

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd NOVEMBER 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 Pell & Cllr Turner.

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

PUBLIC: None

1) APOLOGIES:

Cllr Small, Cllr L Abercrombie, Cllr S Roberts & Cllr M Williams

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

Public Participation: None

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

The Chair advised that Mr Mark Williams had applied for the Wadborough vacancy and would be co-opted onto the Council at the December's meeting.

The other 2 vacancies were widely advertised, and the Chair encouraged members to think of community minded people who could join the Parish Council.

4) MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting held on 5th October 2023 were proposed by Cllr Bessant, seconded by Cllr R Roberts, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

5) MATTERS ARISING

Bus Shelters – B4084

County Councillor Robinson confirmed that there is \$106 million, circa £60K allocated for bus shelter provision in Drakes Broughton. Cllr Robinson is in discussion with WCC Highways as to how the bus shelters currently on the B4084 can be upgraded/replaced using this allocation. Ideally WCC will replace and then continue to own and maintain the new shelters. County Councillor advised that moving the location was not something WCC Highways would agree or fund. The Chair advised that the suggested relocation of the bus stop was a separate matter being suggested and driven by the Vale Transport Group, their concern was passenger safety as crossing the road to get to the bus stop is problematic and the pedestrian crossing is a long way from the bus stop.

Walcot Lane Ford – County Councillor Robinson advised that some of the new signage had been installed and the rest would be installed as soon as the ford was no longer in flood. Members advised that another 2 cars had been stuck in the ford the previous weekend!

Pirton Polling Place – The decision whether to reinstate 1 Elm close as the polling place in Pirton would be decided by full Wychavon District Council on 6th December. District Councillor Adams advised that any member of the public wishing to attend and speak could do so.

Asset Review – The clerk confirmed that the Bench and notice boards had now been varnished.

6) FINANCE

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

Date for Financial subgroup meeting – The Chair confirmed this was now scheduled for 6.30pm 24th November. The meeting is to provide the opportunity for attendees to learn more about the finance database used by the Parish Council and to review first draft of the proposal for next year's budget. Members of the group are Cllr Butterworth Cllr Booker, and Cllr Williams; it is hoped that a representative for Wadborough will attend

Date for Finance background information session – The Chair advised a date would be set in January.

Suggestions for inclusions in the precept – The Chair advise that the precept request was required for 24/25 by 31st January and asked members to make the Clerk aware of additional items they think should be included for next year. There was a discussion regarding the flashing school lights but these were County Council owned and maintained and the precept budget could not be used for this.

The payment of £156.00 to Mr B Arrowsmith fort Septembers lengthsman services was noted.

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

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary October– S/O	£559.64
b) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – October	£260.00
c) SSE – Streetlighting monthly electricity	£TBC
d) Smart Cut – grass cutting and Play Park surfaces	£TBC
e) Mrs N Nicholson quarterly contribution to BB and phone line	£60.00
f) Mrs N Nicholson – quarterly OPE	£39.80
g) Mr B Arrowsmith – Varnish assests and reinstate Park sign.	£115.00

Remittance: WCC Lengthsman reimburse August £260.00

7.) WADBOROUGH CROSSROADS

The PC await a schedule from WCC for the proposed works.

8.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD – Football store, Progress update on Open Space phase 2, Play Park safety checks and maintenance.

The Chair advised that there had been no further update from DBRFC regarding the storage shed.

The Chair advised that the finalised drawing up of the concept plan for Phase 2 of the open space development would be received by December's meeting.

The Chair advised that Cllr Turner and Mr Mick Pell had agreed to complete the regular Play Park visual inspections and the clerk had met with and briefed Cllr Turner onsite. It is suggested that weekly checks are needed in the summer period and during school holidays and periodic checks in between. It was important that the Clerk was notified when the checks had been done and any actions required were noted, planned, and actioned.

The Clerk had met with Cllr Turner, and they had assessed all advisories listed on the annual inspection and will now meet with a representative from Sutcliffe Play to discuss the remaining maintenance items.

9.) REVIEW ANNUAL RISK REGISTER

Following on from discussions at November's meeting, and adoption of the new risk assessment paperwork, Members had all reviewed the categories and risk assessment levels Cllr Abercrombie had suggested. All members agreed to sign off the annual risk assessment.

