

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5th JUNE 2025 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr Pell, Cllr Grisdale, Cllr Turner, Cllr Booker, Cllr Bessant, Cllr Vincent, Cllr Garside and Cllr Williams.

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

PUBLIC: None

1) APOLOGIES:

District Councillor Turier, Cllr Abercrombie, Cllr Skeys and Cllr Clarke.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

***Public Participation:** One resident in attendance for information only.*

3) MEMBER CO OPTION

Ms Marianne Vincent was co-opted onto the Council to represent Wadborough ward and Mr Julian Garside was co-opted onto the Council to represent Drakes Broughton Ward, members introduced themselves and welcomed Cllr Vincent and Cllr Garside to the meeting.

4) VACANCIES FOR MEMBERS

The Chair advised that there remained 2 vacancies, one vacancy for Wadborough Ward and one vacancy for Pirton Ward.

5) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 1st May 2025 were proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Pell, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

6) MATTERS ARISING

Asset Register -All items had been reviewed: the Chair had an action to simplify the document to make it more user friendly.

White Lines in Car park- Lines are now completed, the Chair gave a big thank you to Martin Boniface who had cleaned the car park in preparation, and she proposed that DBVH and DBWPPC each pay Martin the £50 that was originally agreed to be paid to the lengthsman to do this task, all agreed.

Annual Parish Meetings – The Chair advised that these had not been particularly well attended this year with only one resident attending in Drakes Broughton, the minutes were done and were available online on MyParishPages

VE 80th anniversary celebrations - Each village had held an event using the WDC grant money, all had been very well attended with a 'Big Lunch' in Pirton where many new residents attended. The event in Drakes Broughton was very well attended and was good to incorporate the school children. Wadborough had held a 1940's style event at the pub. Cllr Vincent enquired how much grant money had gone to where in Wadborough, the clerk advised that J Driscoll had requested the grant be sent to the Wadborough Association bank account.

7) FINANCE

SSE – Electricity account update: The Chair advised that the Clerk had written to SSE asking for confirmation that the accounts had been de-merged and for a statement of account showing the months amounts and what had/hadn't been paid. A bill had been received for £4983.45 but this is more than anticipated.

32 Day notice account – The finance sub-group proposed that a 32-day notice account was opened and £35K (The PC reserves) be held in the 32 Day account to gain more interest. This was proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Pell and agreed by all.

The monthly bank reconciliation for May had not been completed yet.

It was noted that £5000 had been moved from Deposit account to the current account during the month and that a payment had been made to A J Gallagher – Annual insurance premium £2547.09

It was proposed by Cllr Bessant and seconded by Cllr Pell to transfer £2000.00 from Deposit account to the current account and authorise the following payments:

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|--|----------|
| a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk SalaryMay– S/O | £634.94 |
| Note HMRC quarterly employee deductions April £75.40 and May £75.40 to be paid in July. | |
| b) Jess Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – April | £TBC |
| The clerk advised that Brian had passed away with a month of work to be paid for, his family would compile the work sheet from his diary and have asked that we pay his daughter for this. | |
| c) One Ltd – Open space phase 2 | £1200.00 |
| Payment is on hold awaiting further information from One Ltd | |
| d) Smart Cut – grass cutting and play park surfaces | £725.45 |
| e) Lloyd's bank monthly banking fee | £4.25 |
| f) Parallel Lines – Car Park Lines | £900.00 |

Remittance: WCC Lengthsman reimburse March £280.00

7.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD

Cable on Monkey Bar – Cllr Turner confirmed the cable had been removed.

Signage in car park – Cllr Pell and Cllr Turner have located the car park sign and Cllr Turner thinks he can mount this on the posts of the Covid sign, and it was agreed to remove the Covid sign completely

Repairs – Cllr Turner was investigating how to remove the graffiti from the signs. Cllr Turner would remove the fraying rope from the junior play slide and investigate/source a replacement.

Winter maintenance schedule – Cllr Clarke would advise on this in the July meeting.

8.) OPEN SPACE PHASE 2 – Cllr Booker

Cllr Booker advised that there had been 2 meetings with representatives from DBVH, DBRFC and DBWPPC to discuss removing the old garages behind the Village Hall. Quotes for the work have been received, and a local contractor has been asked to provide a risk assessment and method statement with a view to the work being complete by the end of September, the work will take one day. There is a delay as there are slow worms, Worcester Wildlife Trust are attending to advise next week. It was agreed the contract would be with the Parish Council who would be invoiced on completion. It had been agreed that DBRFC and VHC would donate a third of the cost each with the Parish Council paying the final third.

Cllr Booker advised the Open Space working group now agreed and are proposing that the first stage of next development will be the Track, the MUGA and Pétanque Piste be top priority with a 'nice to have' being additional benches and mobile goal posts. Cllr Booker was awaiting an up-to-date contract from One Ltd, based on a deliverable time scales. Cllr Booker envisioned the costing to be available which will mean that the Parish Council can approach WDC with regard to releasing the moneys from the allocated S106 pot.

Cllr Booker advised that the garage removal was going to expose the rear fencing of two of the properties and some trees may need to be reduced in size. This has had been broached before, and the householder may require the Parish Council to address; Cllr Booker thinks the Parish Council could look to install a neat fence in that that area.

