

BROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Cllr Nick Norton

Clerk – Mrs Bev Drew

Minutes of the Meeting of Broome Parish Council Held on Wednesday 1st September, 2021, 7:30pm, Broome Village Hall

Present:-

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

Also, present were Mrs Bev Drew (Clerk), District/County Cllr Marcus Hart (MJH), District Cllr Lisa Jones, Parish Lengthsman Mr Bill Waldron (BW) and PCSO Alice Owen-Jones (AOJ).

1. Apologies:-

Unanimously agreed and consented to the absence of Cllr Amanda Allen (AA) and Sherida Breeden (SB) due to holiday, also apologies received from District Cllr Ian Hardiman.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:-

DB in village hall as member of the village hall committee also traffic calming measures as family member lives in the area where the measures are proposed.

3. Public Question Time:-

Mr Paul Hingley spoke on activity behind Broome House with concerns being expressed over a stile that has been removed also installation of CCTV without any signage being erected. He expressed thanks to County Councillor MH for getting waste removed.

The Chairman suggested Mr Hingley contact landowner direct to discuss concerns.

MH will report on Stile/CCTV in County Councillor Report.

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

An application for the vacancy had been received from Mr George Brown and had been circulated to all Councillors. Mr Brown introduced himself and said he had lived in the Parish for 9 years and would like to join the Parish Council to support the local community and protect the beautiful and unique character of the village.

NN proposed Mr Brown be co-opted and this was unanimously agreed.

Mr Brown duly completed and signed his declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 5th May 2021:-

These were agreed as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

6. Police Report:-

Report had been circulated.

Police Ref; 00291_I_04052021 – Theft – Egg Lane - Theft of a sheep from a field on Egg Lane between 3rd and 4th May.

Officers have also done speed enforcement in various locations across all our beats over the past month. The below areas were included with other areas that were targeted, and the results are listed below of those issued Traffic Offence Reports (TOR) across the East & North areas

IN EXCESS OF SPEED LIMIT

Castle Road, Cookley - x 1

A449 Wolverhampton Road – x 2

A456 Birmingham Road – x 1

A449 Chester Road South – x 1

A456 Hodge Hill – x 2

Stanklyn Lane – x 10

Canterbury Road x 0

Hoo Road x 3

Speed enforcement will continue to be on our agenda over the coming months.

Council confirmed Policing Priorities to remain as theft of livestock, theft of crops and increased police patrols in rural parish of Broome.

Safer West Mercia Plan – Clerk and Chairman to complete.

7. District Councillor’s Report - District Councillor Lisa Jones reported;

Report had been circulated;

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. Marcus has reported the litter to be collected on the A450.

Regarding landowner Mr Lampard, we have requested that Alvan Kingston look fully into the tree removal and branch removal. He is entirely satisfied with the work, no trees were protected and no planning consent was required for the work. We have liaised with the Environment Agency and Worcester Regulatory Services regarding pollution and waste and are assured that the waste has been removed.

District Issues:

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

Green Street have again been experiencing staff shortages due to COVID Isolation and illness and have had limited operatives working in the depot. They have worked incredibly hard to continue with bin emptying and general tasks including grass cutting, litter picking and collecting fly tipping from the lanes.

Localism – We are extremely concerned that our Parish Councils are being asked to take on litter picking and parish bin emptying contracts without being given grants to assist with the

additional financial expenditure. We will continue to campaign on behalf of our residents and Parish Councils on this matter.

District Council committee meetings are now face to face, the first Planning Committee Meeting was held in August which Marcus and Lisa sit on.

Cllr Helen Dyke who is part of the Progressive Alliance is the new Leader of the District Council and Cllr Graham Ballenger is the Deputy Leader. Cllr John Aston is the new Leader of the Council and Cllr Peter Dyke is the Deputy Chairman.

At full council, members voted on the revised management structure, the timetable for implementation as well as details of further reviews which will be taking place. The Chief Executive is continuing to be the head of paid services and head up the management team. Members attended a special forum with the Corporate Director for Economic Prosperity and Place regarding an update on the Levelling up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund for Kidderminster Town Centre, he also updated members on income generation proposals. A planning application has been submitted for the complete re-development of the former Magistrates Court in Kidderminster. It will transform the building into a cultural and creative hub which would create performance and production spaces, this has been made possible through the future high streets fund.

We are extremely pleased that the Environmental Enforcement Team have a new Crime Not to Care Fly Tipping campaign which is to assist residents avoid accidentally passing their waste to rogue traders and contributing to fly tipping. We hope that this campaign will educate residents and ensure that checks are made to ensure rubbish is disposed of legally. The Neighbourhood Watch Team have launched a new Protect your Dog from theft campaign with the increase of recent dog thefts, more information on the campaign can be found on www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourpooch .

We recommend that residents sign up to West Mercia Police's Neighbourhood Matters for neighbourhood watch and local police alerts. The link to register is www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk. It is very quick and easy and has a huge amount of information.

