition of 2 existing dwelling houses and associated outbuildings and erection of 53 dwellings and associated open space and vehicular access from Stonebow Road. Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: W/22/01993/FUL 7 Greenfields Close, Drakes Broughton. Erection of a new single dwelling (revised scheme)
- c) Applications Refused: W/23/01611/PIP Thorndon Grove, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in principle for the construction of up to 6no dwellings.
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: W/23/01973/PIP Land at (OS 9310 4833) Brickyard Lane, Drakes Broughton. Application for Permission in principle for min of 6no dwellings and maximum 8no dwellings.
W/23/01959/PIP Thorndon Grove, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 3no. dwellings.
- e) Appeals: Appeals: AAP/H1840/W23/3322058 Land at (O/S 9311 4891) Beech Ave, PIP for 6 no. dwellings. Objection outside NP and sewerage pipe issue nearby.
 - Awaiting appeal outcome Lea Haven.
- f) Planning Committee: W/22/02744/OUT 30 dwellings ‘Josie orchard’. It was noted that this was now awaiting a further ecological survey and was not on the October Planning Committee agenda.
- g) Awaiting determination: 00258/FUL 12 houses Walcot Lane & 25 Houses Freshfield.

20.)CORRESPONDENCE

- WDC SWDPR submitted for independent examination.
- PC to resident regarding Play Park monkey bar risk raised.
- Resident re planning appeal 6 dwellings at Beech Ave.
- PC reply to WCC streetlighting policies.
- Vale Transport Group advised that Stoulton bus stop had been restored and were looking into moving the Drakes Broughton one on Worcester Road nearer the pedestrian crossing due to safety.
- Request from Bowbrook school to camp on Playing Field for their Duke of Edinburgh Award– The request was denied due to the area being publicly accessible.

INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 2nd November 2023** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.45.