

BROOME PARISH COUNCIL

**Chairman – Cllr Nick Norton
Clerk – Mrs Bev Drew**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Broome Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM

1. Welcome:- The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present:- Cllr Nick Norton (Chairman), Cllr. Don Billington, Cllr. A Allen, Cllr. Mark Billingham, Cllr Sherida Breeden and Cllr. Warren Edwards.

Also, present were Mrs. Bev Drew (Clerk), Mr Marcus Hart (County/District Councillor), Mrs Lisa Jones (District Councillor) David Pheysey, Diana Pheysey, and 6 members of the public.

2. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 27th May 2020:-

These were agreed as a true and accurate record and will be signed with no amendments.

3. Chairman's Annual Report:- The Chairman presented his report.

Overview

Well, who could have predicted the year we have just had? Having reported last year in my overview that business in general was very much business as usual other than the last quarter at which we had been locked down. I believe none of us would have expected Covid-19 still be with us today some twelve months on and still having to hold meetings remotely. We have all had to learn new IT skills which at times have been somewhat frustrating for some with slow broadband connections and those laptops having minds of their own. I hope that this maybe be the last one and when we meet again it will be in person. I trust that you and those close to you have remained safe in all of this and for those that have been brushed by this awful virus, I send out on behalf of Broome Parish Council our wishes to give you the strength to cope with it in whatever form it may have touched you.

Membership

The year started with us being one off a full team but with Amanda Allen applying for the vacancy early on and being co-opted in we quickly achieved full strength.

Administration.

Beverley drew our new Clerk has now completed her first year with us albeit almost as a virtual Clerk due to covid-19 restrictions much to her frustrations I believe and is yet to have met us all in person. I would like to thank her for an excellent job in keeping everything flowing in these challenging times. The PC agreed a modest increase in the precept of £500.00 (10%) which keeps us in line with our budgetary planning and with the tax base increase this precept will show as a 7.8% increase on the tax notice. The signs to announce that Broome Parish is protected by smart water were distributed at various key points around the parish boundary with the help of Estelle and her colleague from West Mercia police. Cheque signatories have highlighted some issue with the information held at the bank being different to what the Parish Council believed to be the

position. BD is trying very patiently with the Bank to resolve this and hopefully will be sorted by the middle of the year. The new bench to replace the old one that was stolen has been ordered, delivered and assembled but remains to be installed. Dog Bin and Litter Picking Bill Warden continues to carry out the litter picking, and the level of rubbish is manageable, let us see how this impacts us following the end of lock down but I am sure Bill will keep on top of it, thank you Bill. NN continues to monitor the dog Bin in the village and empty when required. This is an operation that Bill does not wish to take on so a solution to this will need to be found in the long term. Fly tipping continues to be an issue for all Parish Councils but the reporting system in place seems to work well for Broome and the unsightly rubbish is removed quickly.

Lengthsman

Bill Waldron continues to do a fantastic job for us as our Lengthsman and has kept on top of the job as best as possible given the restrictive practices that had to be adopted due to the Covid-19 restrictions. There are still a few projects that Bill, and I have been working on that have not been completed yet but hopefully these can be addressed in the early part of this year.

Planning

Twenty-one applications commented on this year, very similar to the previous year. The new portal for comments and applications has now been live for one year and while we use this for our submissions, we continue to run another sheet for PC records. Training in this area is important and I would encourage PC members to consider looking at what is available as advertised by CALC and if they wish to take advantage of this to let the Clerk know.

Parish Support

The PC continues to support both the church and the village Hall by granting the church yard £250.00 and the village hall the same.

General

The discussions with Mr. Palethorpe reference the brook had reached a conclusion and it was agreed that there would be no financial support from council and that Mr. Palethorpe would take it upon himself once his contractor had fixed his digger to clear out the brook on his land from the roadside to the small bridge crossing his drive. As of to date, I do not believe this has been carried out. Warren Edwards our footpaths officer, who asked to step down last year but stayed on with additional help from Mark Billingham covering paths nearer his home and reporting in to WE. Warren still wishes to step down and a possible replacement has been found subject to the roll being able to be carried out by someone who is not a PC member and once WE has explained the roll in more detail, they are still willing. This should evolve over the next 3 months. The Bank in Watery Lane has finally been finished, driven by the PC in the main, Marcus Hart supporting us through the Council and in particular the organizational skills of MB to bring it all together. The daffodil bulbs even though planted rather late made a better show than expected and some snow drops have also been planted and we should see the benefit of these next year all being well.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Beverley Drew our new Clerk for all her work this year especially as the whole of her first year has been remote and yet to meet all PC members in person, thank you. I would like to thank Don for all his help and support over the past twelve months as Vice Chairman. Thanks to the County Council and District Council for their continued support, attendance to our meetings

and valuable information to what is going on locally and beyond. Thank you to Estelle and her colleague for the help given to install the Smart water signs and to the Local Police force for the time and reports given over the year keeping us informed of issues local to us and the surrounding areas.

