

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr R Turner, Cllr Pell, Cllr Bessant, Cllr Williams, Cllr R Booker, Cllr J Murphy & Cllr D Skeys

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor Linda Robinson, District Councillor Mark Ward & the clerk.

**PUBLIC:** One (observing to listen to the discussion on the memorial tree damage, the trees had been funded and planted by him in memorial of his wife)

**1) APOLOGIES:** Cllr Small

**2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**3) MEMBER VACANCIES**

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had received notice of an uncontested election.

The Chair advised that the vacancy for Pirton remains unfilled but widely advertised.

The Chair advised that since the meeting in March, Cllr Crouchman & Cllr Yeo had both decided not to stand for election and had resigned after being long standing and active members of the Parish Council leaving two more vacancies in the Wadborough Ward.

The Chair advised that Cllr Thomas had also resigned during the month leaving a vacancy in the Drakes Broughton Ward.

**4) MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 were proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Murphy, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**5) MATTERS ARISING**

**PARISH MEETINGS** – Drakes Broughton & Wadborough Annual Parish meeting would take place Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. There would be short presentations from DBRFC, The Open Space Committee, Q&A with both County & District Councillors.

Pirton Annual Parish meeting would take place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May with presentations from Pirton walking group, Pirton book club, the Village events committee and friends of St Peters Church.

Both meeting would commence at 7pm and are an opportunity for ALL the community to come and raise issues and or see what's available in their community.

**LOCAL ELECTIONS** – It was noted that the Parish Council was an uncontested election.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council had received a complaint regarding the removal of the Pirton Polling station. The Chair advised that WDC have corresponded that there was a full consultation. The Parish Council were not consulted or even informed. Notes from the WDC meeting deciding upon this raised that the private house used as the polling station had been sold and was no longer available – this statement is not true the new owners have made the house available and it has been used as a polling station since purchasing. The other reason sited was that during the COVID elections Pirton residents voted at Drakes Broughton and WDC received no complaints. The resident complainant has noted that the Electoral Boundaries review have suggested more access to voting should be available not less. Pirton is a Village without public transport. District Councillor Ward would investigate the matter further.

**CORONATION GRANT APPLICATION** – The Chair advised that the WDC Grant of £552.00 had been applied for and received. During the month the Chair had proposed to split the allocation to each village via its number of seats, 3 for Wadborough & Pirton, 8 for Drakes Broughton. Allowing for rounding this results in £118 for each Wadborough & Pirton and £316 for Drakes Broughton. Responses 10 in favour, 2 no response. Motion carried.

## 6.) FINANCE

The monthly bank reconciliation for February was completed by Cllr Skeys.

The monthly bank reconciliation for March was completed by Cllr Skeys & Cllr Murphy

106 Money – update on amounts allocated: The Chair advised that the full amount of £97,130 had been agreed to be restored by WDC. Members thanked the Chair for her meticulous attention to detail noticing this!

CIL money – The chair advised that their remained £7542.64 CIL monies to be spent. The Chair advised that this Community Infrastructure Levy must be spent on community infrastructure in Drakes Broughton. She asked Members for ideas on what the community required; ideas were additional litter & dog waste bins to cover the additional housing developments. Cllr Pell thought new benches placed on popular walks around the village and perhaps a title for the Community Notice Board. The Chair asked members to email any ideas or requests they hear of/think of.

Community Legacy Grant, project impact form -

The Chair advised that this report had been compiled and submitted to WDC. It is the final reporting requirement of receiving the grant. The report had been circulated for all members to view.

It was noted that the following payments had been made during the month:

SSE – Monthly streetlighting electricity - £369.19

DBVH – Annual room hire for meetings - £200.00

E.on – Upgrade of column 8 & 34 - £720.00 (CIL)

The Clerk added three payments that had not been included in the original agenda. The Clerk advised that she had investigated the propriety of doing this, as it had been queried by Cllr Booker & Cllr Thomas at the meeting in January. The Clerk and the Chair advised that it was covered by financial regulations point 5.5/5.6. It was also noted that the additions were always accompanied by the invoice, they were always included in the annual budget or had been pre-authorised by members at an earlier meeting.

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

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary –March S/O	£559.64
b) Mr B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – March	£TBC
c) Mrs N Nicholson – reimburse for printer ink cartridge	£44.39
d) Smart Cut Ltd – Grass cutting playing field, play park strim & surface blow	£134.52
c) SSE – Streetlighting electricity	£TBC

Remittance:

WCC reimburse lengthsman October £204.00

WCC reimburse lengthsman February £408.16 (Includes administration claim)

WDC Kings Coronation Grant £552.00

## 7.) PLAYPARK & PLAYING FEILD

Football Garages - The Chair advised that one of the football garages is metal and the FC are considering moving that garage to where they proposed to have the shipping container. The FC storage requirement

would fit in the garage which is smaller than the proposed shipping container. The PC are awaiting a feasibility update from DBRFC. Once this has been decided, the other garage will require removal.

