

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON AND WADBOROUGH WITH PIRTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 6th APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 PM AT DRAKES BROUGHTON VILLAGE HALL.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor R Adams, District Councillor P Middleborough & Mrs N Nicholson (Clerk)

PUBLIC: Mr J Bugbird, Mr D Rhodes, Mrs S Skilling & Mr J Cooper.

1) APOLOGIES

None

2) ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION NOT ON THE AGENDA

Finance payments (f) and (g) added to agenda item 12.

3) DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Wild agenda item 13a.

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

Mr Bugbird informed the PC of his concern regarding the clearing of shrubbery in an area of land opposite 15 Croome Close. Mr Bugbird made the members aware of the history of the site, which holds the old oil tanks that used to supply the bottom half of the village. Mr Bugbird and Mr Cooper raised concerns about protected reptiles, the bird nesting season and voiced grave concerns regarding any potential removal of the oil tanks. The Chair thanked Mr Bugbird and asked the Clerk to report the activity to the Wildlife Trust and regulatory services the next day.

Mr Cother informed County Councillor Adams that the Sidings Road drain had still not been jetted. Mr Cother raised concerns regarding householders putting stones on the grass verges outside their houses. Mr Cother also raised the deterioration at the edge of the roads through Wadborough. The Clerk confirmed this had been reported to highways via the Wychavon Hub and suggested Mr Cother report it directly himself.

Mrs Skilling asked the Chair to explain how the Parish Council had come to submit a 'no comment' on the planning application W/17/00156/OUT. She read a statement to the Council referencing the Neighbourhood Plan and asked the Council members to guarantee to object to any applications that are received for development outside the boundaries as set in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair explained that every application is dealt with on its own merit and that the Parish Council follows the process that has been formally adopted by the Parish Council. That process requires Councillors to review applications and submit comments to the Clerk and for the Clerk to submit comment to Wychavon based on the consensus of opinion. She confirmed that process had been followed by the Clerk for this application. Mrs Skilling asked for the names of any Councillors who had made a "no objection" comment to this planning application to be made public. The Chair advised this was neither possible nor appropriate. The Chair went on to comment about several reported and witnessed incidents of unpleasant behaviour within the community because of individuals views and thoughts about this particular planning application which she believes warrants non-disclosure of links between individual councillors and their comments. The Chair also commented that over recent years the Parish Council

has invested considerable time and money to make representations about planning applications in Walcot Lane in particular.

The meeting was re-opened at 8.00pm.

4) LOCAL POLICING

No report this month.

5) MINUTES

The minutes of the of the Meeting held on 2nd March 2017 were proposed by Cllr Pell, seconded by Cllr Gardner, agreed by all and signed by the Chair as a true record of the meeting.

6) MATTERS ARISING

Mole Hills – The Clerk confirmed that Positive Environmental had completed the gassing and subsequently the Clerk had also had Smart Cut roll the pitch. Unfortunately, another two mole hills had emerged and Positive Environmental have been informed and are rectifying the situation. Cllr Small asked the Clerk to query half cut playing fields with Smart Cut, our contractor.

Street Lights – The Clerk confirmed that the upgrade prices have not been received from Eon as yet. The Clerk confirmed that a new company called Haven could offer a two-year contract on the electricity. Members were concerned as they hadn't heard of Haven. The Clerk was asked contact Western Power distribution to see if they have confidence in Haven as a provider. The Clerk was also asked to contact the current provider NPower to see if they will fix the price for longer than 12 months. Members agreed that the preference is to stay with a well known name and our current supplier if there is little difference in price and the term is longer than 12 months.

Dog Waste – Dog waste was discussed as it is still an issue in the village. Cllr Griffiths suggested we announce the provision of the new litter bin and highlight the fact that it can and should be used for dog waste.

Youth Bus – The location of the Youth Bus was discussed again and reluctantly the Parish Council decided to defer any visits by the Youth Bus until it can be accommodated on the car park next to the village hall.

7) VILLAGE FACILITIES

Playing Field Working Party – The Chair asked for an update on this. Cllr Wild had a list of volunteers and agreed to send around a list of requirements to the volunteers.

Cllr Small advised that the two bus shelters are in need of a deep clean. The Clerk will inform the contractor.

The Chair then updated the meeting on the following:

8.43 Policy DBW10 of the Neighbourhood Plan says that the Neighbourhood funding element from development should be invested in:

- Sports pavilion
- Children's play area – provision and enhancement
- Village Hall

Playing field/play area/car park is owned by the Parish Council.

Football pitches are leased by the Football Club.

106 money totals £30,400 and is to be spent by June 2019.

