

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 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 L Abercrombie & Cllr Turner.

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

**PUBLIC:** None

**1) APOLOGIES:**

District Councillor Liz Turier, Cllr Small, Cllr S Roberts, Cllr Mark Williams & Cllr Pell

**2) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

*Public Participation: No members of public were in attendance.*

**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. The Chair advised she was looking for members to join with specific areas of interest/expertise. There is a need for a lead on the Open Space phase 2 development. Cllr Booker volunteered, the Chair advised that a parishioner with project management skills had come forward to join the working party, the Chair thanked Cllr Booker who would oversee the working party and report back as a member to the Parish Council. There was a need for a member to lead on the re-write of the Neighbourhood Plan, Cllr Williams volunteered to assist with this, the Chair was hopeful that some of the recent community planning action group may join to lead on this specific task. There was a need for some to lead on the review regarding Drakes Broughton Drainage as well.

**4) MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 were proposed by Cllr Maureen Williams, seconded by Cllr D Skeys, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record.

**5) MATTERS ARISING**

Walcot Lane Ford –County Councillor Robinson advised that she sits on the Fire and Rescue Committee. She advised that there had been a 314% increase in rescues from water 2022-2023, attributed to storms. There is a trial of flashing lights signage being undertaken on a ford in North Herefordshire, if this is successful Cllr Robinson has requested that Walcot Ford is next on the list.

School Flashing Light – Cllr Turner advised there was no change, and x2 of the signs remained unlit.

Pirton Grouping Order – WDC had not located yet.

Dog Waste Bin – The clerk advised that she was awaiting the works to be undertaken by WDC.

Pirton Storm Drain – Awaiting action from WCC Highways

Wadborough Crossroads improvement plan – awaiting dates from WCC Highways.

Woodleigh Road marking – Cllr Turner advised these remained unpainted.

## 6) FINANCE

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

The Finance background information session had taken place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February in attendance Cllr Bessant & Cllr Mark Williams. Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts. The Chair would run another session in 5-6 months.

Annual Contracts: Members agreed to continue with the services of B Arrowsmith as lengthsmen and the clerk was asked to draw up the contract. Grass cutting was in place with Smart Cut Ltd until 2026. Streetlighting Electricity was in contract with SSE until 2025.

The payment of £833.26 to SSE paid since the last meeting was noted.

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

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| a) Mrs. N Nicholson – Clerk Salary February– S/O                                       | £600.00 |
| b) Mrs N Nicholson – remainder of clerk salary February                                | £65.08  |
| Note amount for employee deductions to HMRC £31.80 to be paid quarterly by 22nd April. |         |
| c) Mr. B Arrowsmith – Lengthsman Services – February                                   | £260.00 |
| d) DB Villager – annual grant  | £100.00 |
| e) E.on Energy Solutions – upgrade to col 12 (CIL Money)                               | £277.60 |
| Part payment as invoiced incorrectly by E.on   |         |

Remittance: HMRC VAT reclaim £2020.35

It was noted that £15652.31 the closing balance from NS&i had been moved into the Lloyds Bank saving account which now held a balance of £16345.74. The Chair advised that the finance sub group needed to review the savings to ensure a good rate of interest was received.

## 7.) PLAYPARK and PLAYING FIELD.

Cllr Turner advised visual inspections completed 12<sup>th</sup> February & 1<sup>st</sup> March. Still awaiting frog board bolt and worn footrest replacements from Sutcliffe Play. The clerk would chase these parts from Sutcliffe Play.

It was discussed moving the annual inspection to Spring rather than end of summer – The clerk would liaise with the inspector.

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

Cllr Bessant advised that there had been no Speed Watch sessions held this month due to diary clashes and inclement weather. Some volunteers were still awaiting the vetting procedure!

Cllr Bessant had not had chance to download the VAS data this month.

Cllr Abercrombie would get access to download the data from the Wadborough VAS.

It was noted that the PC was still awaiting WCC installation of poles for B4084.

## 9.) REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS

**County Councillor Robinson** - Report circulated prior to meeting. Cllr Robinson asked the clerk to publish on the PC website.

County Councillor drew members attention to the Town & Parish conference being held in June, Cllr Butterworth and Cllr Maureen Williams are attending for DBWPPC.

County Councillor Robinson was arranging a tour of the Enviro-Sort at Norton for all the local Parish Councils, each tour can accommodate 20 members and would be a good chance for networking with other Parishes members. Members interested were to let the clerk know.

There was a discussion regarding the WCC demand led bus service roll out. Evesham was scheduled to be operating next and it was thought Pershore would naturally follow. There was some concern how this would affect the existing Community Bus service. The clerk advised that in MHDC if the Community Bus provider could professionalise their service, they could become the WCC providers, all feedback from MHDC was positive.

**District Councillor Adams** – Cllr Adams gave thanks to the Chair for representing the Parish Council at the Planning Committee. Cllr Adams advised that funding for the Neighbourhood Plan update should become available in the new financial year. Cllr Adams checked the allocation of houses in the emerging SWDPR for Drakes Broughton. The Chair confirmed that Thornleigh was allocated as up to 25 dwellings in the emerging SWDPR, but the developer had already applied for 53 dwellings. Cllr Adams requested the Armed Forces Covenant be added to the April agenda, he would like Parish Councils to sign up to the covenant, which was a pledge to help veterans in difficulty, with help to work, transport assistance access arrangements for medical appointments etc.

