

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 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 T Pell, Cllr L Abercrombie & Cllr Turner.

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

**PUBLIC:** One resident in attendance

**1) APOLOGIES:**

Cllr Small, Cllr S Roberts & Cllr Maureen Williams

The Chair advised that Cllr Ray Roberts had resigned during the month, she thanked him for all his work in his years on the Council and advised members that he would remain doing the periodic highways review and would remain on the correspondence list because of passing information to Cllr Small who remains on long term sickness. The Chair advised that Cllr Small's situation would need review as there is legislation surrounding members missing a number of meetings in a period.

**2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

*Public Participation: A resident from Pirton was in attendance observing the meeting.*

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

The Chair advised that there are now three vacancies and a real need to fill the vacancies. As the numbers of members reduce there is a danger of the Council falling below quorum for decision making. The 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 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were proposed by Cllr Booker, seconded by Cllr Mark Williams, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**5) MATTERS ARISING**

Walcot Lane Ford –It was noted that the ford was currently in flood and impassable.

The Chair advised that she had observed road closed signage on the Pershore side, which appeared to contradict the WCC advice that they would only close the ford when a vehicle was stuck in it.

It was noted there had been at least one vehicle attempt to go through the ford despite it being 6ft deep.

County Councillor Robinson advised that all of the scheduled new signage hadn't been fully installed yet, due to the ford being in flood! The sign stating the numbers of vehicles getting into difficulty and the new depth marker were not in place yet. However, Cllr Robinson expressed her disappointment that the signage that had been installed before Christmas had already been damaged!

Members queried the legal stance that WCC Highways were taking, leaving the decision to drivers, was not working, there had been a number of near fatalities, as well as the actual fatality a number of years back, if cars get swept off down the brook its extremely dangerous.

Members noted that there were barriers and fords that were closed for road users' safety in Leicestershire and Warwickshire. Cllr Rob Adams suggested getting all interested parties to a meeting to discuss a way forward. Cllr Robinson would arrange this.

Cllr L Abercombie felt strongly that road users should be making decisions and that closing the road should not be considered an option. (It was noted that no party was suggesting any permanent closure, but closing during high flood for users' safety, with access available for the adjacent landowners.)

School Flashing Light – County Councillor Robinson would raise with County Council. It was noted that there are 3 flashing lights, the ones at B4084 end of Stonebow Road flash but not at the correct times, the ones opposite Woodleigh on Stonebow Road did not work at all and the ones on Walcot Lane were functioning correctly.

Memorandum of Understanding with DBRFC – This had been signed and returned and was on file.

Bus Shelters (s106 funding) - County Councillor Robinson advised that there was a lengthy County wide survey being conducted and no further answers would be forthcoming until that was completed.

Pirton Storm Drain – County Councillor Robinson arranged to bring the Highways Liaison officer for a site visit, the drain was not shown on the County Council system. County Councillor noted there was no current flooding in the area. Cllr Butterworth advised that the village green and area around the phone box was very waterlogged.

30MPH extension request for Stonebow Road under the railway bridge– County Councillor Robinson advised that this would only be triggered by a further housing development with access in the locality.

Stonebow Sewerage – County Councillor Robinson advised that unless the sewerage was spilling into a natural watercourse WRS could not take legal action.

Wadborough Crossroads improvement plan – The members asked for an update on timescales of the proposed stop junction and extension to 30MPH zone. Country Councillor Robinson advised that the next stage would be to get the Road Traffic Order in place she would talk to the Highways Liaison Officer and obtain an estimated timeline.

Pirton Grouping order – WDC are checking their archives for a copy of the grouping order. A copy should be held by WDC and Central Government, but it was produced before digitalisation so its in manual files. Cllr Butterworth is thinking to approach the Hive Archives to see if they potentially have a copy.

Village Hall dog waste bin – The Clerk suggested moving the dog waste bin to the entrance to the school footpath at the Sanctuary Homes estate end. A Sanctuary Homes resident had requested this and the new litter bin would be placed on the pavement side of Walcot Lane. Cllr Bessant thought that would be a much better location on Walcot Lane and Cllr Turner thought the suggested Sanctuary Estate location for the dog waste bin, was good.

Letter to Lady Coventry – the letter to Lady Coventry requesting an option to purchase the strip of land next to the playing field is composed, and will be sent next week.

SWDP Update – Cllr Butterworth advised that 2 inspectors had been appointed, likely adoption would not complete until the end of the year. A public examination will be held starting in March of this year with public viewing expected at the Civic Centre and the Guildhall. The proposed Parkway Town will have its own separate examination timetable. District Councillor Adams advised there was still a major discussion to be had surround in the infrastructure needed for proposed Parkway Town.

## 6) FINANCE

The monthly bank reconciliation for December had been completed and confirmed by Cllr Skeys and Cllr Maureen Williams via email as per the new process.

