

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 1st APRIL 2021 AT 7.30 PM. VIRTUAL MEETING DUE TO COVID 19.

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr T Pell, Cllr R Bessant, Cllr A Tanfield, Cllr P Crouchman, Cllr R Roberts, Cllr R Small, Cllr M Griffith, Cllr S Boniface & Cllr J Yeo.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk), County Councillor Rob Adams & District Councillor Mark Ward.

Apologies: None

PUBLIC: None

1) ATTENDANCE

The Chair advised that Cllr Turner remained on leave of absence.

2) VACANCIES

The Chair confirmed that there were three vacancies.

Cllr M Williams was co-opted to represent Drakes Broughton Ward – the Co-option declaration was signed and would be returned to the Clerk via post. Cllr Williams was welcomed to the meeting.

The Chair confirmed there was now only one vacancy remaining for Wadborough ward as Mr Steve Quinton had applied for Pirton Ward and would be co-opted next month.

Wadborough Members advised they had a resident interested who they expected to contact the Clerk in due course.

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Boniface declared an interest in the following application:

20/00248/HP 13 Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton. Erection of two storey side extension.

4) MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2021 were proposed by Cllr Pell, seconded by Cllr Crouchman, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

- Area outside the shops

The Chair advised Cllr Roberts had reviewed the area and the previous investigations and had written a paper to be circulated. The Chair asked for volunteers to join a small working party to review the findings and meet up to see what, if anything, could be done to move this forward. Cllr Small, Cllr Pell and Cllr Boniface agreed to join Cllr Roberts and Cllr Butterworth to form a small working party. Cllr Roberts advised that since his paper was written further information had been given to him, he asked that he be allowed to review this information and update the paper before circulation, the Chair agreed and suggested a meeting of the working party was set following the circulation of the updated paper. Cllr Roberts asked if the WDC Community Officer, Trevor Clarke had been contacted regarding this – Cllr Ward confirmed he had but there was no progress due to the private ownership of the area.

- Rooftop

Cllr Roberts advised that he, Cllr Small and Cllr Ward had attended a productive meeting with the Rooftop representative with agreements once again to clear up the area. Rooftop have agreed to chop back the trees over hanging the car park, Cllr Roberts is ascertaining the owner of the property concerned to inform them of the works. Cllr Roberts confirmed that no actions had taken place yet.

6) FINANCE

- a) The monthly reconciliation of cash and other monies was undertaken for March by Cllr Pell.
- b) The Chair advised that the Council's new Financial Regulations had been circulated prior to the meeting for Members to review. The Chair proposed adoption of the new Financial Regulations, this was seconded by Cllr Tanfield and agreed by all.
- c) The Chair advised members that the lengthsman, playpark maintenance and bus shelter cleansing contracts were due for renewal at the end of March. WCC had confirmed the lengthsman contract would continue at the same rate. Members discussed the capability and work ethic of the current service provider; the newness of the Play Park contact and the potential need to review this. The Chair and The Clerk would discuss the ongoing need to review the Play Park maintenance contract with the service provider. It was decided to offer another 12-month contract on the same terms at this time. This was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Bessant agreed by all. The Chairman asked the Clerk to draw up the contracts.
- d) The Chair drew Members' attention to the circulated up to date finance position. The year end was approx. £39,000. The Chair advised that the Council was still carrying reserves earmarked for the Play Park renovation and this needed some thought on allocation as the Council should not be carrying this amount of reserves year on year.
- e) The Chair advised that the Clerk was contacting the internal auditor to see if he was willing to continue auditing the accounts.
- f) The Ward Maintenance funds were discussed, and it was decided that this would be managed by the ward Cllrs. There would be an allocation of £100 PA with a maximum of £35 for an individual item, receipts would need submitting to the Clerk to arrange reimbursement. The Chair proposed this and it was seconded by Cllr Griffiths and agreed by all.

It was proposed by Cllr Pell and seconded by Cllr Boniface to authorise the following payments:

(a) Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk Salary – March	£488.45
(b) Mr B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – March	£220.00
(c) Mr B Arrowsmith – Play Park maintenance – March	£66.00
(d) OPUS Energy Ltd – Monthly street light electricity	£10.17
(e) OPUS Energy Ltd – Monthly Street light electricity	£205.50
(f) Mrs J Butterworth - Reimburse for data sticks and postage ITT Village hall – Legacy Grant	£41.16
(g) Mrs J Butterworth – Reimburse for Planning application fee and planning portal re-direct service – Legacy Grant	£142.00
(h) Phase3 Electrical Consulting Engineers Ltd - M&E specification, Demolitions & strip out plan, heating option report Village Hall – Legacy Grant	£1500.00
(i) Mr B Arrowsmith – Annual weed killer	£50.00
(j) Mr B Arrowsmith – quarterly bus shelter cleansing	£30.00

Remittance:

-WCC Lengthsman reimbursement January £220.00

The Chair advised that the Sanctuary Homes Community Fund may pay for the tree removals the PC paid for last month so the Clerk should expect remittance of £250 from them for this.

