

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF DRAKES BROUGHTON & WADBOROUGH PARISH WAS
HELD ON THURSDAY 4th MAY 2017 AT 7.00pm IN
ST BARNABAS FIRST & MIDDLE SCHOOL HALL, DRAKES BROUGHTON,
WORCESTERSHIRE**

PRESENT: Mrs. J Butterworth, Mr. M. Gardner, Mr. M Ward, Mr. M. Griffiths,
Mr. R. Small, Mr. J. Driscoll, Mr R Turner, Mr L Wild, Mrs D Proctor, Mr M
Parsons & Mr Rhodes.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs N. Nicholson (Clerk), Mr. P. Middlebrough (District Councillor),
Mr. R. