

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr Pell, Cllr Grisdale, Cllr Maureen Williams, Cllr Turner, Cllr Booker, Cllr Roberts, Cllr Bessant, Cllr Masters, Cllr Skeys & Cllr A Clarke.

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

PUBLIC: Four

1) APOLOGIES:

District Councillor Liz Turier & Cllr Abercrombie.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

***Public Participation:** 4 residents in attendance, one for observation only.*

3 residents in attendance representing the Worcester Road residents in general. To raise their strong concerns and objections about the application for 45 additional dwellings on the Worcester Road. The Chair advised that the Parish Council agreed with them and had already submitted a strong objection, the Chair explained that Wychavon District Council did not have the legally required housing land supply and this was leaving the entire area open to speculative development applications with very few valid reasons to object. The current 2017 Neighbourhood Plan is deemed out of date but the PC are updating it as fast as possible, once that is done, there should be more ability to protect the open spaces.

3) VACANCIES FOR MEMBERS TO REPRESENT DRAKES BROUGHTON WARD & WADBOROUGH WARD

The Chair advised that there remained one vacancy for Drakes Broughton Ward and one vacancy for Wadborough Ward.

4) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 3rd October 2024 were proposed by Cllr Clarke, seconded by Cllr Grisdale, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

Wadborough VAS – Cllr Abercrombie was liaising with the Clerk regarding pole locations.

Flashing Lights by School Drakes Broughton – Cllr Turner advised that new signage had been installed but the lights were still not flashing – this was referred to County Councillor Robinson.

Meeting with Pershore Town Council re Walcot Ford – This would now be postponed until the new year. It was noted that Pershore side of the ford had road closed signage that residents could erect as agreed by County Councillor Boatright, County Councillor Robinson would investigate if this can be replicated on the Drakes Broughton side.

There was a discussion regarding a caravan situated without consent in a field in Wadborough, County Councillor Robinson advised that enforcement was aware and taking action.

6) FINANCE

Budget items 2025-2026 - The Chair asked members to send any requests for additional spending outside of the day-to day spend to the clerk before the December meeting when the draft budget would be reviewed.

Online banking progress update – The clerk advised that all 4 signatories had now accessed the accounts online and the mandate for her to raise payments had been raised. Cllr Skeys and Cllr Butterworth had authorised this. The Council can therefore move to online payments. The detailed process was distributed and talked through by the clerk. Cllr Clarke raised a query regarding how new bank account details from suppliers would be verified as genuine, the clerk advised that this was covered in the financial regulations, and she was aware to verify with a supplier that changes were genuine and not fraudulent.

VAS Battery Pirton – the lengthsman had requested new batteries for the Pirton VAS, cost £87 plus delivery. The purchase was proposed by Cllr Skeys and seconded by Cllr Butterworth and agreed by all.

Staff pay scales 2024-2025 – The Chair advised that the annual increment to the clerk salary had been received for 2024-2025. The calculation would be made from 1st January to include any back pay owing, and the Standing Order amended as in previous years. The increased award had been delayed due to union negotiations and the payments would be spread from 1st January to 31st December.

ICO payment – CALC had advised that all Parish Councils need to sign up to this, it cost £40PA with a £5 discount for paying by direct debit, it was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Pell to sign up via direct debit costing £35PA, all members agreed to access the discount and pay by direct debit.

The monthly bank reconciliation for October had been completed and confirmed by Cllr Skeys and Cllr Maureen Williams via email, and the reconciliation was signed.

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

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| a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary October– S/O | £626.08 |
| Note HMRC quarterly employee deductions £69.80 | |
| b) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – October | £280.00 |
| SSE – Streetlighting monthly electricity, still on hold due to the issue with the wrong billing title. | |
| c) Smart Cut – grass cutting | £158.96 |
| d) Smart Cut Ltd – deep hedge cut & pedestrian entrance cut back (S106 phase 2 open space) | £680.76 |
| e) Mrs N Nicholson – quarterly OPE | £45.24 |
| f) Mrs N Nicholson – quarterly broadband contribution | £60.00 |
| g) E.on Energy Solutions – reinstate col 9 | £1665.60 |
| h) WDC – additional emptying of Walcot Lane litter bin | £84.65 |
| i) Smart Cut Ltd – Play Park weedkilling | £47.50 |

Remittance: N/A

7.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD

It was noted that the Zipline repair had been ordered from Smart Cut Ltd but not actioned as yet, members asked the clerk to advise Smart Cut to complete the works before the end of February 2025.

Cllr Clarke advised that the safety concern raised regarding the proximity of the climb pole to the embankment slide platform had been responded to by Sutcliffe Play, there were 3 options, tolerate as no accidents had occurred and the site had been signed off as safe at installation, alternatively the post could be removed but it formed a type of banister to the steps, another option was a cage type barrier being installed on the slide platform. Members discussed the options and an idea of a softer netting type barrier was introduced.

The clerk was asked to get prices for the options, removal, steel cage and soft netting barrier.

Cllr Masters asked why more accessible funds were available for recreation in Drakes Broughton than Pirton, the Chair explained that as Pirton was a separate Parish the CIL and s106 money was designated to only be spent in the Drakes Broughton and Wadborough Parish with some identified to only be used at the recreation field and some can only be used for formal sport.

8.) OPEN SPACE PHASE 2 UPDATE – Drainage on playing field.

Cllr Booker talked members through the costs of continuing to investigate the drainage pipe at the Worcester Road end of the Playing Field with initial costs looking to total £2100, it was noted that the flooding seen at the Playing Fields during the building of the Elan Homes site had not been seen again since and the members thought it was best to investigate installing field drainage as part of the Phase 2 perhaps accessing s106 money to do this.

Cllr Booker advised members that the kissing gate to be installed at the Walcot pedestrian entrance would cost circa £400 plus installation – he was awaiting 2 installation quotes. It was proposed by Cllr Bessant and seconded by Cllr Pell to purchase the gate and get it installed ASAP.

Members all agreed that the cutting back of the pedestrian entrance was a vast improvement for visibility.

9.) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Gridale advised that the working party had met 10th October with work streams allocated to each work group and plans set. The group was scheduled to meet again November 21st. Ms Eagle had come forward to join the group representing Wadborough.

Cllr Bessant asked to be added to the working group correspondence list.

10.) ROAD SAFETY – Speed watch & VAS

Cllr Bessant advised there had been no Speed Watch activities this month.

Cllr Bessant and Cllr Clarke need to agree a process with clerk & lengthsman regarding moving the VAS and enabling identification of what location was for data downloaded.

11.) APPLICATION TO CHANGE FOTPATH TO BRIDLE PATH – PIRTON

The Chair advised that a notification of a request to change a footpath at Pirton Gorse to a bridlepath had been sent from WCC, at present it was just a notification of the request. Pirton members were looking at the details and consulting the community.

12.) REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

County Councillor Robinson - Report circulated prior to meeting.

Cllr Robinson advised there was a mobile phone signal survey, it would be advertised on refuse trucks she encouraged members and public to respond.

County Councillor Robinn advised that roadworks can be checked on the County Council website as things change last minute, the clerk would add this to the Villager update.

County Councillor Robinson advised that the Cabinet member of the environment Emma Stokes would be a good person to contact regarding the sewerage spills throughout Drakes Broughton, highlighting proximity to the school.

Cllr Grisdale explained the Earth Wise water surveys he and another resident had undertaken for Bow Brook and advised members that anyone can request sampling kits.

District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Adams Cllr Adams advised that one of his responsibilities at Wychavon DC is to be its representative on the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel of which I am Vice Chairman. The meeting on 6th November had an agenda including: -Police and Crime plan activity and performance monitoring report; Violence against women and girls and stalking and harassment; Road safety & Appointment of lay independent co-opted member, should anyone be interested in joining.

Cllr Adams advised that on 20th November he will be taking part in a Democracy Day at WDC. This is where our four high schools attend and meet and question our councillors.

Other reports as necessary:

Cllr Grisdale reported destruction of a PROW at Brickyard Lane during maize harvest that hadn't been reinstated. This required reporting to the PROW team at WCC.

Cllr Williams advised that the footpath at Stoulton was not affected by the planned houses, and she was still keen to progress changing to a bridleway despite the process looking lengthy.

Cllr Williams advised regarding very anti-social and excessively loud fireworks and the Plough and Harrow, she would be reporting to WRS and RSPCA.

13.) HIGHWAYS MATTERS & tasks for lengthsman

The 30MPH sign on left towards railway bridge required cutting out again and the hedge there required cutting back.

The hedge was the landowner responsibility, and it should be reported on WCC hub.

30MPH sign at Station Road Wadborough was raised, Cllr Roberts would address this.

14.) REPORTS OF FLOODING IN GARDENS IN HOLLYBLUE CLOSE

The Chair advised that Citizen Housing had attended the addresses with the flooding and hopefully will now ensure it is addressed.

15.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The Clerk and the Chair would prepare the submission for December edition the following day and would include details of the mobile phone signal survey and where to access roadwork updates.

16.) PLANNING

- Response to formal complaint lodged to WDC regarding the return to planning Committee of 53 houses at Thornleigh – The response had been circulated Members agreed it had not been received within the 6 weeks of their own complaint's procedure, and the actual response was disappointing, members agreed to escalate this to the next level.
 - Ongoing and future development in Drakes Broughton – The lack of sewerage capacity was discussed and frustration over how a Grampian Condition cannot be applied despite STW admitting an upgrade is required. In order for a Grampian condition to be applied STW need to have scoped the work, agreed funding and set a date on the project list and this was still a work in progress. Members agreed to keep exerting pressure by writing and encouraging residents to write to STW, MP, EA, ideas included standardised letters and petitions. It was agreed to try again to use the wording of a petition that had been rejected when submitted to by WDC in the spring for spurious reasons. The petition called for WDC to take immediate action to secure building land supply to take control in allow development to be focused on agreed sites rather than things being developer led.
 - Worcestershire Parkway Community Liaison Meeting – 11th November – The Chair advised that Dave Lock Consultants who are National Planners would be presenting to the Joint Parishes and she would feedback after the presentation – advising there are still grave concerns regarding infrastructure and in particular road networks and the reliance on the B4084 and foul water systems. Members of the JPC raised concerns about the impact of the long term and short-term development will have on existing communities that are neighbouring the new town.
 - Village categorisation – no update
- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/24/01829/FUL Planning application for 12 dwellings Walcot Lane objection.
W/24/01959/TDC5 Alley Garden, Brickyard Lane, Drakes Broughton. Variation of condition 4. No objection, no suitable alternative.
W/24/01485/OUT Land at (OS 9289 4819) Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Outline planning application for up to 45no dwellings, objection submitted.
W/24/01985/HP 45 Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton. Proposed single-storey rear extension. No objection.
W/24/01833/FUL Crabbe Tree Farm, Besford Road, Wadborough. Installation of 5 metal storage containers, external lighting and CCTV cameras (Part retrospective) Objection submitted.
- b) Applications Approved: W/24/01971/AGR Land at (OS 9115 4804) Mill Lane, Drakes Broughton. Storage building & access track.
W/24/001184/TDC5 Alley Garden, Brickyard Lane, Drakes Broughton. Variation of condition 2.
W/24/00875/PIP, Land at (OS 9323 4840) Walcot Lane, Permission in principle for up to 9 dwellings.
- c) Applications Refused: W/24/01065/PIP HT Marshall Workshop, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in principle for 1 no dwelling.
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: N/A
- e) Appeals:

APP/H1840/W/24/3340903 Land at (Os 9259 4864) Stonebow Road. Outline permission for the erection of up to 30 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure (all matters reserved for access) known locally as 'Josies Orchard' APPROVED.

17.) CORRESPONDENCE

- WDC Peer Challenge 9th October – Cllr Pell & Cllr Bessant attended, Cllr Pell advised it was good, and Cllr Bessant advised it didn't work as well attending virtually
- WDC Parish Games – The Clerk advised that a resident who had previously run the Old Oak had returned to the Village and would co-ordinate Drake Broughton Games entry any support that can be offered would be gratefully received – entrance fee would be included in next year's budget.
- It was noted that a letter from DBWPPC Chair regarding concerns over ongoing development had been sent to Chair of WDC.

INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Parish Council Monthly meeting **Thursday 5th December 2024 at Drakes Broughton Village Hall**. The meeting will start at 7.30pm

Meeting closed: 22.10