

BROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Cllr Nick Norton

Clerk – Mrs Bev Drew

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

Present:-

Cllr Nick Norton (NN) (Chairman)
Cllr Don Billington (DB) (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Amanda Allen (AA)
Cllr Mark Billingham (MB)
Cllr Sherida Breedon (SB)
Cllr George Brown (GB)
Cllr Warren Edwards (WE)

Also, present were Mrs Bev Drew (Clerk), District Cllr Ian Hardiman, Parish Lengthsman Mr Bill Waldron (BW) PCSO's Kate Easthope (KE) Alice Owen-Jones (AOJ) Luke Worthington (LW) and Emily Joesbury Clarke (EJC).

1. Apologies:-

Apologies received from County/District Councillor Marcus Hart and District Councillor Lisa Jones.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:-

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

3. Public Question Time:-

Mr Paul Hingley spoke on the recent total blockage of the road to unload horses in Redhall Farm Lane. The lane was blocked for 25 minutes on 16th November and there is photographic evidence to prove this. Concern was also expressed again over the use of the land. Since the enforcement officer visited and advised no planning breach, hay is being taken out of the shed and fed to horses making it equine rather than agricultural use. There have also been issues with contractors damaging hedges and fences.

There was much discussion on this. District Councillor Ian Hardiman will take up the issues raised on the resident's behalf.

Mr Hingley also raised damage to kerbs /paving stones at the end of road by Top Banana. Clerk to send letter.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 1st September 2021:-

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

5. Police Report:-

NN welcomed the four officers to the meeting. Report had been circulated.

Burglary – Worcester Road, Clent (hackmans gate) – Police Ref 00197_I_29092021 – A residential property in this location has been broken into and cash stolen from within. It is believed that the offenders have forced open metal gates at the front of the property then climbed onto a low roof to force open a bedroom window. An untidy search was made. This took place sometime between 8.30am – 11.30am when the neighbour was alerted by the house alarm sounding. A silver car was seen loitering in the area prior to the break.

Suspicious – Broome Lane – police ref 00216_I_08092021 – At approx. 1145hrs on 8th September, 3 youths were seen in the garden to a property. They were then challenged by the resident and left the area in the direction of Thicknall Lane. No attempts were made to gain entry to the property.

KE reported the incident at Broome Lane was very unusual and the burglary at Hackman's Gate was a very untidy search. Hagley are seeing an increase in burglaries and there has just been one at Shenstone so rural areas are being targeted. She re-iterated to report anything suspicious and use your gut instinct. For anything happening there and then use 999, otherwise 101 or e mail. She also advised to think where you store valuables, not in obvious places.

Policing Priorities were agreed as Burglaries (and any suspicious behaviour), theft of livestock and increased police patrols in rural parish of Broome.

6. District Councillor's Report - District Councillor Ian Hardiman reported;

Report had been circulated, Cllr. Ian Hardiman gave a precis of the report;

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.

Cllrs Hardiman and Hart, met with the new landowners Mr and Mrs Lampard back in September to discuss issues raised by members of the public. Mr and Mrs Lampard very kindly showed us around their land and what work they had undertaken thus far.

They showed us the CCTV camera but in fact it was taking stills and was a wildlife camera and not undertaking live recording.

They would only be using the land for the grazing of horses.

They had undertaken work to fencing and installed a new gate. They had undertaken work on trees outside the conservation area and had fully discussed their proposals with the arboricultural officer at WFDC. We can confirm that he has confirmed to us that the tree work was outside of the conservation area. They have also liaised with the Parks and Countryside manager at WFDC regarding the stream and land adjacent to it and he has given them some very helpful advice on the local ecology.

All of the rubbish and asbestos that Mr Lampard discovered and his contractor initially moved to somewhere else on the site has been removed.

We can confirm that there has been no breach of planning law and that a planning enforcement officer has been out to inspect the land a couple of weeks ago and observed only horses grazing and no planning application for change of use is required for this.

Mr and Mrs Lampard were very amenable to us and were keen to stress that they simply wanted to be good neighbours but notwithstanding this they had had to call the police several times and had been the victims of unpleasant verbal and physical abuse of which the police had taken action.

Clearly our role is not to get involved in neighbour issues but merely ensure that anything that pertains to being a WFDC is dealt with.

Wyre Forest Issues

In respect of the WFDC's draft Local Plan, the main modifications consultation closed on 26th November and we await for the Local Plan going before Full Council next spring when there will be a vote to either approve or not approve the plan.

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

The Progressive Alliance are proposing reducing the Community Leadership fund, allocating all district councillors £500 in 2022-2023 to spend in their ward on community groups as opposed to £1,000 and then nothing the year after.