7) OPEN SPACE REVIEW

a. Revised Terms of Reference

Cllr Roberts raised that point 8 referred to the area around the shops. The Chair advised that this referred to the green open space opposite the shops and that the working party re the area outside the shops would consult the Open Space Committee once there were further details to share. Members agreed the circulated revised terms of reference.

b. Open Space Group progress update

The Chair advised that the Chair of the Open Space group was writing a report on the next stages of the development.

c. Planting of three trees

The Chair advised that the three new trees had now been planted at the Play Park. The Chair thanked Cllr Pell for arranging the planting and volunteering to water the trees.

d. Litter picking project

The Chair advised that Cllr Boniface had organised the community litter pick at the playing field and surrounding areas for Bank Holiday Monday. Cllr Boniface confirmed there were x10 volunteers and a timetable was being set up to ensure it was Covid compliant.

The Chair advised that the VHC had ordered the increased capacity trade waste bin as discussed in the autumn, The VHC would like to request a contribution of £100 PA from the PC for this as the increased capacity was needed for the emptying of the Play Park litter bins. This was proposed by The Chair and seconded by Cllr Boniface and agreed by all.

The Chair advised that there had been a parishioner request for a further litter bin on the playing field at the Worcester Road end of the field. The chair advised that the Open Space group thought that there was one near the Walcot lane entrance that could be moved as it was in fairly close proximity to another – a discussion arose regarding this and if the second bin was actually a dog waste bin – The Chair asked the Clerk to review this and report back.

The Clerk advised that there had been a report of a missing bin at Shrubbery Road, Cllr Pell confirmed this was now back in place.

e. Flooding on playing field

The Chair advised that a meeting that we had been invited to attend with a Regional Director of Elan Homes that had been planned for today had not taken place. The Chair suggested that she organise another date and invite the relevant people to move this forward. The Chair asked if Cllr Ward would attend. He agreed.

8) VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT – progress update

Progress with ITT

The Chair advised that the three tenders had been received this week and are being reviewed. There would then be interviews and evaluations which would be presented at the Parish Council meeting on 6th May 2021 for a builder to be selected, with a contract put in place no later than 17th May.

The Chair advised that there was still a call for volunteers to join the rejuvenation project and or consider becoming trustees of the Village Hall.

Cllr Small asked how much of the car park area would be taken up with building materials during the project. The Chair confirmed the car park would remain open with reduced capacity. A discussion arose regarding how full and busy the car park is all the time.

9) ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

The Chair advised Members that the annual Parish meeting had to be held before 1st June and due to the Covid restrictions they could not be held until after 17th May. The Chair advised that Pirton Parish meeting would be held on 20th May at St Peters Church, Pirton and Drakes Broughton & Wadborough Parish meeting would be held on 25th May at Drakes Broughton Village Hall. A discussion arose regarding whether to press on with the new style community meetings proposed last year, bearing in mind numbers of attendees in past years. The Members decided it would be best to make a more community style meeting and hoped with advertising perhaps new residents would like to attend to hear more about what was on offer in the community.

10) SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENT

The Chair proposed that the party in the park idea be revived this summer, as a joint venture with the VHC. The Chair suggested a small working party be formed and hoped WDC would once again be able to supply their activities. Cllr Pell, Cllr Boniface, Cllr Small, Cllr Williams & Cllr Crouchman volunteered to be part of the working party.

County Councillor Rob Adams joined the meeting.

11) REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Worcestershire County Councillor Rob Adams

County Councillor Adams apologised for being late.

Cllr Adams confirmed as Chair of the Planning Committee that Croome Farm recycling application has been approved.

Cllr Adams confirmed that Worcestershire's Covid-19 numbers were reducing and more so in the over 60's than any other age group, probably due to the vaccination programme.

Cllr Adams advised that there was a call for people to work as polling operatives stations for the forth coming County Council and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Cllr Adams confirmed the Drakes Broughton road traffic order now has a completion date. Cllr Bessant thanked Cllr Adams for his help in moving this forward.

Cllr Adams confirmed that the footbridge at Walcot Lane had been surveyed by WCC highways and the required works ordered.

Cllr Adams asked regarding the deer warning signage that had been reported as damaged very shortly after it was erected. Cllr Williams confirmed the signs were damaged but would not require replacement. She commented that it was WCC grass cutting contractors who had damaged them along with the new millennium wood signage and perhaps the management needed to speak with them – Cllr Adams would take this up with WCC Highways.