Half Yearly finance scrutiny – The Chair and Cllr Mark Williams were meeting to undertake the finance scrutiny tomorrow, Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January and would report back in February's meeting.

Date for Finance background information session – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 7pm – attendees: Cllr Bessant, Cllr Mark Williams and Cllr S Roberts.

Review draft precept – The Chair advised that the precept budget had been circulated for members to review. An increase of 3% was suggested in order to provide all the current services and the allocations for Play Park maintenance. The proposal was to request £26909 which added to the rural grant from WDC would bring in a total of £27960. This was proposed by Cllr Mark Williams, seconded by Cllr T Pell and agreed by all. The clerk was asked to complete the relevant paperwork and request the precept no later than 31<sup>st</sup> January.

The Clerk advised that SSE had a new billing system and that the bill for November had not yet been received.

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

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|---|----------|
| a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary December– S/O  | £559.64  |
| b) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – November  | £273.00  |
| The Chair noted a big thankyou to the lengthsman for his work especially during all the recent flooding, overall the parishes had not suffered from road flooding due to his well-maintained grips and monitoring of these. |          |
| c) E.on – Upgrade Column 12 Shrubbery Road (CIL)  | £1388.00 |

Remittance: WCC Grant from County Councillor Robinson towards the new VAS £1000.00 & West Mercia Police OPPC VAS Grant £1000.00

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

The Chair advised that regular checks were being undertaken by Cllr Turner and Mick Pell and were being reported into the Clerk. It was noted that the bolt for the 'frog board' was need required from Sutcliffe Play – the Clerk had chased the order.

The conceptual Master Plan for Open Space Phase two was completed this now required members of the wider Community to volunteer and join a project team to take ownership and deliver phase 2. An advert regarding this was requested to be placed in the Villager.

## 8.) ROAD SAFETY – Speed Watch /VAS Data/additional VAS

Cllr Bessant advised members that the speed watch had not been conducted during the festive period. Cllr Bessant advised there were 2 sessions scheduled for next week. Cllr Bessant has sent the dates to District Councillor Adams who was hoping to get John Campion, the Police and Crime Commissioner, to come and attend a session. Cllr Bessant confirmed she had 6 vetted and trained volunteers and 6 volunteers pending, she was awaiting contact from the SNT to request their vetting forms, prior to arranging their training, this can be a disappointing lengthy process.

VAS Data – Cllr Bessant had collected what she could of the VAS data but due to quarterly collection, the file seemed too big to download, she had logged a call with Elan City Ltd. She therefore only had a partial download. It was looking likely the data would need to be retrieved monthly. Cllr Bessant reported that the headline figure was the highest speed of 70MPH! Cllr Bessant advised that it was dangerous collecting the data from the VAS now it is located near to the railway bridge, she had experienced drivers speeding up to leave village and speeding entering the village, it all felt very close to her and her car on hazards lights. Members suggested the Clerk investigate options regarding 3G/4G remote data downloading. Cllr Booker & Cllr Turner volunteered to attend the data downloads with Cllr Bessant wearing high vis set out bollards to ensure Cllr Bessant was safer during data downloading.

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

**County Councillor Robinson** Cllr Turner advised that Woodleigh had been resurfaced during the summer and despite signage, the road markings had not been repainted yet.

**District Councillor Turier** – Cllr Turier advised that she had not heard back from Bomford Homes regarding the hedge etc on the Bovis Estate but believed the work was scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**District Councillor Adams** – Cllr Adams advised the members that there had been some damage to trees and saplings growing in Millenium wood caused by squirrels making walking and picnic areas difficult to access. This would be addressed by the Countryside Centre, and he was advised that birth control would be used to reduce further damage!

### Members Reports

The Chair advised she was meeting the Wadborough members that week to discuss concerns raised regarding access and storage of the water pump.

Cllr Bessant advised that as she had reported met the Rooftop Neighbourhood support officer to review the situation regarding Woodleigh garages. No anti-climb measures would be installed as she was the only resident raising the concern. Rooftop are reviewing use of the garages for storage.

Cllr Turner advised that the Stonebow Road Play Park entrance sign had once again been pulled from the ground and was on the floor. The clerk would get the lengthsman to re-install but there was a cost involved. Members asked the clerk to add a notice to the Villager regarding vandalism and costs incurred.

Cllr Pell advised that she had attended a meeting of the Vale Transport Group, and that the area was awaiting an update on the 'Demand Led' buses and had been told no decision had been made as yet. Cllr Pell advised that she and other members of the Transport Group are extremely frustrated by this, as it is already up and running in MHDC and that the Vale had been promised this but are now feeling left behind, with no action plan, following promises made by M Rouse (Cabinet Member for

Transport). County Councillor Robinson would raise this with MP Harriet Baldwin who often leads on Vale Transport.

