

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Butterworth (Chair), Cllr D Skeys, Cllr R Bessant, Cllr Maureen 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:** None

**1) APOLOGIES:**

Cllr S Roberts & Cllr Mark Williams

Cllr Small was noted as long term leave of absence until the Annual Parish Council meeting in May, where after an incredible 40 plus years as a Parish Councillor Cllr Small will retire. Cllr Small's attention to details especially regarding drainage and Highways is already being missed.

**2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**Public Participation:** *No members of public were in attendance.* The Chair took this opportunity to give thanks to the County and District Councillors for their support and pertinent questioning at the Planning Committee earlier in the day. The Chair thanked members of the community namely Ian Spencer, Victoria Salisbury and Ken Skillern and Cllr Bessant for joining meetings and gathering the evidence and the support of the residents who attended the Planning Committee and the silent protest to show their support for the opposition to the application to build on 'Josies Orchard'. The Land outside of the Neighbourhood Plan, and not proposed in the emerging SWDPR. Cllr Bessant advised that Worcester News had been in attendance at the site visit, and she thought an article may follow. The Committee unanimously declined the application. The Chair advised there is always chance that an appeal will follow. She also advised that there were a further 2 larger developments awaiting determination.

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

The Chair advised that there remained three vacancies and a real need to fill the vacancies. Members discussed getting the Drakes Broughton vacancies advertised on the new estates, the clerk was asked to ascertain if the new estates received the Villager magazine.

**4) MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were proposed by Cllr Maureen Williams, seconded by Cllr L Abercrombie, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**5) MATTERS ARISING**

Walcot Lane Ford –County Councillor Robinson advised that there had been more vehicles stuck in the ford, most recently a very expensive BMW and one car had even turned onto its side. Cllr Robinson advised that the recently restored gabian baskets had been reported as damaged. Cllr Robinson advised that WCC Highways were reviewing where to locate the warning signage showing the number of incidents and are considering installing at the top of the lane rather than nearer the ford, this could avoid drivers needing to turn around at the ford which is tricky but also Cllr Robinson informed members that all of the recently installed new signage had been damaged and the bottom

half of the depth marker had been stolen. Members commented, suggesting more robust signage was needed and a need to remind the public that this is criminal damage. Cllr Booker suggested the WCC Highways investigate vehicle activated ford signage that could be automatically switched on when the ford was in flood.

School Flashing Light – County Councillor Robinson advised that the lights would be assessed tomorrow with a view to repair or replace.

Pirton Grouping Order – WDC had not responded, and the Chair had not visited the Hive archive yet.

Dog Waste Bin – The clerk advised that she was awaiting the officer at WDC assessing the new location on Sanctuary for the dog waste bin to move too and the new litter bin would be installed on the 30MPH sign opposite entrance to Village Hall at the same time.

Pirton Storm Drain – The Chair advised that County Councillor Robinson and the Highways liaison Officer had had a site visit and ascertained the drain existed, it was now on the list to be addressed.

Wadborough Crossroads improvement plan – The notices had been received from WCC K Hemstock, an amendment had been made following a resident's comment.

It was noted that Abbotswood Road was closed until Saturday to address a collapsed headwall which would address the carriageway flooding in the area.

Cllr Robinson advised she had been approached by a resident in Wadborough regarding living on a road with no name. She would forward to the Clerk so it can be investigated locally.

Letter to Lady Coventry – the letter to Lady Coventry had been sent and she had replied that she had an agreement with the developer and potentially another option but thanked the Parish Council for their interest.

Annual Parish Meeting dates were confirmed as PIRTON - Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April, dependant on Church availability.

Drakes Broughton & Wadborough - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May after the Community Café session  
Cllr Pell advised the Village Hall was a polling station for day of the Annual Parish Council meeting and May monthly meeting (Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and the clerk was asked to approach the school to request to hold the meeting there.

## **6) FINANCE**

The monthly bank reconciliation for January had been completed and confirmed by Cllr Skeys and Cllr Maureen Williams via email, and the reconciliation was signed.

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

Lengthsman hourly rate: The Chair advised that the lengthsman had requested a £1 increase on his hourly rate, increasing to £14ph, not unreasonably, and it was noted he did a good job around the Parishes. The increase was proposed by Cllr Butterworth, seconded by Cllr Pell and agreed by all.

The payment of £389.75 to SSE paid since the last meeting was noted.

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

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|---|---------|
| a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary January– S/O                                       | £600.00 |
| b) Mrs N Nicholson – remainder of clerk salary January                                | £95.88  |
| Note amount for employee deductions to HMRC £0.00 to be paid quarterly by 22nd March. |         |
| c) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – January                                   | £260.00 |
| d) Mrs N Nicholson – quarterly contribution to BB & Phone                             | £60.00  |
| e) Mrs N Nicholson – quarterly OPE –<br>(Includes £36.66 printer cartridge)           | £92.15  |
| f) SSE – Streetlighting monthly electricity   | £TBC    |
| Members authorized the clerk to set up direct debit payment for the SSE contract.     |         |
| g) Mr B Arrowsmith – reinstall Play Park sign   | £30.00  |
| h) E.on Energy Solutions – upgrade to col 12 (CIL Money)                              | 1388.00 |
| Reissued payment as cheque cancelled as never received by E.on.                       |         |

Remittance: Wayleave payment from National Grid £72.44

### **7.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD.**

Cllr Turner was asked to do a visual Play Park check prior to the half term school break.

The Chair advised that once the phase 2 master plan map is received from One Ltd a working party would be created to progress obtaining the s106 money to implement phase 2 of the Open Space Development.