Cllr Vincent advised that it wasn't clear what Open Space was being referred to in the Villager update, the Clerk advised she would re-word.

9.) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Grisdale advised that he had a reading session planned with S Williams the following week, with the first draft anticipated the week after that.

Cllr Grisdale advised that the grants are available from July and there would be lots of forms to fill in to access those grants, they are looking to access £8K and only money spent after the grant is granted can be put against the grant nothing previous can be claimed for.

10.)ROAD SAFETY – Update

Cllr Bessant advised that she had stood down from running the Community Speed Watch but Martin Boniface and Allan Brown have agreed to take over so it would continue although there were still very few volunteers.

Members thanked Cllr Bessant for her absolute dogged determination and tenacity in getting it up and running as it was not an easy task!

The Chair advised that the VAS's could not be moved until a lengthsmen was recruited, the clerk had a wide variety of keys she was hoping would allow access to each VAS or an angle grinder would be required.

11.)WEBSITE

The Chair advised that the examples had been circulated for members to review, Cllr Bessant and Cllr Clarke had short listed Eyelid and Parish Council Online, the costings were virtually the same especially when looked at across a 10-year time span. The Clerk was to review the back-office usability with final proposal being made in the July meeting.

12.)REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

County Councillor Robinson – summarised her report circulated prior to meeting.

She advised she had been part of a Local Government review Panel on the South Coast and there was a feeling that trying to achieve 20 new Unitary Councils across the County was very ambitious and she thought timescales may eventually be extended.

County Councillor Robinson advised that there was a multi-agency approach to the developments at the site in Mill Lane., Wadborough.

District Councillor Reports

District Councillor Adams – Cllr Adams report had been circulated, he was raising the issue of TPO legislation, to request it is extended to cover trees that are of value even before any threat is made. Cllr Adams agreed with the huge task regarding devolution and thought grant giving maybe cautious from WDC going forward.

District Councillor Adams advised that the Parkways new timetable had been raised to the MP, there was a particular concern regarding the loss of the morning commuter train to Birmingham. Members advised that services to Cardiff were also reduced and also the number of carriages reduced meaning the journey to Cardiff was cramped as well.

Other reports as necessary:

Cllr Bessant advised that crossing the road at the bottom of Brickyard Lane to access the footpath the other side of the B4084, was dangerous due to an overgrown tree, Cllr Bessant was asked to report on WCC hub, with no lengthsman in Drakes Broughton currently Highways would need to address the issue.

It was noted that a resident had written to County Councillor Robinson with grave concerns over the danger of turning in/out from the Thornleigh site, Parish Council members advised they had strongly stated the dangers during the planning consultation where WCC highways had said the entrance would not pose a threat.

Cllr Grisdale advised that Severn Trent had been in the Village trying to map the drainage system but were finding it very difficult!

Cllr Butterworth asked for permission to share the drain survey the Parish Council had commissioned a few years ago with the developer of the field next to the Playing Field, she and Cllr Booker had met with the developer to represent residents views about the drainage solution and the housing mix. Members agreed to share the survey.

Cllr Pell advised there would be a public meeting at DBVH on 20th June regarding the buses and run by The Vale Transport Group to seek opinions of the bus users. WCC has granted funding for the Community buses for a further 6 months.

Cllr Butterworth advised that the clerk had written to the PROW team regarding c571 footpath in Pirton where a planning application will go directly across the permissive route used and the actual route on the definitive map is already impassable due to other development, so a route needs to be created /reinstated.

13.) HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None other than raised under representatives' reports.

14.) LENGTHSMAN- recruitment

Members agreed to advertise on CALC website and in the Villager.

There was a discussion regarding payment as B Arrowsmith had passed away early May, so April's tasks were still owed for. All members and the clerk expressed their sadness and shock and how deeply his services will be missed, let alone his helpful and friendly disposition.

15.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The Clerk and the Chair would prepare the submission for June edition.

16.) PLANNING

- a) Planning applications made to Wychavon: W/25/0120/PIP Allotments at (Os 9086 4705) Besford Road, Wadborough. Permission in principle for the construction of a single self-build dwelling. No comment.

W/25/00873/FUL Owl Barn, Stonehall Farm, Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Change of use of agricultural land to extend residential curtilage and reposition garage (retrospective) no comment.

b) Applications Approved: W/25/00836/AGR Kites Farm, Pirton, Steel portal framed building for storage of fodder and machinery.

c) Applications Refused: W/22/02403/LB Pool Cottage, Pirton. Replacement of 15 rotten windows to match installation of 10 new lights (retrospective)

d) Updates of existing developments –Thornleigh as discussed under item 13

17.)CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident request for a litter bin at the new pedestrian walkway to Sanctuary Estate. Members agreed there was a need in the area, and it was proposed by Cllr Pell and seconded by Cllr Bessant to purchase a post mounted one. (£175 plus emptying costs.)
- WDC – local government re-organisation briefing 23rd June, Cllr Pell and Cllr Abercrombie had asked to attend and would report back in the July meeting. County Councillor Adams advised that if more members wanted to attend, he would enable that to happen.

INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Parish Council Monthly meeting **Thursday 3rd JULY 2025** at Drakes Broughton Village Hall. The meeting will start at 7.30pm

Meeting closed: 9.30pm