The Progressive Alliance are deleting a number of officer posts and they are not being replaced. They are proposing funding only statutory services moving forward and they continue to seek to transfer largescale assets and services to Town and Parish Councils. They want to transfer the full cost of litter picking (which is a statutory duty of WFDC) to Parish Councils and expect them to fund it 100%, which is something we oppose. They also want to pass on the responsibility of bin emptying too.

GB expressed thanks that Councillors had met with Mr Lampard but expressed concern over some of the comments made in the report. He re-iterated many concerns local residents have and that several have been verbally abused and had property damaged. Cllr. Hardiman responded again that he will take up all the matters raised and report back.

7. County Councillor's Report;

Report had been circulated; Clerk read for the benefit of the public.

Broome Issues

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

I am delighted to report that since our September meeting the layby adjacent to Cloisters on the A450 has been filled in, seeded and kerbed. I am pleased this has been done so promptly.

I am still pursuing a speed limit reduction at the Broome Lane crossroads area on the A450. I am pleased that yellow backed warning signage in both directions has now been installed.

Regarding the stile removed at the junction with the lane adjacent to Broome Meadow Cottages, this is to be replaced and the landowner is receiving the materials from WCC.

Other matters such as trees, planning and waste will 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. This scheme has now been installed. Whilst this scheme has not been unanimously supported by Belbroughton Road residents it has found favour with many as an attempt to slow cars down.

I am aware that since the serious accident on 24th August on the A456 at Broome Lane/Stoney Lane crossroads there was a further RTA involving a motor cyclist and a lorry. This has also been investigated by the police and in essence speeding was not the cause of the accident and driver error was the issue. Fortunately, the injuries to the motorcyclist were not as bad as first thought. The location is outside the Parish but thought you may like to know as they affected the Parish. Yellow backed warning signs have been installed and there is to be no further highway measures installed at this time.

Speeding in Hackmans Gate on the A450 has been raised with me by a local resident and I did say I would raise it with yourselves and also encouraged them to raise this issue with you. I don't know whether you would be able to ensure your VAS is located in this area or whether the Parish Council would consider either funding a fixed one as Churchill and Blakedown have done on Stakenbridge Lane or indeed a further moveable one. I would be prepared to fund 50/50 the costs with the Parish Council if they were minded to do this.

I would also encourage you to raise speed enforcement in this area as one of your priorities for the police Safer Neighbourhoods team to tackle.

I have ensured Paul Green has inspected the pavement on the B4188 from Knoll Hill in the direction of Hackmans Gate. This is ongoing.

Paul has inspected with Bill, all of the drains on the A450 and surrounding area and these are all clear but the pipes are blocked hence the system not working correctly. I am chasing Paul on this.

The dead Elm trees at the property Claremont adjacent to the A450/Hackmans Gate have been inspected. They are on private land and the landowner will be written to with the standard letter to ensure safe repair/removal. If nothing happens on this by the next meeting I will chase WCC highways again.

Wyre Forest Issues

The new Hoobrook island has now been operational with the traffic lights for nearly 2 months. It has had a number of safety audits undertaken. These only take place with the island fully operational to assess movements, flows and driver behaviour. There have been minor lining and signing modifications regarding the lanes. The flow is now working very well now that Comberton Hill is fully open again.

However, so far so good, it seems to be working very well and the lights having the desired effect and on Wilden Lane drivers able to pull out in the gap in the traffic as the lights change.

The Quarry at Lea Castle, Wolverley, has still not been determined yet.

There has been a pre-consultation engagement in Blakedown for an 87 space car park. We await a formal planning application. This has certainly divided opinion!

Strategic Issues County Wide

WCC is operating as normal now, with most staff working a hybrid from the office and at home. County Hall is open and had had video conferencing facilities installed.

NN advised dead Elm trees, some fallen into road after storm and pipes failing therefore drains not running properly. IH will report.

8. Lengthsman's Update:-

BW reported on meeting with Paul Green, WCC Highways, he has agreed footway in terrible condition and needs urgent attention.

BW has undertaken further investigation on drains in village by hall and managed to find tree roots which he has pulled out. DB reported no flooding since then, also ramp has helped.

Litter – normal amount, still mattress dumped going towards Hackmans Gate. BD will report.

9. 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;

266 21/0929/TCA THE STUDIO, CHURCH ROAD, BROOME:

Oak (front of property by the gate) – Prune to clear the building and crown lift 2.4 metres of car park and 5.2 metres to clear the entrance. 8 x unnamed trees – crown lift 2.4 metres clear of car park.

267 21/0938/HOU & 21/0939/LBC THE OLD RECTORY, BROOME LANE, BROOME:

New storage building for gardening tools and equipment.

