

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

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr D Skeys, Cllr R Bessant, Cllr Mark Williams, Cllr R Booker, Cllr Maureen Williams, Cllr S Roberts & Cllr Turner.

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

PUBLIC: Three residents in attendance

The Chair opened the meeting and advised those present that Agenda Item 12 would be moved to the end of the meeting as its was a closed to the public discussion on the clerk salary review.

1) APOLOGIES:

Cllr Small, Cllr L Abercrombie, Cllr R Roberts & Cllr Pell

Co-option – Mr Mark Williams from Wadborough was co-opted onto the Parih Council. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Cllr Mark Williams to the meeting.

2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

***Public Participation:** A resident from Stonebow Road Drakes Broughton attended to raise her concerns regarding the discharge of waste from Sanctuary Housing development by tanker into the manhole on Stonebow Road and the fact that the drain there cannot cope and there is regularly, at least once a month raw sewerage pouring out onto the roads, pavement and into neighbouring gardens, including her own. The resident passed around pictures and raised concerns regarding children walking to school through the sewerage and that a number of cats and dogs in the village have been taken ill. The issues are regularly raised to Severn Trent who attend but not swiftly and the issue is reoccurring. Severn Trent operatives have said the waste coming from Sanctuary development is full of builder's waste and that's clogging the system.*

The Chair thanked the resident for raising the issue. The Chair advised that as far as the PC was aware the illegal discharging via tanker to the manhole had been stopped by Severn Trent in June. The resident advised that this had continued with a new firm 'Gloucester Clearway'. The clerk would advise her Severn Trent contacts regarding this. She had recently been updated from Sanctuary Housing that their drainage is completed and is connected albeit not directly to the manhole referred to on Stonebow Road: this is the connection agreed via the planning application. Severn Trent has a statutory duty to ensure the drain can cope and that sewerage is not spilling into the street.

The Chair read out the advice received from the WDC drainage officer who had attended one of the recent sewerage spill events there. Severn Trent were onsite dealing with the issue. The advice was that the issue should be reported immediately each and every time to Severn Trent on: 0800 783 44 44.

Members and the County Councillor's advised the residents to escalate the repeated events to Worcester Regulatory Services and Environment Agency as they are the bodies with the power to put pressure onto Severn Trent to adhere to their statutory duties.

The Clerk would try and get some dialogue with her Severn Trent contacts to see if she could put some pressure from that angle. Cllr Butterworth added that she will take the opportunity to raise the issues with Nigel Huddleston MP as she is attending a meeting with him tomorrow.

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

The Chair advised that the two 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 2nd November 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

Walcot Lane Ford – currently in flood and impassable.

Pirton Polling Place – The Chair was delighted to report that as a direct result of lobbying from local residents and the Parish Council the polling station had been re-instated at 1 Elm Close. The Chair thanked District Councillor Turier, County Councillor Robinson and in particular District Councillor Adams for their support in getting the polling station reinstated. Wychavon don't appear to have a copy of the document that provides the details of the linking of the Parish of Drakes Broughton and Wadborough with Pirton Parish and the Clerk was asked to speak with CALC so see if they can point us to who would have a copy. District Councillor Adams expressed a desire to see a good turn out from Pirton at the next elections.

Wadborough Bus Shelter – Cllr S Roberts advised the information board idea was no longer going ahead.

Pirton Church – following on from last months request for the Parish Council to consider applying for Legacy Grant funding for the toilet and recreation area at Pirton Church. The Clerk had ascertained that although the funds might be available from a WDC Legacy Grant as the grant would be made to the Parish Council any spending was subject to all the normal Parish Council legislation and rules, whereby the Parish Council would need to own the toilet/land it was situated on and also can not fund Church buildings.

Memorandum of Understanding with DBRFC – This was awaiting sign and return from DBRFC.

Bovis Hedge – District Councillor Liz Turier advised that she was liaising with Bovis regarding the gap in the hedge by the B4084. The estate had yet to be adopted and she was hopeful that the Bovis contractor would address the issue.

6) FINANCE

The monthly bank reconciliation for November was completed by Cllr Skeys. The Chair advised there had been a process change whereby the reconciliation would be completed via email prior to the meeting.

Half Yearly finance scrutiny – The Chair explained that in recent years a half yearly check of invoices and paperwork against the database was undertaken in September, this was overdue. Cllr Mark Williams and Cllr Butterworth would undertake the review and report back at January's meeting.