There is a new scheme from our local libraries to tackle loneliness which include, Library Service at Home where books are picked and delivered to residents at their home, Connect Bubbles which are small chat groups using zoom and Reading Friends which are one to one calls for residents who would prefer to chat over the telephone. Residents can sign up to this fantastic service by emailing ReadingFriends@worcestershire.gov.uk or visiting www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ReadingFriends or by telephoning 01905 822722.

8. County Councillor's Report - Councillor M J Hart reported;

Report had been circulated;

As this is my first report since the May County Council elections firstly let me say I am delighted to have been re-elected for a further 4-year term and will do all I can to assist you on County Council matters.

Broome Issues

Egg Lane flooding issues are ongoing but I am determined to tackle them.

I am delighted to report that since the May meeting I have made significant progress on the issue of the lay-by outside Cloisters and it has been agreed that this can be closed off, there will be soil and it will be seeded and the lay-by will be kerbed. This scheme may even be done as soon as October/November but I am awaiting from WCC highways, a date when it will go into the work programme and will update when I hear.

I have held a further site meeting since the May meeting and WCC highways are considering the speed limit in this area being reduced from national speed limit to 50mph and I continue to push but it does take time. The police advise me that RTC's over recent months in this location have not been caused by speed but by driver error. More yellow backed junction warning signage from the Hagley direction is also planned.

I have been in touch with WCC public rights of way team (PROW), regarding a new stile that was installed by the new landowner Mr. Lampard and also the path being moved. This is as a result of being contacted by several local residents with concerns about this. They did advised that:-

The landowner doesn't need our permission to move the path back to the correct line (it's a good thing they have) and there's no legal obligation for them to provide access for dogs – ideally they should have spoken to us though so we could ensure everything was done correctly. We weren't aware of the work happening so we are going to pop to the site to make sure everything is ok. The stile isn't ideal but in the scheme of things it's not something we would normally consider an issue.

Should residents want to apply for a DMMO there is more info here:

Definitive Map Modification Orders | Recording, Changing and Closing Public Rights of Way | Worcestershire County Council”

I have recently been advised by the local residents that a stile has been removed and have passed this onto WCC PROW and the update at the time of writing this is that they are meeting the landowner tomorrow (Wednesday) and will advise me of the outcome and so I should be able to update on this matter orally at the meeting.

There have been issues regarding CCTV installation in this area and I have given some general advice on this matter.

Other matters such as trees and waste should be dealt with in the DC report.

Whilst not in the parish of Broome, I have finally been able to persuade WCC highways to come up with a scheme to tackle speeding on the B4188 Belbroughton Road below the parish boundary at the bridleway to the Gladstone Place area. I have consulted by way of a personal letter to all households who live in the parish of Blakedown who live directly on the road. I haven't directly written to houses on the road in the Parish of Broome as I have to draw the line somewhere and there will be many, many residents who use this road from a number of neighbouring parishes but what I have done is I have sent all of the details to the clerk and would be keen to have your views so I can consider them as part of my consultation responses when I discuss the matter with WCC highways.

I am also aware of a serious RTC on the border of the parish of Hagley and Churchill and Blakedown at the Stoney Lane/Broome Lane/A456 junction on 24th August at about 8am involving a car and a motor cyclist. I saw the aftermath and road closures first-hand as I was driving into Birmingham myself that morning for an appointment. Thus, whilst not in the parish itself I know it affected Broome for most of the day as the A450 was the diversion route and I know Hackmans Gate was quite bust for most of the day. Thankfully this is was not a fatality. I have been briefed orally on how the accident occurred but await formal feedback from the police report and what the cause of the accident was.

Wyre Forest Issues

As reported previously, the additional funding for the Hoobrook island has now been agreed as part of the budget and we should see this scheme commence this year to tackle this major congestion hotspot in Kidderminster. This work which is a £3.6 million project is now well under way and will see the 3 A road arms be signalised.

Strategic Issues County Wide

I started by saying I was delighted to have been re-elected.

As you will be aware, elections took place across Worcestershire on Thursday 6th May for all 57 Divisions. The make up of the new Council is the Conservatives have 45 seats, up from 40 in 2017,

Labour have 3 seats, down from 10 in 2017, the Liberal Democrats have 4 seats, up 1 from 2017, the Greens have 3 seats, up 1 from 2017, the Independents have 2 seats, up 1 from 2017 and Health Concern lost their 1 seat.

Locally in Wyre Forest the Conservatives held the 8 seats they already had and won the remaining 2, one from the Liberal Democrats (Cllr. Fran Oborski) and one from the Independents (Cllr. Mary Rayner).

I have been re-appointed as Cabinet Member for Education.

MH commented that he was pleased that progress has been made on layby – hopefully October/November this year it will be closed. He has been in touch with Phil Coulson, Public Rights of Way regarding issues with Stiles. With regard to CCTV MH advised that Mr Lampard will have to comply with GDPR requirements and he will e mail him with concerns expressed. The traffic calming consultation has been well received, overall most Blakedown residents are in favour of the scheme.