10.) ROAD SAFETY – Speed Watch /VAS Data/additional VAS

Cllr Bessant advised members that the speed watch had been out 3x in the month and caught 3 vehicles speeding. Cllr Bessant is awaiting feedback from the Speed Watch scheme regarding if they can operate on the B4084. Cllr Bessant advised that more volunteers were needed who could attend the training and offer 1 hour per week to run the sessions and be willing to be vetted and patient as vetting can take some time!

The Clerk advised that she had applied for funding for an additional VAS to be used on the B4084. She had discussed and secured match funding from County Councillor Robinson and had applied to the Police and crime commissioner for the rest of the funding. This application was being done in conjunction with Sedgeberrow PC who also required a new VAS as Elan City were offering x2 for £4000. Elan City have agreed to extend the special offer until the end of November to allow for confirmation of the funding from the Police and Crime commissioner. County Councillor Robinson advised that she had discussed this with the Highways Liaison officer and they had agreed to safety assess and install the VAS poles at the entrances to the 40 MPH zone on the B4084. The cost of poles and installation would be met by WCC. The Chair and members thanked Cllr Robinson for her grant towards this.

District Councillor Turier advised members that she had initiated a speeding petition to ask for attention to speeding throughout Drakes Broughton but with a focus on the B4084. She regularly had residents complaining from the new estates Sanctuary residents find drivers very aggressive when they turn into their estate and residents with children find the speeds excessive when walking to the crossing and to the bus stop.

It was noted that the DB VAS was currently situated at the railway bridge end of Stonebow Road.

It was noted a member to be responsible for the VAS data in Wadborough was required.

There was a reminder regarding the parkway Town briefing at the Village Hall Saturday 4th November.

11.)DBRFC – Memorandum of understanding

The Chair advised after a considerable overhaul of the memorandum last year and the new arrangements working well. She suggested the memorandum remain the same and be renewed as it is for a further 12 months. All members agreed.

Cllr Bessant advised that the pitches had been too wet for matches recently but Pinvin pitch had been playable.

12.)WADBOROUGH BUS SHELTER

The Chair advised that the Wadborough village committee had suggested installing an information board into the PC owned, redundant, bus shelter. Further details to be presented next month.

13.)BUS SERVICE

Cllr Pell advised that Malvern Hills District had started a demand led bus service and she is waiting to see if Wychavon will be next are rolled out. The demand led service was successfully trialled in Bromsgrove and it now going to be rolled out throughout Worcestershire. Essentially the idea is to request bus from your home to take you to certain central locations where you can shop/work or access national public transport links.

14.)STAFFING COMMITTEE

The Chair reminded members that the Clerk annual review was being held 27th November and reminded members send in any feedback if they have any prior to then.

15.)REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS –updates from County Councillor and District Councillors had been circulated prior to the meeting.

County Councillor Robinson advised regarding the good news that manned ticket offices were to be retained by the railways.

Cllr Skeys asked County Councillor Robinson what was happening with the empty Kites Farmhouse in Pirton. He thought it was very disappointing to see a lack of support for young farmers as the house appeared empty and was not being leased with the farm any longer. The Clerk advised that she had seen the property advertised at lower than market rent under a guardian programme with a 30-day notice period.

District Councillor Adams advised that there was currently 16+ live planning applications in the area with 4 applied for on Stonebow Road.

Councillor Adams asked Cllr Bessant if it would be agreeable to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner to visit one of the speed watch sessions. Cllr Bessant welcomed this and would notify Cllr Adams of the next scheduled sessions. Cllr Bessant advised that normally rural police visit and support community speed watch volunteers, but they had not visited the DB scheme as yet.

Members raised their concerns regarding the massive number of additional houses proposed for the area and the lack of room for any expansion of the hospital. Cllr Booker raised his concern that the Hospital had recent revealed that it had missed out of massive amounts of funding from S106 agreements; Cllr Adams advised that this was an error in that the hospital administration had not applied by the deadlines and it was all very disappointing, but he thought it would never happen again.

Members Reports

Cllr Skeys advised that further to a meeting with District Councillor Adams and the Communities Officer, he was considering applying for Legacy Grant funding for a composting toilet and a conservation area at Pirton Church. The Clerk thought that this would be against legislation whereas a Local Authority cannot fund towards a religious organisation. Cllr Skeys and District Councillor Adams thought it may be possible as the funds would not be from the precept. The Chair asked the Clerk to find out if it was possible within the governing legislation.

