

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2nd MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

PRESENT: Cllr J Butterworth (Chairman), Cllr M Griffiths, Cllr R Small, Cllr S Wynn, Cllr R Turner, Cllr A Crouchman, Cllr Gardner, Cllr T Pell, Cllr M Ward, Cllr F Mead, Cllr F Mead, Cllr J Driscoll & Cllr D Proctor.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor R Adams, Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk)

PUBLIC: Mr R Cother, Mr D Rhodes, Mr B McCordal, Mr J Cooper, Mr I Spencer.

1) APOLOGIES

Cllr Wild, Cllr Yeo & District Councillor Paul Middlebrough

2) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION NOT ON THE AGENDA

Grass cutting contract added to item 7.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35pm to allow members of the public to bring their comments/requests.

Mr McCordal updated the meeting on a new proposed bus route that would see the demise of the current 382. Advantages would include savings for Midland Red as the current service is not cost effective. Advantages would be additional stops but the turnaround for Drakes Broughton will be every two hours not one. Mr McCordal referred members to a proposed new time table that the members of the Vale transport group had put forward, noting that three services would go to Eckington and not DB and Pinvin as hoped for. Mr McCordal has written to Midland Red and the Chair of the Vale transport group stressing that the proposal must be seen as a first draft and not a final version. Hopefully a new revised timetable will be introduced in September. A discussion arose regarding the times buses need to leave DB to get people to Worcester for work and also the times of the first service for bus pass holders. The Chair offered Mr McCordal any support he required saying that a letter could be sent from the PC if needed; Mr McCordal is to request this via the Clerk should the need arise. Mr McCordal pledged to fight for the best solution for DB and Wadborough. The Chair thanked Mr McCordal for the work he is undertaking on behalf of the community.

Mr Cother updated the meeting that despite a meeting with the Highways representative and County Councillor Adams the drain at Sidings Road had still not been jetted.

Mr Cother notified members that a chalet style residence had been erected on Mill Lane and members commented that they were not sure this had appropriate planning consent. The Clerk will contact Wychavon regarding this.

Mr Cooper addressed the Chair. He has heard that some members of the PC were in favour of a planning application received for 10 houses on Walcot Lane W/17/00156/OUT. The Chair responded that the official PC response is "no Comment". Mr Cooper asked for the names of those who didn't object. The Chair advised that names of individual Parish Councillors and the individual comments made during PC planning discussions is not available to the public and stated again that the collective response from the PC for this planning application is "no comment". Mr Cooper then asked if the Chair or members have a financial interest in this planning application. The Chair confirmed she most definitely had not and nor had other members. Mr Cooper asked that this was noted in the minutes.

Mr Cooper asked if the PC comment had been submitted and when the Clerk confirmed it had been he asked if this could be changed to an objection. The Clerk outlined the planning process for the agreement of PC comments on applications and stated that this process had been re confirmed and agreed at the AGM in May 2016. The process had been followed and with no consensus from the Drakes Broughton members it was decided that the PC comment was as the Chair stated “no comment”. This had been submitted and could not be changed.

Mr I Spencer asked if there was a financial interest to do with the land the village hall is built on as this land is owned by the person making the planning application for 10 Houses on Walcot lane. The Chair confirmed that any potential purchase of the land that the village hall is built on is still very much under review and consideration and that this is being dealt with completely independently to any submitted planning application. The Chair and Clerk again explained that the agreed formal process for putting forward planning comments on applications had been fully followed.

Mr Rohdes suggested the PC investigate their rights to wayleave payments. The Chair confirmed the PC do receive wayleave payments and asked the Clerk to check the PC is being paid the full amounts available.

The meeting was re-opened at 8.35pm.

County Councillor Adams joined the meeting.

4) LOCAL POLICING

The Clerk read the local policing report. There have been 3 burglaries and a theft of a mobile phone in Drakes Broughton during the past month.

5) MINUTES

The Clerk confirmed that the draft minutes had been amended to include Cllr Ward attending and removed him from the apologies. The minutes of the of the Meeting held on 3rd February 2017 were proposed by Cllr Pell, seconded by Cllr Proctor, agreed by all and signed by the Chairman as a true record of the meeting.