Finally, to all PC members thank you for your continued help and support in what has been a very challenging year for all sorts of reasons. I truly look forward to being able to get back to our meetings in the Village hall by our next meeting, fingers crossed.

4. Reports to Annual Parish Meeting

a) Broome United Charities - Update and annual report - Mrs. Diana Pheysey

Broome United Charities was set up to provide Christmas parcels to the sick and needy of Broome Parish. The trustees are Diana Pheysey, Nicola Speakman and the Vicar. The Income for the year ending 28th February 2021 was £161.46 and Expenditure for December 2020 parcels £145.85. Trustees met once during the year on 20th November 2020. Gifts were distributed, socially distanced on 21st December 2020 to 13 recipients. The gifts consist of food hampers and smaller Christmas Hampers containing store cupboard items.

b) Chaddesley Education Foundation – Mr. David Pheysey

The Foundation was set up to provide financial support to the school and to provide bursaries for those under 25 years of age and normally resident within The Ancient Parish of Chaddesley Corbett for financial assistance towards the costs associated with their attendance at or participation in activities at any school, university or other place of learning or for financial assistance with the costs of preparing for entry to any profession, trade or calling. Support for beneficiaries in pursuing music and performing arts is particularly encouraged. The Trust is able to provide assistance with the cost of travel.

During the financial year, the Charity provided grants to Chaddesley Corbett Endowed Primary School amounting to £42,000 and individual bursaries totalling £13,000 to qualifying individuals under the age of 25. In the main, these bursaries were to university/college students.

Grant awards were made to three applicants from Broome Parish.

Following a protracted planning application, the Charity has this last year refurbished the Old Grammar School for residential use. This will be let as part of the property portfolio to generate income. The property of the trust has ongoing expenses with replacement windows being a major expense in this current financial year. The school itself is proposing to become a mainstream autism base which it is currently consulting on.

The school has continued to provide education under challenging conditions this last year.

The school reports that the Trusts assistance with before and after school care facilities has been particularly important to making the school attractive to prospective parents.

As a result, the number of pupils continues to gradually rise.

Governance

A board of Trustees comprising of eleven members during the year meet at least every two day operations of the Charity. The Clerk is closely in contact with the Trustees and prepares the papers for the full committee meetings. The Trustees are advised and assisted in respect

of the on-going maintenance of its property portfolio by a professional local agent. The professional qualifications/expertise of individual trustees include: legal, real property, financial investment, business management, teaching, music, community leadership and agriculture.

5. Residents Open Forum

A resident addressed the Parish Council with several concerns over Planning Application 21/0154 Change of use from Agricultural to Equine Use at land at Os 390286 278171, Redhall Farm Road, Broome. Concerns were expressed over Highways Access and level of traffic, Tree Cutting in Conservation Area, Asbestos, debris in stream, moving of footpath and rubbish in field.

The Chairman invited Cllr Mark Billingham, Parish Council Planning Committee to respond. He advised that the Parish Council had sent a list of questions to Richard Jennings, Case Office seeking clarification on several points as the application was lacking in information. The primary concern of the Parish Council is vehicular access to the site and significant increase to traffic. The volume of traffic and more particularly the significant increase in traffic generated by equine use raises serious safety concerns both onto Redhill Farm Road and through Broome Village itself. Broome PC are aware of WCC Highways concerns and share these and therefore recommended refusal. Richard Jennings has advised that the applicant intends to engage a traffic engineer and as the applicant has joined this meeting he may, if prepared, be able to provide more information on this and answers to resident's questions.

The applicant advised that he had sought pre application advice regarding change of use before he purchased the land. The tree officer has been to the site and he has had a tree survey undertaken, no trees have been cut in the Conservation Area. He agreed the asbestos needs to be removed and is trying to get this done and the rubbish by the field. He confirmed he does not intend it to be a commercial livery and he wants to work with the Community. He is more than happy to meet with local residents and give out his telephone number if anyone wants to contact him.

Residents Questions to be continued in Public Question Time at Annual Council Meeting following this meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....