Report back from financial subgroup meeting – The Chair advised that Mark Williams had attended ahead of his co-option alongside Cllr Maureen Williams and Cllr Booker. They had been given a

demonstration of the bespoke financial database that is used to record and report all the Parish Council's financial transactions. It had been decided that Cllr Maureen Williams will hold a third copy of the database to ensure correct financial controls and overview. The Clerk will provide a copy of the up to date each month to the Chair and Cllr Maureen Williams

Date for Finance background information session – The Chair advised a date would be set in January, attendees would be Cllr Bessant, Cllr Mark Williams and Cllr S Roberts.

Review draft precept – The Chair advise that the precept budget was currently a work in progress. The request was required by WDC for 24/25 by 31st January. A draft budget would be circulated for sign off at the January meeting. The Chair advised that following a number of years where the Parish Council had run at 0% increase this would not be possible this year and there would need to be an increased in the precept to continue to provide the correct level of services and in light in the inflationary increases being seen in every sector.

Clerk Annual Salary increase- The Chair advised that the unions had agreed a £1 per hour increase for the SCP scale for the 23/24 pay review. The figures including back pay would be calculated and the standing order changed accordingly.

The payments of £449.16 to SSE and £263.96 to Smart Cut Ltd paid since the last meeting was noted.

It was proposed by Cllr Bessant and seconded by Cllr Skeys to authorise the following payments:

a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary November– S/O	£559.64
b) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – November	£260.00
c) SSE – Streetlighting monthly electricity	£TBC
d) One Creative Environments Ltd – Conceptual master plan Play Park phase 2	£540.00
e) Pirton Parochial Church – Hire for Annual Parish meeting	£20.00
f) Mr S Mitcham – Clerk annual software & antivirus renewal	£128.98
g) WDC Annual cleanse and weekly emptying dog waste bin DBVH	£110.24
h) Worcestershire CALC – Clerk salary review	£120.00
i) Elan City – VAS for B4084	£2507.99

(Funded via OPPC Grant £1000 & County Councillor Grant £1000)

Remittance: WCC Lengthsman reimburse September £156.00 & WCC Lengthsman reimburse October £260.00

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 of the concept plan for Phase 2 of the open space development had been circulated to members. Cllr Bessant asked regarding the inclusion of the amphitheatre as she thought this was not longer part of phase 2. The Chair advised that as it was a conceptual master plan everything that 'could' potentially be included was still in the drawing and that the space allocated for the amphitheatre was still planned as a round seating area just not tiered as an amphitheatre. Cllr Bessant queried the new location of the bike track as she had thought it was moving to the right of the football pitches.

The Chair advised the Open Space Committee would now start moving forward on the first stage of the development, starting with work to introduce the path around the field. The conceptual masterplan would be used to access the funding to start to deliver stage 2.

The Chair advised that Cllr Turner & the Clerk had met with a representative from Sutcliffe Play to review the advisories from the annual safety inspection and order specific parts. Cllr Turner and Mick Pell had been briefed and had done their first visual inspection checks. It was noted that Mr Wild had now moved away. Thanks for his work getting the play Park installed were noted.

9.) REVIEW OF WASTE BINS DRAKES BROUGHTON

The Chair advised that further to a request from a Sanctuary homes resident earlier in the year there was a need to plan a review of the litter/dog waste bins across Drakes Broughton with a view to add more if necessary or move to adequately cover the additional new developments appropriately. Cllr Turier had also received a request for an additional dog waste bin opposite the entrance to the PROW on the Bovis estate but as Bovis estate was not adopted she planned to talk to Bovis as there were already 2 dog waste bins provided on the estate she was hopeful they would install a third.

Cllr Booker asked the Clerk for a list of current bin locations in Drakes Broughton. The clerk will provide a list of locations of the PC owned and maintained bins, but as part of the review all the WDC bins need locating and assessing if there is the correct coverage for the new estates. Cllr Booker queried the need for a dog waste bin on an estate with no pedestrian through route.

Cllr Booker and Cllr Turner would undertake the review in the spring when weather improved.

The Chair advised that the dog waste bin causing visibility issues at the village hall could be moved for £42.28. A post mounted litter bin could be installed on a post opposite the entrance to the Village Hall for £175. Cllr Besant thought this would be a much more practical location. Members asked the Clerk to have the dog waste bin removed ready for relocation and have the post mounted litter bin installed.

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

Cllr Bessant advised members that the speed watch had been out 2-3x in the month and caught 1 vehicle speeding, further sessions would be planned in the new year. Cllr Bessant advised that there had the speed watch volunteers had received some verbal abused from a driver on the last session. The Clerk would try and engage with the rural police to attend some sessions for support.

Cllr Bessant advised that she had 6 new volunteers come forward and the SNT had been informed to start the vetting process.

Cllr Bessant planned to retrieve and review the Stonebow VAS data for the January meeting.

