

BROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Cllr Nick Norton

Clerk – Mrs Bev Drew

Minutes of the Meeting of Broome Parish Council Held on Wednesday 7th December 2022, 7:30pm, Broome Village Hall

Present:-

Cllr Don Billington (DB) (Vice Chairman)
Cllr A Allen (AA)
Cllr M Billingham (MB)
Cllr W Edwards (WE)

Also, present were Mrs Bev Drew (Clerk), Parish Lengthsman Mr Bill Waldron (BW) and PCSO Kate Easthope (KE).

1. Apologies:-

Apologies received from Chairman, Cllr N Norton due to commitments, Cllr. S Breeden due to holiday and Cllrs M Hart, I Hardiman and L Jones due to Wyre Forest District Council meeting. Cllr George Brown also gave apologies due to a positive co-vid test. The Council consented to his absence.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:-

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

3. Public Question Time:-

Two members of the public were present to speak on the Planning Application 22/0929 for a proposed new access at Gloucester House, Manor Gardens.

Mr John Street from No 9 is a neighbour of the applicant and fully supports the application due to concerns over safety with the existing shared driveway. Another parishioner commented that Highways are now satisfied with the application and several traffic statements have been undertaken.

After considerable discussion Cllr. A Allen advised that Broome Parish Council continues to have concern over this application and is seeking a number of points of clarification before making a recommendation on the application.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting 7th September 2022:-

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

Signs outside Broome House – Clerk to check progress with MH.

Clerk to further investigate options regarding .gov.uk e mail addresses.

5. Police Report:-

Report previously circulated; Nothing to report

PCSO Easthope advised of a recent spate of burglaries across Wyre Forest and vehicle crime and urged people to leave a light on in house and tv on when they go out.

DB questioned whether the commitment from police to attend burglaries had cascaded down, Kate advised Wyre Forest attend visit everyone following a burglary.

6. District Councillor's Report

Report had been circulated, Clerk read 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.

District Issues

As a result of the Local Plan being approved by a majority of councillors on WFDC on 26th April, planning applications on what was greenbelt land but has now been removed from the greenbelt are flooding in, thick and fast, including a field in Blakedown adjacent to the train station. This has still yet to be determined. There has also been the application for the additional 800 houses at Lea Castle submitted but this has yet to be determined.

Work has commenced in Worcester Street and the Kidderminster Town Hall following the successful grant of Government monies from the Future High Streets Fund and the Levelling up Fund.

WFDC currently has its free Christmas car parking offer on running from 19th November 2022 to 2nd January 2023 from 3pm in all WFDC owned car parks.

7. County Councillors Report:-

Report had been circulated – DB read report

Broome Issues

The pavement on the B4188 from Knoll Hill in the direction of Hackmans Gate has now been completely resurfaced.

The drains along the A450 reported via Bill have all been reported for inspection and unblocking and I am advised that these have been attended to.

The dead Elm trees at the property Claremont adjacent to the A450/Hackmans Gate have been inspected and WCC were in liaison with the landowner as they were obstructing the traffic lights.

In respect of the accidents at the Hackmans Gate traffic light junction WCC highways have liaised with the police and I am chasing what WCC propose to do to improve issues at this location.

Wyre Forest Issues

The planning application in respect of the Quarry at Lea Castle, Wolverley, which was refused by the WCC planning committee is now the subject of an appeal, the hearing date has yet to be set.

Regarding the Station Yard car park proposal for Blakedown, I was very pleased that I was able to persuade officers to review this project and consider the flaws in the current proposals in terms of size/scale/access but also importantly the need for robust evidence on need and the need for clear data on long term rail travel before such a scheme is embarked upon. WCC acknowledge that the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the landscape and the business case is no longer compelling. As part of LTP 5 (Local Transport Plan) which is the strategic travel document for rail and road travel across the County they will review matters then. This is several years away and of course doesn't mean even when reviewed there will be found to be a need then. This is certainly dividing public opinion.

Strategic Issues County Wide

The County Council is still involved in the response to the Coronavirus pandemic working with our other statutory partners even after restrictions come to an end.

Worcestershire has a fantastic website Here2Help which is a community action response to Coronavirus. There is also a dedicated phone number 01905 768053 for those without access to the

internet. There is now a Here2Helpbusiness scheme as well. (simply google Here 2 Help Worcestershire and it comes straight up.)