Cllr Turner advised that despite residents cutting back their hedges some were still not cut back enough to allow easy pedestrian use of the pavement, furthermore in some areas the pavements width was reduced by the grass verges and required cutting out. County Councillor Robinson advised that waiting list for this was very long and that it was an expensive undertaking.

Cllr Pell raised the visibility when exiting the Village Hall car park, which was now being obscured by the hedge and the dog waste bin. The Clerk would get prices to relocate/replace the dog waste bin and in the meantime get the lengthsman to cut back the hedge.

Cllr Booker reminded the Clerk to write to Wheatecroft Farm regarding ceasing vehicular movements during school open/close times.

16.) PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

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

17.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The Chair and the clerk would compile the Village Report for the December edition.

18.) PLANNING

SWDPR – The Chair advised that the Joint Parishes Committee meet on 8th November to review what had been presented by the developers at their public consultation sessions and following that the Joint Parishes Committee has another meeting scheduled for 11th December with representatives from WDC. The Chair noted that Whittington Parish representatives were particularly unhappy.

Planning Applications Drakes Broughton – it was noted that there is a number of large applications being submitted, the majority of which were outside of the development boundary. Members were particularly concerned regarding the recent approval of 3 dwellings at Windmill Lane. Cllr Booker asked the District Councilors how the decision is made to take a planning application to committee or not. Cllr Adams explained that any difficult or controversial decisions are usually called to go to committee by the DC and as a rule of thumb the Planning officer would be looking to see at least 10 members of the public submitting objections on the planning portal. Most decisions are made by the Planning officers under delegated powers so they can approve applications with no objections fairly swiftly.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/01959/PIP Thorndon Grove, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in principle for the construction of up to 3no dwellings. Objection submitted.
W/23/01973/PIP Land at (OS 9310 4833) Brickyard Lane, Drakes Broughton. Application for permission in principle for a min no 6 and maximum of 8 no dwellings. Objection submitted.
W/23/02123/FUL St Barnabas CofE First and Middle School, Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. New extensions and internal alterations to existing, demolition of existing mobile classroom. No objection.
W/23/02134/HP Whiteoak's, Mill Lane, Wadborough. Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of new single storey extension. No Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: W/23/01073/HP Caldwell, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Erection of garden studio
W/23/01959/IPI Thorndon Grove, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in principle for the construction of 3no dwellings.
W/23/01525/FUL Crabbe Tree Farm, Besford Road, Wadborough. Formation of pool and wetland planting area including soil bund.
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: W/23/02102/PIP Land at 9Os 9265 4891) Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 4no dwellings.
Members discussed the number of application along Stonebow Road and the existing problems turning on/off the road and the volume of traffic already on this road.
- e) Appeals: Appeals: AAP/H1840/W23/3322058 Land at (O/S 9311 4891) Beech Ave, PIP for 6 no. dwellings. Objection outside NP and sewerage pipe issue nearby.
- f) Awaiting appeal outcome Lea Haven.
- g) Planning Committee: W/22/02744/OUT 30 dwellings 'Josie orchard' DATE NOT SET.

- h) Awaiting determination: 12 houses Walcot Lane, 25 Houses Freshfield & 53 Thornleigh Nurseries & 6 Houses Brickyard Lane.

19.)CORRESPONDENCE

- WCC Street trader extension Droitwich
- Nigel Huddleston – reply regarding protection for Neighborhood Plans
- WDC Town & Parish newsletter
- WDC Planning Communities Together event for Parish and Town Councils - 23 November 2023
It was noted that Cllr Booker would attend on behalf of DWPPC.
- WCC Winter Newsletter – grit bins. It was noted that the lengthsman had broken up the grit and it was all usable.
- Resident offering Open Space2 assistance.
- Notice that column 14 is permanently lit.
- WDC Fly tipping event.
- WDC Bus back consultation The Chair thanked Cllr Pell for reviewing and commenting on the 80-page document!
- Wick Parish Council Play Park funding query – It was noted that Wick PC had asked for advice on how DB had funded the Play Park. (Via S106 from new housing developments)
- WCC Tree Warden information – It was suggested to advertise for a volunteer tree warden in the Villager.
- NS&i - The Clerk advised that she had received all the paperwork to close the NS&i account but as the signatories were not know, the first step would be to choose 2 new signatories and then notify NS&i, Cllr Skeys proposed Cllr Butterworth and Cllr Pell be the nominated signatories to close the account, Cllr Booker seconded this motion and all members agreed.

INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 7th December 2023** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed 21.30.