

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr D Skeys, Cllr R Bessant, Cllr R Roberts, Cllr R Booker
Cllr M Williams, Cllr L Abercrombie & Cllr Turner.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Rob Adams, District Councillor Liz Turier & Mrs N Nicholson
(Clerk)

PUBLIC: None

1) APOLOGIES: County Councillor Robinson, Cllr Small, Cllr Murphy, Cllr S Roberts & Cllr Pell

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that although Cllr Bessant lived near the application on 'josie's Orchard' she was not required to declare an interest as the large developments affected the wider community and as such all members of the Council can contribute, Cllr Bessant has no direct pecuniary interest to declare.

3) VACANCIES FOR MEMBERS TO REPRESENT PIRTON WARD AND DRAKES BROUGHTON WARD.

The Chair advised that the two vacancies remained and were widely advertised.

4) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 3rd August 2023 were proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Bessant, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

Bus Shelters – B4084

The Chair thanks Cllr Adams for the contact details at WCC to discuss releasing the s106 allocated from the new builds towards bus shelter replacement, however despite more than one email nobody at WCC had even acknowledged receipt of the emails.

Land Drains Drakes Broughton

The Chair advised that an update from WCC was required. Has the gully sucker now been? Has the issue been resolved?

Storm Drain – Pirton

The Chair advised that no action had been seen and an update was required from WCC.

The Clerk was asked to compile a list of queries from the meeting to be sent to County Councillor Robinson to get updates on the outstanding WCC issues.

6) FINANCE

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

Financial Briefing – The chair advised that she would run a virtual session to brief all new members and any members requiring a refresher on the financial details and regulations of the Parish Council. The Chair also will be calling a meeting of the finance sub-committee to review the Parish Council savings. Circa £15K is currently held in an NS&I account that yields poor returns and is complicated to administer.

Conclusion of Audit – The Clerk confirmed that Section 3 of the AGAR the external audit report, had been received with no advisories. The conclusion of audit notice was displayed.

It was proposed by Cllr Butterworth and seconded by Cllr R Roberts to authorise the following payments:

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary August– S/O	£559.64
b) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – August	£260.00
c) SSE – Streetlighting monthly electricity	£462.84
d) WDC – Litter bin empty and cleanse – Sidings Road	£110.24
e) PKF Littlejohn LLP – External Audit fee	£504.00
f) Smart Cut – grass cutting and Play Park surfaces	£504.91
g) Mrs N Nicholson – Printer Ink Cartridge	£36.99
h) Society of Merchant Venturers – Pirton recreation field rent	£166.80

Remittance: WCC Lengthsman reclaim June £260.00
WCC Lengthsman reclaim July £279.30

7.) WADBOROUGH CROSSROADS

The Chair advised that WCC were proposing and had sent a consultation on extending the 30MPH zone as well as changing each give way junction to a stop junction. Members agreed this was welcome and overdue. The Clerk was asked to submit the Parish Councils full support for the proposal.

8.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD – Progress update on Open Space phase 2.

The Chair advised that the finalised Open Space phase 2 masterplan was being drawn up, and advised there was a delay due to the One Limited contractor suffering an injury.

The Chair advised that DBRFC had moved their goals into their storage area and had marked up the space as advised by the PC. The next stage was DBRFC to install the storage facility. This would no longer be a fenced ‘compound’ but a smaller storage shed and the goals tethered next to the storage unit.

The Chair advised that the Play Park safety inspection report had been received. There were no urgent actions. The Clerk would draw up a list of actions and items to be monitored and would liaise with Mr Wild, the Chair of the Open Space Committee, as to how the items needing work should be addressed.