This money has to be spent towards the provision and or maintenance of formal and informal public open space and public amenity space in the parish of Drakes Broughton and Wadborough with Pirton.

Towards improvement of sport/ leisure facility within the parish Drakes Broughton and Wadborough with Pirton.

Towards provision/maintenance of formal sport in Drakes Broughton and Wadborough with Pirton. The Chair also reminded councillors of the generous donation from the Village Events committee of £2k which is to be spent on a piece of play equipment for the play park

Village Hall

The committee is now reformed with regular meetings and is looking to bring facilities in to proper use again – fix floor and fix heating.

In a recent survey undertaken by the Village Hall Committee responses indicate that a hall would be used if it was improved.

There are options to consider about the hall, eg build a new hall (cost circa £1.5 million), repair and renew existing hall. The VHC have visited other halls and are beginning to think about what is needed. Consensus seems to suggest that the preferred option is to enhance what is there already.

The VHC have arranged a visit from a surveyor/builder who is willing to undertake surveys, consider options and prepare costing, plans etc for suggestions for enhancing the hall at a cost of £2k. The VCH have a donation of £2k that they are considering using for this

There is also New Homes Bonus money of £58k that can be used for the Hall and it is possible for other sums of money that can be used for sports provision to be used within the hall for changing facilities, etc.

Village Hall lease purchase. The owners have indicated a willingness to sell (see February minutes), however there appears to be some confusion about who owns what. The Land agent (acting on behalf of the owner) has suggested a survey of the hall is required which should be paid for by the Parish Council. The Parish Council agreed that a reply should be sent to get some clarity about ownership and what is being bought

Way Forward

The Village Hall needs attention regardless of who owns the lease. Not owning the lease may impact on the ability to deviate from “foot print”, however this should not deter discussion about Village Hall facilities.

An holistic view and approach is required rather than by piecemeal. Any plans should consider the whole site – car park provision, hall, play area and playing fields; planning to spend money available now and planning for future projects to be delivered. Priority needs to be to get the Village Hall functioning properly with plans for sports provision and better integration with the play park. The Parish Council should commission a report for someone to prepare plans/costing for total development (broken into segments for delivery) to facilitate public consultation to move to a position where there is/are agreed project(s) and work can be commissioned. Cllr Wild noted that it would be more cost effective to complete in one go rather than piecemeal.

Action 1 – Parish Council continue to try to purchase the Village Hall land and if not try to increase the lease. Clerk to respond to email from Lady Coventry’s land agent.

Action 2- Arrange a meeting with the VHC to discuss issues and agree the way forward. Clerk to organise.

Action 3 – Consider funding for initial survey. Consider if this should be paid for from the Parish Council budget rather than the Village Hall donation. Clerk to investigate if NHB money can be used for this purpose.

Cllr Small advised investigation prior to any change in layout due to the entertainment licence. Clerk noted this.

8) PLANS FOR WADBOROUGH PHONEBOX

Cllr Yeo updated members to the on-going discussion in Wadborough. Top ideas seem to be book swap, local information and a defibrillator. Cllr Yeo confirmed that it seems to still be an active phone box and asked the Clerk to chase up the timescales regarding purchase and decommission.

9) NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chair thanked and congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for all the work taken to bring the plan to referendum on 16th March. The Plan will be formally adopted on 26th April 2017 after receiving a 93% ‘yes’ vote. 400 votes were received. It will now be used to inform planning decisions within the parishes. The Chair advised that the referendum version had been amended as photographs had been removed

as they had been inadvertently included without the correct permissions. The Parish Council have apologised for this mistake.

10) DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

The members discussed the draft guidelines that had been prepared and circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair advised that amendment will be made to include Cllr Wild's suggestion regarding how the public add items to the agenda. The draft will be amended and reviewed by Cllrs Wild and Ward. Once reviewed the guidelines will be adopted and made available on the Parish Council website.

A discussion arose around the Clerk not including the planning application W/17/00156/OUT on the March agenda for the Parish Council meeting despite being requested to do so by Cllr Wild. The Clerk advised that historically planning applications did not appear on the agenda until after the comments had been made as per the process agreed at the Parish Council AGM in May 2016.

Further discussion ensued concerning the agenda and Cllr Gardener suggested removal of the agenda item "items for consideration not on the agenda". All items to be discussed should be included on the agenda prior to the meeting to give councillors time for consideration. It was agreed that this was best practice.

11) REPRESENTATIVES' REPORTS

- a) County Councillor Adams updated members on the County Council Children's Services being under review after being found inadequate. In effect they are in special measures with a 2-year review of policy and practices. He also advised that schools could face negative Ofsted reports if their safe guarding policies were not in place as they should be. County Councillor Adams advised that the CEO, Claire Marchant, was leaving. He advised that there would be County Councillor Elections on 4th May.

