

BROADWAY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES
of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held at 5 Russell Square, High Street, Broadway,
on Thursday, 20th March 2014, at 8.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors D. W. Folkes (Chairman), Dr. R. Clements,
A.A.L.Holmes, Mrs. A. Locker, B.M.Parmenter, N.Robinson,
Mrs. R. Rogers, Mrs. S. Stephenson, Mrs. J. Stock, J. Williams,
Mrs. C. Wilson
Also in attendance: County and District Councillor Mrs. E. Eyre,
Mr. J. Vincnt/Broadway Trust, Evesham
Journal, three members of the public

(1) **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Miss D. Hardiman and F. Penny
(apologies received and accepted)

(2) **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 21:03:13**
Following a proposal from Councillor Mrs. Wilson, seconded by Councillor Mrs.
Rogers, and unanimously agreed, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st
March 2013 were signed and dated as a true record.

(3) **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and reported as follows :-

The major concern within the village over the last twelve months had been the
number of proposed development applications submitted regarding sites in Leamington
Road, Kingsdale Court, Averill Close and Springfield Lane, and after I have given my
report Mr. Graham Love of the Broadway Trust will make a short presentation on these
matters.

The Parish Council set up a steering group to facilitate a Neighbourhood Plan for
the village, and to date has had its designated area approved by the District Council.

At the October meeting a presentation was given on the proposed threat of closure
of Broadway Fire Station, when details were given of the consultation taking place and
how local residents could respond. A public meeting was held on the 8th January at the
Lygon Arms Hotel which gave local residents the opportunity to hear a report from Chief
Fire Officer Yates, and to give their views and comments to the Fire Authority. Many
thanks must be given to local resident, Peter Reading, for all his help, hard work and
lobbying, to save the fire station. Following a meeting of the Fire Authority in February
it was agreed that the fire station should remain open for the time being, but its long term
future had yet to be fully resolved.

The County Council had to make severe cuts to its budgets, and as part of this a consultation on the future of the village library service was undertaken with the result that a community group was set up to take over the running of the library building thus allowing the County Council to maintain the library service as it stood. Councillor Miss Dominique Hardiman and the Clerk represented the Parish Council as part of this community group and a grant of £2,500 was agreed for 2014 to subsidise the running costs, and £1,500 per annum for the next four years. The Parish Council was supporting this project as it recognised how important the library was to a local community.

The Ashmolean Museum had now opened its doors and was attracting a good number of visitors to both the museum and the village in general, and the Clerk had organised a tour of the museum for members of the Parish Council who would be interested in seeing this exciting new attraction to the village.

The Visitor Management Group had liaised with Mr. Ed. Dursley from the County Council regarding a pilot signage project for the village which had resulted in the installation of new entrance signs, new brown signs, and the de-cluttering and redesigning of several other signs, and improvements were to be made within the next few months to the directional fingerposts within the village centre. It was hoped that this would enhance visitors' experience by directing them to the car parks and then on to the various attractions and shops.

2014 would see several events marking the remembrance of the start of the First World War, and the Parish Council had arranged restoration work to be carried out shortly on the War Memorial. A local resident, Mrs. Debbie Williamson, was undertaking research in order to publish a book on the parts played by local people during this time.

The Village Green saw a number of changes during 2013 with the removal of a large tree due to disease outside Robertos. In conjunction with the Broadway Trust, the Parish Council planted a replacement together with a number of other trees on the Green and surrounding grassed areas which were now developing well and would hopefully be enjoyed by this and future generations. It was also planned to replace a number of trees in the High Street, which had previously been removed, over the next few months. The post and railings around the Green had been repaired and repainted.

Other improvements around the village included the long awaited completion of the shop in the entrance to the arcade and the removal of the unsightly hoarding boards which made the area so much more attractive and welcoming; Sandcroft Avenue had at long last been resurfaced, and the coming months would see the installation of yellow lines along Station Road with restricted parking times.

The winner of the 2013 Community Award was Roger Bailey who helps to organise the annual Horticultural Show.