The Chair advised that there had been correspondence from a resident regarding the litter build up at the Play Park during the summer months. It was noted that the correspondent had been litter clearing and this had masked the issue that the Chair and other members had been monitoring over the summer. Members were grateful for the voluntary litter picking. Members discussed various ideas of how to monitor and tackle litter at the Play Park. It was noted that larger facilities at Abbey Park, Pershore and the Play areas in Droitwich did not employ litter clearing operatives. It was noted that should this be required it would be an extra burden on the taxpayers via the precept. Cllr Bessant suggested a notice be sent out to residents via the school newsletter. The Chair advised that a request for someone from Drakes Broughton to be the coordinator for community litter picks had been advertised in the Villager, but as yet no volunteers had come forward. An idea was to liaise with the school regarding regular litter picking.

9.) WALCOT LANE FORD

Members noted that Walcot Lane was currently closed but no official notification had been received from WCC, it was thought that this was the long-awaited works to the gabion baskets.

The Clerk was asked to contact the County Councillor to find out what further measures were proposed to create better safety warnings at the ford.

Cllr Bessant advised that a recent death in flash flooding in Liverpool and a call nationally to ensure road users safety from flash flooding should be used to highlight the significant risks to life that fast-rising water can cause.

10.) PIRTON POLLING PLACE

The Chair advised that the consultation on the Pirton polling place closed tomorrow. The Parish Council had submitted its comments and a petition within Pirton with over 60 signatures from residents had been submitted requesting the reinstatement of the original polling place at 1 Elm View had also been submitted to the consultation. Cllr Adams confirmed there had been a good level of response to the consultation and that the decision was now with WDC CEO. Cllr Adams thought the matter would need to be brought back to WDC full Council meeting before a final decision was made.

11.) PIRTON PLAYING FIELD – Progress update

The Pirton members had met with the Pirton Village Committee and the next steps were that the Village Committee would gather tenders for the work and apply for the National Lottery funding before submitting a further update to the Parish Council.

12.) ASSET REVIEW UPDATE

Mr B Arrowsmith had been instructed to sand and varnish the notice board and bench in Drakes Broughton as well as the notice board in Pirton as per his quotes and this would be actioned on his return from holiday.

13.) RISK ASSESMENT

Cllr Abercrombie had worked with the Chair to draw up the risk assessment and a draft would be circulated for review prior to the October meeting.

14.) ROAD SAFETY – Speed Watch /VAS Data

Cllr Bessant advised members on the speeding data gathered from both the VAS and the Speed Watch on Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Details would be circulated by the Clerk. It was noted that 7 cars had been over the speed limit during the Speed Watch session near Williamson Way which concurred with a recent resident complaint on the Village Facebook page. The Clerk would ask the lengthsman to relocate the VAS to that area and a discussion was had regarding requesting WCC consider extending the 30MPH zone to be to at least the other side of the railway bridge. Cllr Roberts advised that the ideal would be to extend out to where the 'Welcome to Drakes Broughton' sign was further down nearer the A44 as speeds along that stretch were excessive.

Cllr Bessant advised that there were still volunteers awaiting vetting and that 3 was the minimum required to run the speed watch, other speed watch groups were running with 14-15 vetted and

available volunteers. Cllr Bessant advised that the communication with SNT and John Campion had been really disappointing, and she was increasingly frustrated.

Cllr Booker suggested the PC purchase another VAS that could be positioned on the B4084. The Clerk and the Chair advised that whilst this was possible, the cost was not in the current year budget and that the cost was born totally by the PC. Cllr Abercrombie suggested that some funding could be available from the Road Safety Fund.

It was noted that Cllr Murphy had volunteered to look at downloading the data from the Wadborough VAS.

15.) REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS – The brief monthly Report from County Councillor Robinson had been circulated prior to the meeting.

District Council report – The WDC report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Adams and Cllr Turier had nothing further to add that hadn't been already discussed during the meeting.

Members Reports

Cllr Skeys advised that the model train departed at 10am Friday for the three days of the Heritage weekend the train would run 10-4 at Pirton Church – all were welcome, tea and cakes would be available.

Cllr Butterworth reminded members that it was also Drakes Broughton Village fete 2-5pm on Saturday.