The Chair advised that thanks to a grant from the OPPC and Cllr Robinson the new VAS for the B4084 had been purchased and that WCC would now safety review the pole locations and instruct the Parish Gang to install these. The VAS had been received and was currently with the lengthsmen. It was thought, should the VAS poles take some time to be installed, the new VAS could be mounted on the second VAS pole on Stonebow Road in the interim.

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

County Councillor Robinson Cllr Skeys queried why the Police team that covers Pirton that was not included in the list circulated. Cllr Robinson would clarify with OPPC but it was thought to be covered by Pershore SNT.

District Councillor Turier - Nothing extra to report.

District Councillor Adams – Cllr Adams thanked the Chair, Cllr Butterworth for attending and addressing the Council twice in the week.

Cllr Adams advised that following complaints regarding the time given in notice regarding planning applications going to Planning committee that PC Clerks will now be notified as soon as an application is ear marked for committee not just when it is formally placed on the agenda.

Members Reports

Cllr Turner advised that the school flashing light on Stonebow Road was still not working.

Cllr Bessant advised that as a resident (rather than as Parish Councillor) she had reported information to Rooftop regarding youths going on to the Rooftop garage roofs. Cllr Bessant was meeting Rooftop Neighbourhood support officer to look at installing anti-climb measures.

Cllr Butterworth advised that during the investigation regarding Pirton polling station, she had been made aware of a document known as a 'Grouping Order' which defined the nature of one Parish Council for 2 parishes. WDC cannot find any record of this document and she wished to ask CALC to help obtain a copy/details. Cllr Skeys thought the document maybe held with other archived documents from Upton Rural District Council, as Pirton was a separate Council under them back in the 1970's. The Clerk would ask CALC for support.

12.)STAFFING COMMITTEE – Clerk Salary grade review UNDER CLOSED DISCUSSION AT END OF MEETING.

13.)PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW

No report this month.

The clerk was asked to ask the lengthsman to review the flood ditches on Mill Lane.

14.)COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Cllr Booker advised he had attended, and the slides had been circulated for members to review.

15.)VILLAGER SUBMISSION

The Chair and the Clerk would compile the Parish Council update for the January edition.

16.)PLANNING

SWDPR Parishes committee meeting with Nigel Huddleston.

The Chair advised that the Joint Parishes Committee are meeting with Nigel Huddleston MP to raise issues raised with the Joint Parishes Committee regarding the lack of infrastructure, absence of sewerage and sewerage plans, issues regarding the bridges and future road congestion.

12 Houses Walcot Lane – Planning Committee

The Chair advised that due the mutual efforts of residents and the Parish Council in gathering information and making representations to the Planning committee especially regarding traffic issues on Walcot Lane and the ongoing flooding/drainage issues that have impacted on the local community since Holly Blue was built , the Planning Committee unanimously voted to refuse the application.

The Chair advised that the Parish Council should be looking (again) at updating the Neighborhood Plan. We should consider whether the SWDPR allocation (two x25no dwellings) should be

included. Members decided that Lady Coventry should now be approached again to see if she would be willing to sell her land next to the Playing Field for recreational expansion. The Chair will pass a suggested draft to the Clerk to send.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/02102/PIP Land at (O/S 9265 4891) Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Permission in principle for the construction of up to 4 no dwellings – Objection.
- b) Applications Approved: W/23/02123/FUL St Barnabas CE First Middle School. New extensions and internal alterations to existing school building. Demolition of existing mobile classroom. W/23/01381/FUL Stonehall Farmhouse, Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Change of use from agricultural to residential. Construction of new garaging.
- c) Applications Refused: W/23/01946/PIP Land at (OC 9215 4883 Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in Principle for the construction of up to 3 no dwellings. W/23/01973/Pip Land at 9OS 9310 4833) Brickyard Lane, Drakes Broughton. Application for permission in Principle for a min 6no dwellings and a maximum 8no dwellings.
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: N/A
- 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. Awaiting appeal outcome Lea Haven.
- f) Planning Committee: W/22/02744/OUT 30 dwellings ‘Josie orchard’
- g) Awaiting determination: 25 Houses Freshfield & 53 houses Thornliegh.

17.)CORRESPONDENCE

- Resident re raw sewerage Stonebow Road – Severn Trent attended.
- OPPC Town and Council survey results
- Resident re streetlight Williamson Way referred to the Management committee.
- Resident re footpath near Freshfields referred to PPW
- Nigel Huddleston response to concerns about protecting Neighbourhood Plans.
- E.on notice of repair and upgrade price increased.
- DBFC regarding mole control at Playing Field.

INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 4th January 2024** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall

Meeting closed to the public 21.30.