

BROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Cllr Nick Norton

Clerk – Mrs Bev Drew

Minutes of the Meeting of Broome Parish Council Held on Wednesday 2nd September, 2020 via ZOOM at 7:30pm

Present:-

Cllr Nick Norton (NN) (Chairman)
Cllr Don Billington (DB) (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Mark Billingham (MB)
Cllr Michael Clark (MC)
Cllr Warren Edwards (WE)

Also, present were Mrs Bev Drew (Clerk), District Councillors Marcus Hart (MJH) and Lisa Jones (LJ).

1. Apologies:-

Cllr Sherida Breeden (SB), due to holiday.
West Mercia Police.
District Councillor Ian Hardiman (IH) also conveyed apologies due to holiday.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:-

DB and MC in village hall as member of the committee.

3. Public Question Time:-

None.

4. To discuss application for co-option to fill a Casual Vacancy for a Councillor:-

The Chairman invited Mrs Amanda Allen to say a few words on why she would like to join the Parish Council. Amanda has lived in the Parish for more than 20 years and realises the importance of the Parish Council in representing the views of the residents and supporting the local community and the district councillors who represent Broome. She believes her experience as a Lawyer, Company Director and College Governor would be of value to the Parish Council and complement the experience and expertise of other councillors. The Clerk then moved Mrs Allen to the waiting room. Councillors all agreed that Mrs Allen would be an ideal candidate to fill the vacancy. Mrs Allen re-joined the meeting, it was proposed, seconded, and unanimously agreed to co-opt her to Broome Parish Council. Mrs Allen was welcomed by the Chairman and all Councillors and duly signed her declaration of acceptance of office.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 22nd July 2020:-

These were agreed as a true and accurate record and will be signed by the Chairman when Co-vid 19 restrictions allow.

6. Police Report:-

One incident at the end of July where youths gained access to the grounds of the nursing home and caused criminal damage.

7. District Councillor's Report:-

Councillor Mrs L Jones reported;

Local Issues

We have been dealing with the usual routine casework, reporting litter and fly tipping on the main A roads and along the country lanes.

Wyre Forest Issues

The updated Public Space Protection orders will be discussed at this month's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting along with the Property Flood grants.

The enforcement team have successfully charged a fly-tipper for dumping rubbish along our lanes and highways. We as members are continually working with the enforcement team regarding various environmental issues that blight our villages.

There has been a campaign launched to discourage the use of laughing gas drug abuse within our communities to raise awareness about the dangers and the related litter in our public spaces.

Local voluntary groups and charitable organisations in Wyre Forest can now apply for a grant between £200 and £500 to help towards the cost of projects that benefit local people. The information can be found on the council website; you can also contact ourselves as local members for assistance. There is also funding available from Worcester County Council for local groups and organisations, this can also be found on the County Councils website.

The District Council are backing the Worcestershire County Council's bid to improve walking and cycling routes within our district. A motion was passed at July's Full Council Meeting welcoming the positive impact increased cycling and walking has had on residents' health and wellbeing. A second application is currently being put together by the County Council.

The District Council has created a Wyre Forest Community Lottery for local causes and organisations to benefit from. There will be a virtual event taking place on Wednesday 16th September at 11am, the District Council will be inviting organisations to express an interest in attending. If there are any local groups that you feel would benefit from this funding, please contact the new Lottery Manager Rachel Symons. The first draw will take place at the end of November and tickets will cost £1 with 60pence going towards local causes. The draw will be weekly with a jackpot of £25,000 for a matching sequence of six numbers, other prizes being £2,000, £250, £25 or three free tickets. The council will not make any money out of the lottery.

Staff and members have been asked to complete a survey regarding the implications of home working and attending meetings on zoom by the Chief Executive, we will inform you of the results and any updates.

We have received updated statistics regarding the number of fatalities from the Covid virus for the Wyre Forest District, there has been a total of 116. We would like to remind residents to continue being careful and ensure that social distancing is still maintained and respected for the safety of all residents and the vulnerable people in our community.

Wyre Forest House is still closed to the public as is the Green Street hub save for dealing with housing and homelessness applications.

8. County Councillor's Report:-

Councillor M J Hart reported;

Broome Issues

Further to my September, December and January reports when Paul Green said that the work regarding Watery Lane and the reinstatement of the bank where the road meets the stream would

take place in the Autumn, I have chased him repeatedly throughout the lockdown period as it hasn't been done. He assures me it will be done this Autumn.