District Councillor Middlesbrough advised on a new section on the Wychavon website detailing ward profiles. He also confirmed that he was standing for County Council but would remain in post as our District Councillor for the next two years and would still be giving that role 100%.

- b) Members Reports

Cllr Small spoke about the log cabin that is now on Mill Lane and no members could recall seeing any planning application or consent for this. The Clerk confirmed she had reported it and would chase up a response.

Cllr Griffith raised concerns regarding a large number of caravans that have recently arrived on a field near the school. He advised he was in correspondence with Wychavon about them and would keep the Parish Council updated as to the outcome.

12) FINANCE

The monthly reconciliation was completed by Cllr Griffiths.

It was proposed by Cllr Gardner and seconded by Cllr Pell to authorise the following payments:

(a)	Mrs. N. Nicholson – Clerk's Salary – March	£429.17
(b)	Mr. B. Arrowsmith – Lengthsman – March	£200.00
(c)	Mr. B. Arrowsmith – Playing Fields – March	£28.80
(d)	Mr. B. Arrowsmith – Bus Stops – March	£10.00
(e)	Wychavon DC – Clerk Payslips	£36.00
(f)	Positive Environmental – Mole cleansing playing field	£312.00
(g)	NPower – Quarterly electricity bill, street lights	£586.59

Remittance – Worcestershire County Council – Lengthsman Scheme payment - £390.00

13) PLANNING

a) Comments made to planning authority:

W/17/00156/OUT. Land to the South of Walcot Lane, Drakes Broughton, WR10 2AJ. Outline planning application for the development of up to ten dwellings and other ancillary works including construction of new vehicular access. Official response of 'no comment'.

A discussion arose surrounding the accountability and process that lead to the official 'no comment' and Cllr Small suggested a need to review it in light of public opinion. Planning is delegated to the Parish Council that represent each area; Pirton, Wadborough and Drakes Broughton. Pirton councillors discuss each application and submit a collective agreed response to the Clerk. It was agreed that this is probably better practice than the approach currently taken by Drakes Broughton councillors who review applications and submit individual comment to the Clerk who then reports the consensus decision. The Drakes Broughton members agreed to arrange a separate meeting to take place at 7.00pm on Thursday 27th April to fully discuss and review the process for comments being made on Drakes Broughton planning applications. District Councillor Middleborough advised that Richard Lovett from CALC could come to talk to all members about best practice at a meeting. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council wasn't a member of CALC and suggested that this maybe needed a review.

W/15/03091/PN. The Old Smithy, Mill Lane, Wadborough, Worcester, WR8 9HB. Amended plans to show one proposed dwelling instead of two. Detailed comments made surrounding the village boundary and size of the development.

b) Applications Approved:

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

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

c) Applications refused:

W/16/01895/RM. Land Opposite, Woodmead, Walcot Lane, Drakes Broughton. Full reserved matters approval for 32 dwellings granted under outline permission ref: W/14/00273/OUT.

d) Applications Withdrawn: N/A

e) Appeals:

APP/H1804/W/16/3165331 Two Oaks, Besford Road, Wadborough, Besford, WR9 9AN. Appeal dismissed.

f) Applications Received no Parish Council comments:

W/17/00211/FUL. Woodview, Worcester Road, Drakes Broughton, Pershore, WR10 2AQ. Subdivision of existing property 'Woodview' to create two units with additional two storey side and rear extension and construction of 3no. terraced houses and car shed.

W/17/00324/RM. Fair Winds, Stonebow Road, Drakes Broughton, Pershore, WR10 2AW. Reserved matters for a bedroom dormer bungalow approved outline planning permission W/16/01462.

14) CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman advised that there had been an enquiry regarding a parish activity map. Councillors were asked if they could advise on any activities they were aware of happening regularly in our Parishes.

Mr Bugbird correspondence regarding land at 15 Croome Close as discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr McCordal – Bus Service updates, the Chair drew attention to this correspondence and advised members to respond directly to Mr McCordal but to cc the Clerk to keep everyone informed.

15) INFORMATION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Drakes Broughton and Wadborough Annual Parish meeting

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Thursday 4th May 2017 at 7.00pm at St Barnabas First & Middle School, First School Hall

Pirton Parish Annual meeting

Thursday 18th May 2017 at 7.00pm at Pirton Church

Monthly Parish Council meeting

Thursday 4th May 2017 at 7.30pm at St Barnabas First & Middle School, First School Hall

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and vowed to try to make future meetings shorter where possible. The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

DRAFT