16.) WORCESTERSHIRE BOUNDARIES COMMISSION REVIEW CONSULTATION

Members and the Chair asked the Clerk to submit the Parish Councils view that the current suggestion of no change to the current boundary was agreeable.

17.) PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

The Chair advised that there was nothing outstanding to follow up at this time and thanked Cllr Roberts for continuing to monitor the Parish Highways.

18.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The villager report had been submitted for September edition.

It was noted that a reminder to residents to ensure their hedges were cut back during autumn to allow pedestrians full clear use of the pavements should be included in the October submission.

19.) PLANNING

Neighbourhood Plan - The Chair thanked all members for reviewing and agreeing to version 1p5 of the Neighbourhood Plan. This had now been submitted for review by WDC and the next stage would be a consultation lead by WDC prior to submission to the Planning Inspectorate.

Boundary Maps – The Chair advised that Cllr Booker had requested Boundary Maps for the Parishes to aid with planning comments. It was noted that full boundary maps were available on the WCC portal but were also included in the Neighbourhood Plan.

SWDPR – Progress update. The Chair advised that the last time the joint parishes committee had met with WDC regarding the proposed town at Parkway had been March and despite assurances from WDC that the Joint Parishes Committee would be fully included in discussions it was apparent that WDC and the developers continued to meet and discuss progress without including the Joint Parishes committee. There is now a meeting planned for 19th September to try and ascertain new timescales for the emerging SWDPR and the proposed New Town.

Hayfield Homes request to meet the Parish Council – The Chair advised that Hayfield Homes have once again contacted the PC requesting to meet to discuss the application, they are about to submit for 53no dwellings at Thornleigh Farm. All members agreed that the site was outside the current development boundary as defined within the PC’s Neighbourhood Plan, and they asked the Clerk to decline a discussion whilst the SWDPR remained unratified.

Members discussed how to make parishioners aware of the large developments being applied for around Drakes Broughton, numbering 120/150 no dwellings and how to gather public opinions and support. The Clerk would include a notice regarding the larger applications with her next Villager report.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/01611/PIP Thornden Grove, Windmill Lane, WR7 4RP. Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 6no. dwellings. Objection.
W/23/01073/HP Caldwell, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Erection of garden studio. No objection.
- b) Applications Approved: W/23/01382/GPDQ Stonehall Farmhouse, Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Variation of condition 1 of 21/02576//GPDQ (notification for the proposed change use of two Agricultural Buildings to 3NO dwellinghouses and for building operations reasonably necessary for the conversions as approved under planning reference 20.02908/GPDQ with variation of condition 1)
W/23/00618/FUL. The farm Shop at Stoulton. To gain Class E & Sui Generis planning consent to add café/deli to the already operating business.
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: Crabbe Tree Farm, Besford Road, Wadborough. Formation of pool and wetland area including soil bund. Cllr Williams reminded the Clerk that this was for Wadborough Cllrs to make comment on.
- e) Appeals: Appeals: APP/H1840/W/23/3319304 Lea Haven, Mill Lane, Drakes Broughton. Permission in principle for proposed 1 no. self-build dwelling. Objection submitted.
- f) Larger applications awaiting outcomes: Walcot Lane 12no dwellings. Freshfields 25no dwellings.
- g) Planning Committee: ‘Josie Orchard’ 30no dwellings – Cllr Adams advised that this was awaiting an Ecology report and had been scheduled for the Planning Committee on 12th October. Cllr Adams thanks Cllr Bessant for an informative site visit.

District Councillor Adams suggested setting up a meeting with the planning officers to discuss the decisions and the length of time some of the larger development’s decisions were taking. The Clerk thought that being updated would be useful. It was noted that taking too long deciding on applications could lead to developers avoiding WDC decisions and asking for the Planning Inspectorate review.

20.)CORRESPONDENCE

- WCC Street trader license – no objections
- WDC – Outdoor cinema event, Norton 1st September. Cllr Adams advised this was not as well attended as hoped.
- Resident regarding litter at Play Park, as discussed under agenda item 8.

INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 5th October 2023** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.30.