OPEN SPACE PHASE 2 – The Chair reported that she and Cllr Bessant had met with 2 potential volunteers for the project. The volunteers' properties border the Playing Field. Both volunteers had been and visited the pump track in Rushwick more than once, it was a positive meeting. The Chair advised at this stage they did not have anyone with time, capacity, or the expertise to lead the project. It was a large undertaking and would need the right person overseeing the project. Ideally, they needed a volunteer from the community of Drakes Broughton to take ownership and manage the project. Cllr Williams suggested she draft an advert and the PC advertised to the community. Cllr Bessant was keen to assist with the project but was not sure she had the expertise to project manage.

The Chair, Cllr Pell, Cllr Bessant and District Councillor Ward agreed to meet with the community liaison officer on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm. Following that meeting Cllr Bessant will compile a statement to the community outlining what the Parish Council would do, what individuals should do, and what the community should do to make the Playing field and open space a good place for everyone and reduce anti-social behaviour.

#### **8.) PLAYING FIELD MEMORIAL TREES**

The Chair advised that two of the four trees planted in the Play Park had been damaged beyond saving. These trees had been planted at a resident's expense as a memorial to his wife. All members agreed how sad and disrespectful this was. It was noted that the two damaged trees were the most protected ones and that children had been seen climbing on the wooden structure meant to protect the trees. Members discussed other forms of tree protection. The Open Space Chair has advised that the trees are being grown to eventually provide shade to the picnic area. Advice from the local tree surgeon was to plant bigger more robust and better developed trees but this would be considerably more expensive e.g., £800 10ft. The Chair noted that the best time to re-plant would be bare rooted trees in the autumn. Mr Mason who had planted the trees offered £400 towards the replacement, he recommended Pershore Horticultural College who supplied the original trees. All members thanks Mr Mason. The Clerk was asked to approach the Woodland Trust for some more advice before any further decisions were made.

District Councillor Mark Ward suggested that Wychavon District Council may be able to assist with provision of tree and undertook to speak with relevant parties.

Members asked the Clerk to include a notice about the damage in the Villager this month.

#### **9.) CALC (County Association of Local Councils) MEMBERSHIP**

The Chair advised that during the month some queries about the workings of the Council had been raised by Cllr Thomas prior to his resignation. Cllr Skeys had asked that members consider re-joining CALC. Cllr Skeys advised that when he had previously been on the Parish Council it had been a member of CALC and he had found it most helpful. A discussion arose around costs, benefits and why the Parish Council was not members currently. The Chair advised that a number of years ago the members at the time had decided it was too expensive. The annual price being £860.39.t was noted that DBWPPC is one of only a handful of Councils that aren't members. It is generally thought good practice to be members. The Clerk advised that she found membership with her other Council very useful, there was access to timely industry updates. The Clerk advised that the Chair kept abreast of all the legislation and that despite queries being raised regarding how the Council operates, the Council is acting totally within current legislation. CALC does notify of changes that may affect governance and best practice. Cllr Williams thought the monthly bulletin and chance for all members to become more aware of what they should be doing was worth the expenditure. It was proposed by Cllr Butterworth to join on the 3 year discounted rate with a starting rate of £430.19 for this year with year 2 & 3 costing: £860 plus inflation and NALC membership. This was seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by all.

## **10.)ROAD SAFETY**

Cllr Bessant advised that West Mercia had nearly completed the vetting of the Community Speed Watch volunteers, once this was complete, she would organise the training.

Cllr Bessant had arranged for the school to borrow and trial the Road Safety Pavement markers advertised and funded by John Campion. The School was keen to have these permanently, currently they could only be borrowed. District Councillor Mark Ward would look into if some could be provided by WDC, particularly as the school was short one crossing patrol and the school warning signage lights were still not working.

## **11.)PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Chair advised that roles and responsibilities of members were generally reviewed at the AGM in May but with a number of vacancies and new members she wanted members to start thinking about it ahead of the May meeting. It was noted that buses were overseen by Cllr Pell, VAS and traffic speed watch, Cllr Bessant. Cllr Turner litter and dog waste. Cllr Roberts streetlighting. Cllr Williams DB Planning co-ordinator, Cllr Williams offered to liaise with Cllr Murphy re Wadbrough planning whilst she was the only representative for Wadbrough. The Chair advised she would really like an active finance subcommittee; . Cllr Murphy and Cllr Booker volunteered.

## **12.) REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS –Written Reports from County & District Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting.**

Cllr Robinson advised that a landslide on the Didcot line meant that no direct trains to London would be available until after 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Worcester Royal Hospital has moved all non-emergency operations to Redditch as there is an 18-month waiting list.

The resurfacing of the Besford Road maybe delayed as the dip where water gathers dangerously on the bend had not been planned to be filled.

Walcot Lane ford had seen another vehicle enter and fire and rescue services deployed. Discussions regarding the cost of each incident the availability of the services should another accident incident require them, the chance of a child being unable to be released from their car seat. Cllr Robinson wants data gathered re numbers of incidents. Barriers and gates are in place in other Counties and she will take this to full WCC Council once more detailed data is compiled.

District Councillor Ward was advised that the government emergency warning signal will be trialled at 3pm April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

District Councillor advised that social housing stock was being increased for the Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, but it would remain available after the refugee programme ended.