Wychavon District Councillor Mark Ward

Cllr Ward noted that we had reached the first Covid-19 restriction easing on 29th March.

Cllr Ward advised that the government had pledged a £228K support package to assist leisure centres reopening.

Cllr Ward advised indoor group activities can resume from 17th May. Droitwich Lido would open as usual on 1st May.

Cllr Ward advised that the planning committee passed both the Wheatland Farm applications but there had been lengthy discussions and it was a split decision – the committee meeting is available to view on You-Tube.

Cllr Ward confirmed that the ecologist's report regarding the hedge clearance behind the Sanctuary development had found active nests and had preserved these. Cllr Bessant thanked Cllr Ward for his support on this.

Members Reports

Cllr Pell advised that the Vale public transport group had produced a newsletter she would circulate.

Cllr Boniface raised that it appears that Walcot Lane and Stonebow Road closures were due to overlap. Members decided that this would be seen as a good thing to slow traffic and not have the village as a cut through. Access to frontages only would be very welcome!

Cllr Crouchman advised that Wadborough had signed up to the Community Litter pick scheme which is being organised by Mr Cother.

Cllr Pell advised that the Space Hive Project to raise the funds to run the community buses continues. The Pershore bus is running regularly, and it is hoped that the Worcester bus will resume soon.

12) PERIODIC HIGHWAY REVIEW

The Chair thanked Cllr Roberts for his recent update & confirmed there were no additional tasks for the lengthsman. Cllr Yeo asked regarding the large oak tree aside the passing bay at Abbotswood Road. Cllr Roberts confirmed that WCC Highways had inspected it and deemed there to be no safety issue with it remaining there.

13) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The Chair advised that The Villager was resuming this month, The Chair advised that she and the Clerk would compile an update.

Cllr Small left the meeting.

14) DIFIBRULATOR OFFER

The Chair advised that there was a potential offer of a donation to purchase an additional defibrillator to potentially be positioned near the shops, possibly the phone box. Cllr Roberts confirmed that following the decommission of the phone box it was likely to be relocated by BT rather than a purchase offer.

15) SWDPR – REPORT BACK FROM LIASON GROUP MEETING

The Chair advised that the meeting had been rescheduled. The 3 Parish Councils were now awaiting feedback from the joint letter that had been sent. This letter would be available on the PC website for public to review. Cllr Tanfield suggested that the PC and individual Councillors should write a letter to the three local MP's and try and gain media interest. Members discussed this and decided it was a good idea. The Chair advised a letter would be drafted and circulated to be sent from the PC and encouraged individuals to also do the same and encourage residents to too.

16) PLANNING

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: 20/02923/LB Swanbrook House, Pirton. Various Timber repairs. No Objection.
20/00248/HP 13 Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton. Erection of two storey side extension. No Objection.
20/00276 15 Shrubbery Road. Drakes Broughton. Proposed side and rear single storey extensions. No Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: 20/00248/HP 13 Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton. Erection of two storey side extension.
20/00276 15 Shrubbery Road. Drakes Broughton. Proposed side and rear single storey extensions.
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: N/A
- e) Appeals: APP/H1840/W/20/3266091 The Timber Yard, Crabbe Lane, Wadborough. Erection of 1 No. live/work unit following demolition of existing buildings.
APP/H1840/D/21/3267338 Deerfold House, Mill Lane, Wadborough. Extend above existing garage to create home office & family accommodation. **(Dismissed)**
- f) Planning Correspondence: Correspondence from x2 residents regarding Wheatlands farm applications. WCC notification in relation to Croome Farm applications to be considered by the Planning & Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 23 March. **(Approved)**

17) CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident regarding location and type of equipment for further open space development – passed to Open Space Committee to respond. The Chair has responded that no decision has been taken yet.
- Resident regarding disrepair of the pedestrian footbridge at the ford. – WCC Highways have visited and it is safe, some remedial work will follow and a request for a repaint later in the year has been put in.
- Resident regarding missing WDC bin Shrubbery Road. As discussed earlier.
- Resident regarding damage to the new deer signs by hedge cutting contractors. WCC informed Cllr Adams would follow this up.
- Resident confirming hedge overhanging Rooftop carpark was not theirs.
- Resident regarding brightness of the newly repaired a cleaned col 37 – Members discussed this and decided that the benefit outweighed the detriment, the Chair asked the Clerk to contact the correspondent accordingly.
- West Mercia – rural beat
- SWDP Newsletter

18) INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7.30pm – Monthly Parish Council Meeting – Via Video Conference.

Annual Parish meetings:

Thursday 20th May PIRTON, 7pm at St Peters Church, Pirton

Tuesday 25th May DRAKES BROUGHTON & WADBOROUGH, 7pm Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting Closed 9.15pm.