#### **10.) CLERK SALARY GRADE REVIEW -Report back**

The Chair advised that the CALC Salary grade review had recommended the salary grading of the clerk role for this Council to be SCP 24-28 and following discussion and recommendations from the staffing committee the current Clerk had been moved to salary point SCP 27 from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

#### **11.) SEWERAGE STONEBOW ROAD – including letter to MP Nigel Huddleston**

The Chair advised that the Clerk had written to MP Nigel Huddleston on behalf of the Parish Council and his aid had replied suggesting a site visit with MP and Severn Trent and DBWPPC representatives be arranged. Members agreed this was a good starting point. It was noted that there were still posts on the Facebook notice board regarding tankards discharging into the drain on Stonebow Road. The clerk advised that she had been informed by Severn Trent that following the complaints in June no tankards from Sanctuary or anywhere have permission to discharge into the drain. In order to follow these up she needs reports with times, dates and preferable photos and the name of the company to be sent into the Parish Council email, Cllr Booker advised that it is illegal fly tipping. Members suggested this was added to the Villager report.

County Councillor Robinson asked that when members meet Severn Trent onsite if they can ascertain if Severn Trent are a statutory consultee on local planning applications.

#### **12.) PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW**

The Chair thanked Mr Roberts for his periodic Highways review.

The Clerk was asked to ask the lengthsman to review the flood ditches on Mill Lane from the crossroads towards Merrilands Farm on the left-hand side.

#### **13.) VILLAGER SUBMISSION**

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

To be included: Request for working party members to take Play Park phase 2 forward, Notice regarding a further vandalism of the Play Park signage and the incurred costs. Notice regarding reporting any illegal fly tipping of sewerage into the drain on Stonebow Road in order to address the matter formally.

#### **14.) DATES/FORMAT FOR PARISH MEETINGS**

The Chair advised that the separate Pirton meeting on a Tuesday in May continued to have good attendance and was informative, a date would be scheduled for a Tuesday in May to hold this.

The Chair led a discussion on how the Council could encourage residents of Drakes Broughton and Wadborough to attend the Annual Parish meeting, this is the resident's opportunity to drive the work of the Parish Council and to learn more about what's going on in their local community. Suggestions regarding the title and 'PARISH' being old fashioned and perhaps renaming as 'ANNUAL RESIDENTS FORUM' or 'ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING'. Another thought was potentially the timing and perhaps trying to have the meeting before or after the well-attended 'CAKE & CHATTER' sessions held on Fridays at the Village Hall. A date would be set for a Friday afternoon in May.

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

12 Houses Walcot Lane Record of local flooding and water retention.

The Chair advised that she was meeting with local residents and will see if someone is able to keep a record of flooding in the locality going forwards as there is a high probability the development refusal will be appealed against. It was noted that residents of Holly Blue Close bordering this land are still suffering unacceptable and repeatedly flooded gardens, ongoing since they purchased their houses.

Road Junctions on Stonebow Road – District Councillor Adams has a meeting planned with Highways representative K Hemstock to review the number of proposed junctions and existing junctions coming onto Stonebow Road. Cllr Pell and Cllr Butterworth will be attending and Cllr Bessant indicated that she would also like to attend.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/02102/PIP Land at 9OS 9265 4891) Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Changed description reduced number and size of dwelling. Up to 3 no dwelling houses. Strong Parish Council objections submitted.  
W/23/02582/HP 14 Laurel Close, Drakes Broughton. Erection of single storey rear extension. No objection.  
W/23/02455/CU Keepers Lodge, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Conversion of existing detached garage to small physiotherapy clinic. No objection.
- b) Applications Approved: W/22/00254/PIP Lea Haven, Mill Lane, Drakes Broughton. Permission in principle granted on appeal re: APP/H1840/W/23/3319304. 1 no. self-building dwelling.
- c) Applications Refused: W/23/00258/FUL Land to the South of Walcot Lane, Drakes Broughton. Erection of 12 no swellings (including 4 no affordable homes) creation of new access off Walcot Lane, associated works, SUD's and landscaping.
- 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.
- f) Planning Committee: W/22/02744/OUT 30 dwellings 'Josie orchard'
- g) Awaiting determination: 25 Houses Freshfield & 53 Thornleigh

#### **16.)CORRESPONDENCE**

- WDC Rural fund.
- Residents regarding Stonebow Sewerage
- PC to MP Nigel Huddleston re Sewerage Stonebow Road
- MP response regarding Sewerage Stonebow Road
- OPPC Safer Roads Grants 2
- OPPC Budget Survey
- Resident re WCC Streetlight – still unlit, County Councillor Robinson asked for details to follow up.
- OPPC Newsletter
- CALC Update
- Wadborough resident regarding water pump accessibility.

#### **INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024** at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall.

Apologies for February were taken from Cllr Mark Williams.

Meeting closed 21.20.