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

Cllr Bessant advised that the data file downloaded last month had been found to be corrupt by Elan city and sadly the data was lost.

There were 2 Community Speed watch sessions planned for February. One on 8<sup>th</sup> February, where the Police will attend for a photoshoot!

Cllr Bessant advised that the new VAS was now on the second Stonebow Road pole whilst awaiting the installation on the poles on the B4084.

Members discussed the safety regarding obtaining the data from the VAS's. The Clerk advised that Elan City had stated that the data could be downloaded from approx. 50ft. Cllr Bessant thought the size of the download quarterly maybe causing the issues. Cllr Bessant asked for other members to download the VAS data. Cllr Abercrombie would data download from the Wadborough VAS.

The Clerk advised that download data from home via a 4G modem would cost £200 for the modem to be fitted to each VAS and £250 bi-annual fee for the software package.

County Councillor Robinson advised that WCC were keen on the data being collected especially on the B4084 and wondered if safe downloadable locations should be sought before the poles are installed. It was agreed the priority was getting the poles installed in the correct area for the VAS to flash and slow the traffic down, that was the primary purpose.

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

**County Councillor Robinson** drew attention to the low level of vaccination uptake against measles in Worcestershire putting the County at risk of an outbreak and urged people to get their children vaccinated.

The County Council budgetary deficit was discussed, and it was noted the heavy burden was attributed to School Transport & Special Educational needs, there would be a programme of voluntary redundancies within County Council.

**District Councillor Turier** – Advised that there appeared to be a real appetite in Drakes Broughton to make 'Josies Orchard' a designated green space and that there could be potential funding for an orchard.

**District Councillor Adams** – Cllr Adams advised the next site for determination was the PIP application for 3-4 houses opposite the Oak Inn.

It was discussed that Drakes Broughton was facing re-designation as a category 1 village. Cllr Adams suggested speaking/meeting with Andrew Ford at WDC and or Cllr Emma Kearsey. It was noted that updating the Neighbourhood Plan was needed as a matter of urgency and would be on the agenda next month.

Cllr Adams as his role as ambassador for Armed Service veterans asked is anyone had any old photographs of farming during the war years.

Cllr Adams advised that there were questions to be answered by the PCC over the handling of the Alfie Steele case.

### **Members Reports**

Cllr Abercrombie suggested inviting the Safer Neighbourhood Team to run a Community Safety session. This included Smart Water marking. There had been some recent thefts and concerns raised in Wadborough. Cllr Pell would contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team to arrange.

Cllr Pell advised there had been no further progress regarding the buses.

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

The Chair advised that a meeting with Severn Trent had been offered as a result of the Parish Council writing to the MP. The Chair advised that questions needed answering regarding the infrastructure project that had been put back and further spending reviews could put the project back another 5 years. Members thought that no further development should be allowed until the infrastructure project was implemented by Severn Trent who have advised that the current system cannot cope with the current housing.

### **11.)PERIODIC HIGHWAYS REVIEW – tasks for lengthsman**

Nothing to report this month.

### **12.)VILLAGER SUBMISSION**

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

### **13.)PLANNING**

Report back from Planning Committee re W/22/02744/OUT 'Josies Orchard.'

Outline planning application for the erection of up to 30 residential dwellings and associated infrastructure (all matters reserved except for access) Land At (Os 9259 4864), Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton

As noted at the start of the meeting unanimously turned down at the WDC Planning Committee. Really good work from Councilors and residents alike to preserve the ancient orchard, it was noted that the land was a specific soil type retaining and holding water.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/23/02087/HP 42 Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton, Relocation of front door and addition of porch. No Objection. W/23/02595/HP New Farm, Besford Road, Wadborough. Replacement outbuilding with single storey link and two storey rear extension. No objection.
- b) Applications Approved: N/A
- c) Applications Refused: N/A
- d) Applications Awaiting comment: 00159/AGR
- e) Appeals: Appeals: AAP/H1840/W23/3322058 Land at (O/S 9311 4891) Beech Ave, PIP for 6 no. dwellings. Approved via appeal.
- f) Awaiting determination: 25 Houses Freshfield & 53 Thornleigh - The Chair advised that working parties need to prepare comments for when these go before the Planning Committee, whilst Thornleigh is allocated in the emerging SWDPR it is only allocated for 25 dwellings not 53! 3-4 Stonebow Road, PIP, will be taken to the Planning Committee, members noted this was currently farmed agricultural land.

#### **14.)CORRESPONDENCE**

- WCC Natural Networks Funding
- Age UK Malvern Theatre Fundraiser
- Resident regarding Water Pumps access Wadborough
- Resident re flickering streetlight Woodlands Close
- Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service – Consultation
- WDC Design code consultation - Members were encouraged to review this as it would be a code for developers on the design of new housing to be built so would have an effect in Drakes Broughton. Cllr Turier shared a hard copy.
- WCC Boundary Consultation
- WCC Local aggregate assessment data
- WCC Local Natural Recovery Strategy consultation
- Resident regarding B4084 speeding and pedestrian crossing being passed when red!
- Reported damage to Drakes Broughton phone box.
- DBVH regarding broken paving stone at DBVH
- WDC Enforcement re Deerfold Wood – Wadborough. It was noted the land agent was Pip Webster and her details had been forwarded to WDC.
- Wychavon Parish Games AGM
- WCC Budget consultation

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

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 7th March 2024** at Drakes Broughton Village Hall. The meeting will start at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21.35.