9. Potential Traffic Calming Scheme – Belbroughton Road, Blakedown:-

All agreed that the scheme should be supported.

10. Lengthsman's Update:-

BW reported on issues with blocked gullies and had provided the Chairman with a map showing these.

MH advised he had received an e mail from cabinet member for highways regarding longstanding issues with drains, he has raised the blockages on A450 and will report the issues raised by the Lengthsman.

BW reported broken up footpath at back of oak trees by John Palethorpe. MH will bring Paul Green (Highways Liaison Engineer) to meet Bill on site to review.

DB asked BW to check manholes outside village hall following recent flooding issues.

BW reported old Elm Trees on right coming down Hackmans Gate going towards Barnett Hill are completely dead - MH to check if on private land or highways.

11. Planning Report:- (to consider the spreadsheet and note any applications since the last meeting)

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

258 21/0353/S73

258 (1) 21/0353/S73 (Revised) YIELDINGTREE NURSERY, WATERY LANE, BROOME:

Amendment to the approved site boundary of Planning Permission 20/0250/FUL to match the final legal land purchase boundary.

259 21/0423/HOU 2 BROOME MEADOW COTTAGES, REDHALL FARM ROAD, BROOME:

Single storey rear extension.

260 21/0527/HOU DEVONSHIRE HOUSE, 1 MANOR GARDENS, HACKMANS GATE, CLENT:

Erection of boundary wall and installation of new vehicular access.

261 21/0648/HOU PINELANDS, WORCESTER ROAD, CLENT:

Replace existing attached outbuildings and garage with a two-storey extension, with the addition of a detached garage.

262 21/0658/PNH WINDLEHURST, BELBROUGHTON ROAD, HACKMANS GATE, CLENT:

- Proposed single storey rear extension.
- 263 21/0748/HOU FOREST GREEN, BROOME LANE, BLAKEDOWN:
Proposed garage.
- 264 21/0822/CLP YIELDINGTREE COTTAGE, WATERY LANE, YIELDINGREE, BROOME:
Two storey rear extension (For Information Only)
- 265 21/0865/TCA BROOME FARM, BROOME LANE
Works to a tree in a Conservation Area - Birch x 2: Crown lift both trees by removing branches with a diameter of no more that 10cm, to give a 4 metre clearance of the nearby dwelling.

After discussion it was agreed Planning Committee would remain as DB, MB and AA.

12. Financial Report:-

- a) To consider the spreadsheet and bank statements since the last meeting and approve accounts for payment.

The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated, and it was in accordance with the bank statements. The current bank balance is £12,476.99 (Community Account) and £954.04 (Business Money Manager Account).

- b) Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

Unanimously Approved;

Already Paid;

Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman April 21)	135.00
Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman May 21)	45.00
Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman June 21)	45.00
Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman July 21)	67.50
Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman August 21)	90.00

For Approval;

Mrs B J Drew (Expenses 1st April 21 – 31st August 21) 86.00

- c) HSBC Safeguard Review.

Clerk advised of letter received 16th August 2021 from HSBC regarding a further Safeguard Review that needs completing. Clerk has undertaken review and submitted to bank.

- d) To discuss updating bank mandate with two new signatories

Clerk to obtain required information from AA and WE, complete changes to bank mandate online form, print, obtain signatures and send to bank.

NN enquired on progress with GDPR documentation. Clerk has meeting with Peter Malley, Data Protection Officer on 23rd September to discuss at no additional cost to the Parish Council.

13. Localism Funding:-

Clerk advised of meeting of all Parish Councils with WFDC on 7th September, 2021 to discuss future Localism Funding. Wyre Forest are proposing removal of any financial contribution towards Litter Picking / Bin Emptying/ Grass Cutting when existing contracts expire. Broome PC have contract for Litter Picking which expires in 2023.

14. Correspondence:-

Schedule of Correspondence circulated and duly noted.

15. Councillor’s Reports:-

- a) Bench – Apologies from NN for delay, this will be positioned shortly.
- b) Footpaths - Clerk has re advertised for a footpath warden in Broadcast Magazine. WE reported on new stile at footpath 515 where it meets Broome Lane and gate at 556 where it goes to Holy Cross.
- c) Christmas Lights – MB has offered a tree, SB is researching lights and will report back via e mail prior to the next meeting. DB suggested perhaps lights could be powered from Village Hall.

16. Parish Winter Grit:-

BW advised there is plenty of grit currently in the grit bins and there is a bag in store.

17. To note date of next meeting – Wednesday 1st December 2021.

Dates for 2022 meetings were discussed and the following agreed;

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Wednesday 4th May 2022

Wednesday 7th September 2022

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Clerk to check on availability and book with Village Hall and confirm to all Parish, District and County Councillors.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....