6) MATTERS ARISING

Playing Field hedge cutting – Cllr Small confirmed that the hedges had been cut back to the agreed specification.

Playing field Mole Hills – The Clerk updated members that she had found a new pest control company who was able to offer to eliminate moles by gassing and the cost would be similar to the cost of trapping. The cost would be £260 for two site visits plus signage. It was proposed by Cllr Driscoll to engage the consultant and seconded by Cllr Pell with all members being in favour. It was agreed that it is necessary to do this in order to make the playing fields safer for the young players. The Clerk also confirmed that Smart Cut had quoted a price of £60 per roll for rolling the playing field after the moles have been removed to reduce risk of repopulation. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Smart Cut to do this after the pest control company has completed the task.

Lengthsman Scheme – Cllr Small stated that there was one outstanding task, for grips to be dug at the bottom end of Chevington Road, near Besford Bridge. The Clerk will ask the lengthsman to do this.

It was agreed to renew the lengthsman's contract for a further 6 months. This will allow time for the position to be advertised and selection process to be completed in a timely manner. Cllr Griffith suggested the advert should be placed in the May edition of The Villager to allow members plenty of time to consider candidates and options. Cllr Griffiths also suggested advertising in the school bulletin.

Street Lights – The Clerk read the Modernisation offer she had received from E.ON. This includes a discount for upgrading 3 or more lights at a time. Cllr Griffiths wanted a cost to do all the lights in one go as maybe this

would be an even better price, or maybe they could be done 10 at a time. The Clerk is to investigate further. The Clerk confirmed that the contract for the electricity supply is due for review at the end of April. Members agreed to continue with N Power if there was no/minimal price increase. The Clerk is to investigate and advise.

Dog Waste – The continuing issue of Dog Waste around the village was discussed and members agreed to re-site the dog waste bin from the playing fields to the top of Stonebow Road to the green area in the pavement and to purchase another litter bin for the corner of Shrubbery Road and Stonebow Road, providing maximum coverage of a well-used school route. This was proposed by Cllr Ward and seconded by Cllr Griffiths with all members in favour.

Youth Bus – The Clerk updated the members on the discussions with the Youth Bus team about the location and all members agreed it must be located at the Village Hall. With forward planning it can block the entrance if the hall isn't booked for the times the bus is onsite. Cllr Small agreed that after 4.30pm would give the staff from the school time have moved any vehicles from the car park. The Clerk is to organise with the Youth Bus team and advertise.

7) VILLAGE FACILITIES

Playing Field Working Party – The Chair thanked Cllr Wild for his work on both the Playing field and Play area and asked for a team of volunteers to undertake sweeping and weeding work at the playing field towards the end of the month. Cllr Butterworth, Cllr Griffiths, Cllr Ward and Cllr Turner volunteered. Cllr Pell volunteered for tidying work going forward as she is unavailable this month.

Playground Inspection – The Clerk confirmed this had been booked and will be undertaken in May/June.

Grass Cutting – The Clerk advised members that the two year contract with Smart Cut ends at the end of the month. Smart Cut has agreed to fix the prices as they are, for a further 2 years. All members agreed to continue to use Smart Cut for grass cutting The Clerk is to formalise the arrangement.

8) PLANS FOR WADBOROUGH PHONEBOX

Cllr Yeo is to report at the next meeting.

9) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chair confirmed the referendum is to be held on 16th March and that polling cards had gone out. The Chair thanked volunteers in advance for undertaking to deliver flyers to all properties in both Parishes. The Chair also confirmed that posters will be displayed on notice boards.

10) COMMUNITY SUMMER EVENT

The Chair advised that the date had been set for Saturday 22nd July. She also advised of an initial planning meeting being held on Monday 6th March and a good number of people attending. She is hopeful of a good community event.

11) CLERK PROGRESS REVIEW

The Chair asked the Clerk to leave the meeting whilst this was discussed by members.

12) REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- a) County Councillor Adams updated members on the County Council budgets. Stating that care for the vulnerable had been ring fenced. Cllr Adams reported on the reactions to the reported failing authority statement and assured members that substantial improvements were being made. The County Council is working hard to try to get the balance between NHS and CC provision for the county's most vulnerable people.