The Village Green was again well used throughout the year by local groups to help with fundraising. The vintage car show took place on a bright and sunny Saturday on the 8th June, when hundreds of visitors attended to see a mix of classic and vintage

cars. A special thank you went to Mr. Neil Hilton for organising this event. The weekend of 27th/28th July saw the village green and high street taken over by Broadfest, a food and music festival. Although the weather was not at its best for the entire event, many people, both visitors and residents, enjoyed themselves. Thanks were passed to Mr. Gary Thompson for the organisation of this event.

Over the past twelve months the Parish Council made donations and grants of over £10,000 to the following -

- Broadway Youth Activities £250.00
- Broadway Pilots £250.00
- Broadway Traders' Association (Christmas Lights) £500
- Broadway Newsletter £500
- St. Michael's Church (upkeep of graveyard) £1,000
- Evesham & Pershore Neighbourhood Watch £100
- Signpost £250
- Broadway Tourist Information Centre £500
- Evesham Volunteer Centre £500
- Wychavon Citizens' Advice Bureau £250
- Help for Heroes (donated by our Community Award Winner) £100
- Broadway Cricket Club £1,500
- Broadway Bowling Club £1,500
- Broadway Arts Festival £3,500

- and the Parish Council was also supporting Budgens by donating £1,000 to purchase a defibrillator, and had again laid a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

During last year our long serving Vice Chairman, Red Haslam, unfortunately resigned due to ill health, and Liam Keene moved from the area. My gratitude was given to both these former councillors for all their hard work, commitment and support which would be greatly missed. This had resulted in two vacancies on the Parish Council which were eventually filled through co-option. In total, eight worthy applications were received from which the two new councillors, Messrs. Barrie Parmenter and Antony Holmes, were elected. Both I and fellow councillors were very encouraged by the interest shown for these vacancies and hope that when the next election takes place in 2015 similar enthusiasm for serving on the Parish Council would be shown.

All of our councillors serve on various committees within the Parish Council and I thank them all for their time, support and commitment.

Finally, the Parish Council gave special thanks to our Clerk, Kevin, and Assistant Clerk, Gwen, for their continued hard work in running the office so well and for ensuring that all the agendas, minutes and other paperwork were forwarded in good time.

Report on Proposed Developments within Broadway:

Mr. Graham Love of Broadway Trust gave an overview of the current position regarding the Wychavon Development Plan. It was evident that there will be a further

increase in the number of houses required to be built within the District and applications for additional sites were being sought for allocation and then public consultation. As a result of this the District Council would not be able to agree a plan until at least 2015 which would leave everyone at risk to developers.

Mr. Love then gave an update on the specific sites within the village:-

Leamington Road – objections had been submitted regarding flood risk, AONB and the design of the care home building.

Kingsdale Court – had unfortunately been approved

Station Road – the District Council was investigating flooding and contamination issues and the Parish Council and Broadway Trust would be invited to participate in a master plan for the development regarding what the village wanted/needed for this site.

Averill Close – this was not an allocated site but an application had been received from a developer which had been refused by the District Council. It was understood that the developer may appeal against this decision.

Springfield Lane – a development of five dwellings had been put before the District Planning Committee, but due to issues concerning the decision it was felt that this application had not reached its final conclusion.

Mr. Love concluded, with a note of optimism, that although applications were being approved by the District Council for sites within the AONB, on the basis that on balance the requirement for a five year land supply overwhelmed AONB, this had now been challenged in the High Court, and in a recent case the decision was overturned in favour of AONB. Also, a government minister had stated that he was reaffirming green belt protection and implicit in that was AONB.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Love for his report and for all his work and commitment towards the fight against the proposed developments within the village.

(4) REPORT ON AUDIT OF COUNCIL ACCOUNTS TO 31:03:13:

The Clerk reported that the accounts to 31:03:13 had been approved by the Parish Council on 16:05:13 (page 1046 item 15 of the Minutes) and audited. Grant Thornton, the auditors, had indicated their approval on 11:09:13 and the Clerk had displayed the customary statement on the notice board. A copy of the audited accounts was available for inspection at the Parish Council office.

(5) ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY ELECTORS:

No other matters were raised.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25 pm