### **Members Reports**

Cllr Murphy advised that network rail had done overnight tree felling in Narrow wood Wadborough, having given residents no notice and surprisingly during the bird nesting season, causing residents disturbance and displeasure.

Cllr Booker advised that there was no lying water on the Playing Fields despite reports of the wettest winter in 50years. Cllr Murphy advised that only the smaller pitch had remained playable the previous weekend.

Cllr Pell advised that she had attended a bus meeting that week and that the demand led Community bus service would continue until September 2023.

## **13.)PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW**

The Chair thanked Cllr Roberts and Cllr Small for the review.

Cllr Bessant asked if the lengthsman could clear the glass in the alleyway between Woodland and Woodleigh.

The Clerk was asked to circulate details of what the lengthsman can do.

Cllr Turner advised that the school sign lights were still not working.

County Councillor Robinson advised that there were more duties/tasks that could be completed by the lengthsman. The Clerk advised there was additional footpath clearance being trialled for 6 months, this would be work currently undertaken by WCC/Footpath Warden. The Clerk thought it would be of more benefit for Parishes with no footpath warden.

#### **14.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION**

It was noted this was required tomorrow and the Clerk & Chair would liaise regarding the content.

#### **15.) PLANNING**

Neighbourhood Plan

Following on from the discussion at last month's meeting, members were asked by the Chair if they had all reviewed the Neighbourhood Plan. Members confirmed that they had, and the Chair asked if they were all happy that the content, policies and other content are current, and all members agreed that they were. It was proposed by Cllr Pell and seconded by Cllr Williams and agreed by all to note the update and reissues as version 1.5 reviewed in April 2023.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/00379/FUL Bow Brook Lodges, Hyde Farm, Pinvin. Installation of solar panel array. No Objection.  
W/23/00447/CU Wadborough Hall Farm Barns, Abbotswood Road to Mill Lane, Wadborough. Construction of detached garage and store. No Objection.  
W/23/00596/HP Woodground Cottage, Chevington Lane, Drakes Broughton. Proposed extensions and new gated access for improved highways visibility. No Objection.  
W/22/01993/FUL 7 Greenfields Close, Drakes Broughton. Erection of new single dwelling – amended layout & design. No Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: W/23/00292/PIP Thorndon Grove, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in principle for up to 2 No dwellings.  
W/22/02503/CU Land at (O/S 9405 4842) Walcot Lane, Drakes Broughton. Change of use of land and siting of 4 log cabins for holiday letting.  
W/23/00255/HP Drakes Place, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Single storey rear extension.
- c) Applications Refused: W/23/00254/PIP Les haven, Mill Lane, Drakes Broughton. Permission in principle for proposed 1 no. self-build dwelling.
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: N/A
- e) Planning correspondence: Stoulton residents requesting support from DBWPPC for application W/23/00525/FUL. The planning application seeks to replace an existing agricultural barn with a dwelling house. The barn already has consent for conversion to two dwelling houses - residential use for the site has already been established. Members thought they would rather leave Stoulton Parish Council to comment on this application as DBWPPC were not formal consultees.

Hayfield Homes, asking to meet with the PC regarding their planned application at Thornleigh Farm. Members were not inclined to meet and discuss this application as the SWDPR had not been ratified yet.

Cllr Booker raised his concerns regarding WDC and the lack of 5-year land supply leading to additional developments. The Clerk advised that although this was the case and a cause for concern, WDC Planning Officers had advised that a new National Planning Policy was due to be rolled out from central government that would potentially change things and that during purdah and for some time they would not be making quick decisions on applications received.

## 16.)CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident regarding memorial tree damage - as discussed under item 8
- DBVH regarding hall user request for camping/campfire at the Playing Field (request withdrawn)
- Request for a men's Christian football team to use the pitches. Cllr Williams asked for more information and, the Clerk confirmed that the PC has an agreement with DBRFC and had replied accordingly, it wasn't clear if the person asking was local or not.
- The Parish Games Association – DBWPPC are advertising.
- Resident requesting COVID sign removal at the Play Park – The Chair noted that this should be removed at some point in the future.

Cllr Turner asked when the gate open/close sign from village hall wall would be replaced. Cllr Pell advised it was in storage and she would look into it being put back up

- Resident re planning as read in Villager.
- Pirton Village Committee re levelling of Pirton Playing Field. The Chair advised that the Pirton Events Committee are considering making an application for a National Lottery Grant to fund this. As the playing field is leased to the Parish Council the Committee had been asked to submit a full proposal of the works the proposed to the Parish Council along with details of how the wider community would be consulted about any levelling work; this would be tabled as an agenda item in May.
- WCC re illegal works on the Highway

## 17.)INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The AGM for the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7:30pm**. This will be followed by the Parish Council Monthly meeting. These meetings will be held at **St Barnabas School, Drakes Broughton**

Pirton Parish Meeting will be held in St Peter's Church Pirton on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. The meeting will start at 7pm

Drakes Broughton and Wadborough Parish meeting will be held at the village Hall Drakes Broughton on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The meeting will start at 7pm.

Meeting closed 9.30pm