Regarding Egg Lane and the flooding issues and my update in September 2019 and December 2019, Paul has liaised with NW Water Management and he feels that they cannot assist having spoken to them and they could not force a third party landowner to do anything in this instance and he is considering what highways can do, giving consideration to Bill's suggestion to 'shave off' some of the road service to ensure the highway can drain better. Again, nearly a year on and still no progress from WCC highways despite me pressing and I did at my last meeting with Paul in July raise Bill's suggestion again and he has promised to look at this further.

Likewise, the land drainage issue further up Egg Lane regarding the bund and water and silt run off onto the highway is still ongoing.

The Parish Council will recall that I hosted a site visit with Bill, Paul Green, Nick, Don, Kirsten Huizer from NW Water Management and John Palethorpe regarding the dredging of his brook to ensure the A450 and Broome Lane does not flood. Strictly speaking this is a landowner responsibility and Kirsten has said there are no longer any grants available to assist with this. John is going to speak to his contractor for a price for this to be dug out with a digger and he will liaise with Nick. We also looked at trees which John says are highways trees and not on his land and Paul will look at the highway limit to confirm the position. Hopefully Nick can update. I can confirm that the trees are on WCC land but not on designated highway. WCC as corporate landowner are satisfied there are no issues at present.

Wyre Forest Issues

The public realm work for Kidderminster Town Centre is now completed and Worcester Street is open.

Work on Kidderminster Train Station is complete and work continued through lock down and the station opened officially in July.

WCC highways have now started work on the Churchfields site with the creation of the spur road off the island which will take traffic out of town and again this carried on through lockdown and is now going ahead at a pace.

Consideration is currently being given as to what type of congestion reduction scheme will be implemented on the A449 Hoobrook island. This should benefit residents wanting to come in and out of Kidderminster onto the A449 before going onto the A442, especially at peak times. Since my last report further capital money is proposed to be allocated to this scheme to ensure it is completed over the next 12 months and indeed £1.3 million has been secured from the Local Enterprise Partnership.

During lockdown, when highway liaison visits were able to resume Paul and I looked at the A450 and Broome Lane and I have repeated my request for more warning signage as you come into Broome from the Hagley direction and also to look at reducing the speed limit potentially from the National Speed limit to 50 mph in this stretch. Paul has requested the limit is reviewed.

Strategic Issues County Wide

Highways and resurfacing work continue at a pace.

The libraries are now re-open.

The two household waste sites in Wyre Forest are re-open, albeit the Worcester Road site requires you to book a slot online in advance.

Schools start back this week in their 'bubbles' and all should be fully open by the start of next week.

The County Council has now completed the changes to its management structure with the Directors and Asst. Directors in place, in particular with the new Director for Adult Social care, now the Director of People, Paula Furnival in place and a new Asst. Director Legal and Governance Abraham Ezekiel in place (replacing Simon Mallinson who retired in February).

9. Lengthsman's Update:-

NN, having spoken to the Lengthsman, reported overhanging trees at Hackman's Gate by the traffic lights have now been cut back. The Lengthsman has reminded that if the Parish Council wish to undertake bulb planting around the parish and in front of the gateways this will need to be done shortly. NN has briefly looked on the web for prices for daffodils and snowdrops. After discussion it was agreed to have a mixture of both. County Councillor Marcus Hart very kindly offered to give £200.00 from his Community Leadership Fund for the purchase of these bulbs. DB to check prices and liaise with the Chairman to purchase as many bulbs as possible for £200.00. The Lengthsman has also advised the pathway just up from John Palethorpe's drive is badly broken up. MH will do a site visit with the Highways Liaison Engineer and get this inspected.

10. Planning Report:- (to consider the spreadsheet, note any applications since the last meeting and agree on a proforma for Councillors to provide comments to Clerk)

Planning Spreadsheet had been previously circulated. Clerk reported on planning since the last meeting;

20/0250/Full (08.04.2020) GLASSHOUSE SITE, SOUTH OF HACKMANS GATE LANE, Demolition of existing building and erection of four dwellings with associated access and landscaping.

No objection and Recommend Approval. Approved 02.07.2020.

20/0291/HOU (23.04.2020) MANOR HOUSE FARM, HACKMANS GATE LANE, CLENT, Detached 3 car garage with accommodation over. Application revised 22.05.2020.