Here2Help is now assisting with the Ukrainian resettlement programme and working with the District Council and we now have Ukrainian families living in the Wyre Forest area. There are about 500 households in Worcestershire who are hosts, hosting over 1,000 Ukrainians.

The Government have announced additional monies for children's and adults social care in the next financial year. We are currently encountering in year pressures in adults social care and home to school transport, both mainstream and SEND.

The Government have increased the amount we can put up Council tax next year from 3% to 5%. An additional 1% is worth circa £2.8 million.

8. To discuss Localism Proposal:-

This had been deferred from the previous meeting.

Clerk advised of revised offer received from Wyre Forest District Council for Bin Emptying and Litter Picking which is 60% of current grant (£222.60) in 23-24 and 40% (£148.40) 24-25 and thereafter.

Agreed to accept this revised offer. Clerk to inform WFDC.

9. To discuss locations for rotation of new Vehicle Activated Sign and collection of speed data.

NN and DB have met to look at suitable locations for the new VAS.

The Parish Council will need to ensure approval from WCC prior to fixing sign.

Clerk to check progress with NN.

10. Lengthsman's Update:-

BW has been keeping drains clear during the heavy rain. He reported Egg Lane is starting to flood again.

There has been 2 instances of flytipping which BW reported.

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

The Planning Spreadsheet had been circulated and was noted. DB to draft a response on application 22/0929/HOU.

It was agreed Planning Committee would remain as DB, GB, and AA.

12. Financial Report:-

- a) **Progress with online banking**
DB reported that BD now has access to the Lloyds account and can enter payments but not authorise them. The Parish Council will now need to make arrangements to close the HSBC accounts and transfer funds to Lloyds.
- b) **To consider the bank reconciliation spreadsheet and bank statements since the last meeting.**

The financial spreadsheet was duly circulated, and it was in accordance with the bank statements. The current bank balance as at end of October 22 was £1711.63 (Lloyds Bank Treasurers Account) £12025.44 (HSBC Community Account) and £954.96 (HSBC Business Money Manager Account).

c) **Clerks Pay Review**

DB/NN have undertaken a review following receipt of the new NALC 2022-2023 National Salary Award. The Clerk is on SCP 20 and contracted to 170 hours per year. The scale has increased to £14.75 per hour. It was agreed the Clerks Annual Salary therefore be increased to £2507.50.

AA queried a recent item in the CALC bulleting relating to change in submission dates of information to HMRC which has resulting on some Parish Councils receiving penalties. BD to check with payroll provider.

d) **To approve accounts for payment.**

Already Paid;

Westcotec – VAS Speed Sign	£3759.00 plus VAT
Mrs B J Drew – Expenses to 7th September	£73.60
HP (Mrs B J Drew – Laptop)	£688.87
Mr W Waldron – Lengthsman August 22	£32.00
Mr W Waldron – Lengthsman September 22	£32.00
Mr W Waldron – Lengthsman October 22	£64.00
Mr W Waldron – Litter Collection	£360.10

For Approval;

Mrs B J Drew – Salary 22/23	£2006.10
HMRC – Tax and NI 22/23	£501.40
Mrs B J Drew	£26.66

(Microsoft Office 12 months Family Subscription £79.99 split between Broome/Rushock/Wolverley & Cookley PCs– cheaper than individual subscription @£59.99)

Print Serve	£20.00
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13. Correspondence.

Relevant e mails and correspondence are forwarded to Councillors. Noted.

14.Councillor's Reports.

- a) Footpaths – WE reported footpath 515 from Broome Lane to Wheatlands which goes through several fields has a rotten, dilapidated stile. This has been reported and chased. Mrs Clement has agreed to a gate between the 2 fields. AA advised top gate fallen at Yieldingtree, she will show a picture to WE.
- b) Flag / Flagpole - The new flag has been lost and it was agreed to purchase a new one. MB reported on the flagpole, a hammer and screwdriver was used to get into it and release the

cover so a flag can now be hoisted, the flagpole just needs to be cleaned and needs a new flag and counterweight. BD to order.

15. To agree 2023 meeting dates.

1st February 2023

10th May 2023 (After Election)

6th September 2023

6th December 2023

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed.....(Chairman)

Dated.....