268 21/0981/HOU ABBOTSFORD, BELBROUGHTON ROAD, HACKMANS GATE:

Conservatory to be demolished, proposed new brick-built extension to rear.

Proposed vehicular access, gates and boundary fence.

MB is standing down from the Planning Committee and was thanked by the Chairman for his work on this over the years. After discussion it was agreed Planning Committee would now be DB, GB and AA.

10. 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 £15,155.99 (Community Account) and £954.07 (Business Money Manager Account).

- b) Schedule of Accounts for Payment.

Unanimously Approved;

Already Paid;

| | |
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| Mr W Waldron (Lengthsman September 21) | £30.00 |
| Mr W Waldron | £420.10 |
| (Lengthsman October 21 - £60.00) | |
| (Litter - £360.10) | |

For Approval;

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| Mrs B J Drew (Paid for 1,000 Bulbs Bill White Nurseries) | £180.00 |
| Mrs B J Drew (Salary 01/04/21 – 31/03/22) | £1874.10 |
| HMRC (Tax) | £468.40 |
| Print Serve Limited (Payroll) | £20.00 |
| Mr Waldron (Lengthsman November 21) | £30.00 |
| Mr N Norton (Battery – VAS) | £71.66 |

- c) Items for Budget

DB asked for any suggestions to be sent to him. BD advised of request from Broadcast Magazine.

NN asked Clerk to obtain costs for a further VAS or a fixed sign.

- d) Updating bank mandate with two new signatories

BD reported mandate has now been completed on the correct form and will be sent to HSBC.

- d) GDPR Meeting

BD advised of meeting with Peter Malley, DM Payroll Services. Parish Council need a Retention Policy and Privacy Policy. BD will draft and circulate for approval at next meeting. These will then need to be put on the Parish Council website.

11. Localism Proposal from Wyre Forest District Council – Bin Emptying and Litter Picking:-

Clerk had circulated proposal received from Wyre Forest District Council which states that after the current agreement for Bin Emptying and Litter Picking ends on 31st March 2023, Wyre Forest District Council will not provide any further grant to Broome Parish Council. There are currently a number of discussions taking place in the District regarding this as Litter Picking is a statutory duty, under section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 of District Councils.

After discussion it was agreed there is no need to Precept for this for financial year 22/23 as funding will still be received and Broome will await outcome from discussions and actions from other Parish Councils whose agreement ends in March 2022.

12. Correspondence:-

Schedule of Correspondence circulated and duly noted.

It was unanimously agreed as all items are circulated by the Clerk to stop printing the e mails and circulating the list.

13. Queens Platinum Jubilee:-

BD had circulated information regarding Tree Planting for the Jubilee and MB also directed Clerk to look at Woodland Trust site. BD advised the Parish Council can apply for free trees. Trees are supplied twice a year in March and April. Applications need to include grid reference, landowner permission and land needs to be accessible to the public. There are various tree packs that can be applied for, up to a total of 420 trees.

Several locations were discussed, e.g. Hackmans Gate traffic lights, Broome Lane to Hackmans Gate (create a hedge and plant around bench) private land walking towards Redhall Farm, field on left before barns, does have a PROW through it, also possible re-instatement of hedgerows.

After discussion it was agreed BD arrange meeting with Paul Green, MH and NN to look at areas that would be acceptable to plant.

MB also advised that Hagley Rotary would be happy to contribute up to £750.00 to support some tree planting.

It was also agreed Parish Council to support purchase of new Union Jack flag for Church and consider budgeting for village event. (DB to consider in budget)

14. Councillor's Reports:-

a) Footpaths – WE reported;

504c towards 513 – new stile went in, Public Rights of Way are happy with it

501 at the A450 – new metal post with sign requested

512 at Hackmans Gate Lane - - New stile and sign

Stile next to Broome Meadow Cottage to be replaced by landowner

SE enquired if WCC provide stiles and if so, do they provide advice on siting as some are much too high for people and dogs. BD will check.

AA advised of a stile that has not been replaced, is old, and dangerous - WE will put on portal.

Despite advertising, no one has come forward to replace WE as footpaths officer.

b) Bulbs – BD purchased 1,000 bulbs. BW/NN to plant this Saturday at various locations.

c) Christmas Lights - Lights on Lime Tree is being done by resident who does not want any contribution.

SB advised that an additional bin had been requested by a parishioner however it was agreed not to pursue this.

SB/GB also commented on the external appearance of Dower Cottage. NN advised this had been referred to the Conservation Officer who have no objection to the works.

15. To note dates of next meetings;

Wednesday 2nd February 2022

Wednesday 4th May 2022

Wednesday 7th September 2022

Wednesday 7th December 2022

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....