#### **Members Reports**

Cllr Skeys had been approached by a resident regarding ornamental stones appearing on the verges. The clerk would add removal request to the Villager report, as WCC Highways advise that this practice is not permitted, and the homeowner would be held liable should any damage or accident occur.

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

The Chair advised that the meeting with Severn Trent as a result of the Parish Council writing to the MP had been attended by the MP's aide, 3 residents from Drakes Broughton, a member of the Parish Council and the Chair. The meeting was productive, and Stonebow Road drains will now be regularly monitored and checked by Severn Trent. The resident in attendance had suffered with sewerage in his garden for 7 years!

The MP has a meeting planned with Severn Trent and the capacity project that has been delayed would be raised by the MP at this meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March. Severn Trent have confirmed that there are overall capacity issues in Drakes Broughton due to pipe sizes.

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

Nothing to report this month.

The clerk advised that a new digital system for reclaiming the lengthsman grant is being launched in April. She had attended the training session and advised members it would require input of each task from the worksheet manually. County Councillor Robinson asked the clerk to email her regarding this so she could follow up with the lengthsman scheme manager.

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

The Chair and the Clerk had compiled and submitted the Parish Council update for the April edition.

#### **13.)PLANNING**

Planning Committee re W/23/02102/PIP Land at (Os 9265 4891) Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton. Permission in principle for the construction of up to 4no. dwellings. The Chair advised

that the application had been refused by the Planning Committee. The Chair thanked all those involved in writing reports and representing the community in objecting to this development. Sadly, it is expected the developers will appeal the decision and more and more decisions are being overturned on appeal.

Walcot Lane request for assistance – The Chair advised members that Juliff Homes, the developers applying for the 12 houses on Walcot Lane have approached the Parish Council for permission to survey the drain at the far end of the Playing Fields. Members discussed the need for the survey and that it could be funded by Juliff Homes, but it was decided it would be better for the Parish Council continue as they had planned and survey the drains as part of the Open Space development as this way the Parish Council would own the data etc. It was proposed by Cllr Butterworth and seconded by Cllr Maureen Williams not to give Juliff Homes permission, this was unanimously agreed on.

SWDPR – very slow progress, leaving communities and Countryside vulnerable due to the lack of 5-year housing plan.

Neighborhood Plan – The Chair advised that there was no funding available at this time but should be some available next year. She advised the Plan needed updating ASAP with the lack of land supply this was needed to try and combat the many speculative development applications being seen. She advised there was circa £4700 left from the original steering group grant, and she proposed using reserves to get started on the review ASAP, the original consultants Kirkwell's would be reengaged. Cllr Booker proposed to go ahead, seconded by Cllr Maureen Williams and agreed by all. The Chair would gather representatives from Wadborough & Pirton and a steering group would be formed.

- a) Comments made on planning applications to Wychavon: W/24/00218/HP Home Farm House, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Single storey rear extension with terrace. No Objection.
- b) W/24/00247/TDC5 Alley Garden, Brickyards Lane, Drakes Broughton. Technical detail application to remove condition 9 – Objection submitted.
- c) Applications Approved: W/23/02455/CU Keepers Lodge, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Conversion of existing detached garage to small physiotherapy clinic.  
W/23/02582/HP 14 Laurel close, Drakes Broughton. Erection of single storey extension.  
W/23/02087/HP 42 Shrubbery Road, Drakes Broughton. Relocation of front door and addition of porch.
- d) Applications Refused: N/A
- e) Applications Awaiting comment: W/24/00357/FUL Thorndon Grove, Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Erection of 3 no new dwelling homes. Full application following the granting of Permission in Principle. Members discussed the lack of realistic drainage solutions and a concern regarding Highways flooding. Cllr Butterworth & Cllr Maureen Williams would gather information and create an objection for submission. It was noted that the planning inspectorate giving PIP has said that these details must be agreed at this point, it was 'only' permission in principle being granted at appeal.
- f) Appeals: Appeals: AAP/H1840/W23/3322058 Land at (O/S 9311 4891) Beech Ave, PIP for 6 no. dwellings. Permission given by Inspectorate.  
APP/H1840/W/23/3334104. Land at (Os 9215 4883) Windmill Lane, Stoulton. Permission in Principle for construction of up to 3 no dwellings.
- g) Awaiting determination: 25 Houses Freshfield & 53 Thornleigh

W/24/00159/AGR Wheathlands Farm, Walcot Lane,. Agricultural building for general purpose storage in connection with farming operation. Primarily the proposal will be used for the essential storage of straw. WDC determined planning consent is not required.

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

- Wychavon Parish Games 2024
- MHDC Kempsey Road Closure
- Resident reporting WCC Streetlight at Hawthorne Close is still unlit, County Councillor Robinson was following this up.
- WCC Community Orchard funding
- King Charles portrait the clerk had requested the Parishes free copy for mounting in the village Hall.
- Notification of works at Pirton Pool – Completed.
- LNRS Consultation
- WCC Worcester authority monitoring report.
- WCC Green infrastructure strategy 2023-2028
- West Mercia PCC: Panel backs PCC's plan to deliver improvements for communities.

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

The next monthly Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2024** at Drakes Broughton Village Hall. The meeting will start at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21.50.