He stressed that what the County needed to see was growth in the economy and hopefully then with more houses and more revenue through council tax the financial constraints would improve. The new station, Worcester Parkway should be a massive boost to Worcestershire's economy and confirmed that work on clearing the site has started. Cllr Adams confirmed that the highways work would be going ahead. Namely drain clearance at Sidings Road; the Clerk reported that Mr Cother had informed members it had not been completed as yet. Cllr Adams confirmed there would be markers in 'Debby's Lane' and that he would chase up the District Councillor on the Millennium woods surface. Cllr Small confirmed that highways had done an excellent job on the drain in Walcot Lane.

b) No District Councillor representative this month

c) Members Reports

Cllr Gardner advised of a strange telephone call from Severn Trent with no return number, advising caution of a potential scam. Cllr Turner advised of Stonebow Road closure and reminded members that whilst the playing fields have a dog free policy there is a footpath along the edge of the playing fields where dogs can be walked.

The Chair thanked members for the time and effort they are investing in progressing issues.

13) FINANCE

- a) Last month's reconciliation was completed by Cllr Crouchman and Cllr Gardner. The receipts spreadsheet will be presented next month. No reconciliation was completed this month.
- b) NSI signatory documentation was completed to change signatories in line with the bank account.

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

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| (d) | Mrs. N. Nicholson – Clerk's Salary – February | £429.17 |
| (e) | Mr. B. Arrowsmith – Lengthsman – February | £170.00 |
| (f) | Mr. B. Arrowsmith – Playing Fields – February | £28.80 |
| (g) | Mr. B. Arrowsmith – Bus Stops – January | £10.00 |
| (h) | Groundworks – repayment of unspent NP Grant | £1320.00 |
| (i) | Mrs N Nicholson – Clerk OPE Aug16 – Feb 17 | £41.25 |
| (j) | Mrs A Tanfield – Pirton Phone box Refurbishment | £113.49 |
| (k) | K Thompson – Playing field hedge cutting | £180.00 |
| (l) | DBVH – Annual meeting room hire | £150.00 |
| (m) | St Barnabas Church – Annual Grant | £150.00 |
| (n) | DB Villager – Annual Grant | £100.00 |
| (o) | Mrs J Butterworth – Reimburse for Referendum flyers | £20.00 |

Remittance – Western Power Distribution – Wayleave payment - £72.44

14) CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman's Committee- the Chair advised that she had been invited to join a Chair's committee being formed for local PCs to join forces on shared issues. All members agreed this was worth investigating.

The Clerk advised of letter inviting representations regarding the Pershore train services. She advised that the meeting is being held at Pershore town hall on Thursday 16th March should any members wish to attend. Cllr Adams confirmed it was all part of the transport forum that Mr McCordal was attending.

15) PLANNING

a) Comments made to planning authority:

W/17/00136/HP. Lynley, 12 Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton, WR10 2AP. First Floor rear extension to provide en-suite and bedroom. Recommend Approval.

W/16/02988/PP, Rose Cottage, Wadborough, WR8 9HH. Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. Recommend Approval.

b) Applications Approved:

W/16/02809/PP. Field View, 80 Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton, Pershore, WR10 2AS. Single Storey rear extension.

c) Applications refused:

W/16/00739/PN. The Grange, Chevington Lane, Drakes Broughton, Pershore, WR10 2AE. Proposed subdivision of existing residential property to form 2 independent dwellings (C3) with separate access points. Two single storey extensions, porch and detached open fronted garage/store to plot B (retrospective)

d) Applications Withdrawn: N/A

e) Appeals: N/A

f) Applications received no PC comments:

W/17/00009/RM. Land Off Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton. Application for reserved matters following outline permission ref W16/01652/OU for three detached dwellings.

W/17/00172/CLE. Hazel farm, Windmill Hill, Stoulton, WR7 4RP. Use of existing log cabin as residential dwelling (class C3)

16) INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, 6th April 2017 at 7.30pm at Drakes Broughton Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.