There was some concern that the garage is in front of or very close to the building line. It is unusual for garages to be built significantly in front of a dwelling when in a Green Belt setting. This would have been a material concern in respect of the original drawings provided with the application. As the garage design has been changed with the scale and height substantially reduced the original concerns are significantly less. Based on the revised drawings G02 Rev B (not the original drawings) the PC has no objections to this application. Approved 24.06.2020.

20/0349/HOU (22.05.2020) MANOR HOUSE FARM, HACKMANS GATE LANE, CLENT, Erection of single storey rear, side and front extensions, including demolition works.

As long as the proposed extension is within the limits allowed by WFDC Planning Policy and National Planning Policy the PC have no objections to this application. Approved 02.07.2020

20/0376/PNH (21.05.2020) MANOR HOUSE FARM, HACKMANS GATE LANE, CLENT, Single storey rear extension.

No Comments. Granted 17.06.2020

20/0389/HOU (27.05.2020) CURRAGHMOOR, BROOME LANE, Proposed front boundary wall and entrance gates.

Broome Parish Council recommend approval but request a condition to protect the trees during construction as the proposed works are very close to trees. Approved 24.06.2020

20/0406/NMA (02.06.2020) BROOME CROFT, REDHALL FARM ROAD, BROOME, Non-Material Amendment to Planning Approval 19/0321/Full to alter side elevation by lowering the proposed roof light location.

No Comments. Approved 06.08.2020

20/0646/S73 (19.08.2020) YIELDINGTREE NURSERY, WATERY LANE, YIELDINGTREE, BROOME, Variation of Condition 1 attached to extant Planning Permission WF/0629/93 to allow minor amendments to appearance and internal layout of approved office building.

Comments to be submitted by 12th September 2020.

The Clerk advised that since the introduction of the new IDOX planning system all comments are submitted online and the paper proforma that was previously used for comments is no longer used. It was agreed that the Clerk draft a new proforma, the Planning Committee can then complete comments and return to Clerk who can upload onto the planning system and the paper copy can be kept on file for Parish Council records.

It was duly agreed that NN, DB and MB would be the planning sub-committee for the next quarter.

11. Financial Report:- (to consider the spreadsheet and bank statements since the last meeting and approve invoices for payment)

The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated and it was in accordance with the bank statements. The current bank balance is £10,872.21 (Community Account) and £953.92 (Business Money Manager Account)

There were no accounts for approval.

12. Consultation Responses:-

- a) PCC Town and Parish Council Survey. – Clerk to complete.
- b) Consultation on the Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service draft Community Risk Management Plan (2021 – 2025). Clerk to circulate link for Councillors who wish to respond.

13. Storage of Physical Parish Council Documents:-

Clerk to contact Worcestershire County Council HIVE Archive Service to ascertain cost and procedure for storage of Parish Council documents. It was agreed all documents should be stored securely at the same location.

14. Website Accessibility Requirements:-

From 23rd September 2020 all local council websites should have a plan of action and an accessibility statement in place to comply with Website Accessibility requirements to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to websites to ensure they are accessible to people with various disabilities.

Clerk to draft and circulate.

15. Correspondence:-

Schedule of Correspondence circulated and duly noted.

16. Councillor's Reports:-

- a) Smart water – NN reported that he had met Estelle and Frank from the Smart water team and installed 10 signs around the Parish. He will document the locations and forward to the Clerk.
- b) Bench – DB reported that he had received a quote from Classic Memorial Benches which has been circulated to all. They are not cheap, but they are bespoke and extremely high quality. It was agreed DB obtain further quotes for a 5ft bench to replace the stolen bench in order to compare prices.

17. Parish Winter Grit:-

MB reported that there is currently one and a half tonnes of Parish Grit remaining which is enough stock for this winter. NN will liaise with the Lengthsman regarding topping up the grit bins.

18. To agree 2021 Meeting Dates and note date of next meeting – 2nd December 2020:-

The Chairman suggested;

27th January 2021, 28th April 2021, 1st September 2021, 1st December 2021

MJH advised that historically only the 1st or 5th Wednesday was available for the Parish Council to use therefore dates in January and April may need to be changed.

Clerk will contact Carol Hingley, booking officer for availability and advise.

DB advised that it is hoped the hall will be reopened by the end of October. All users will be contacted before the end of September.

Meeting closed at 8:40 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....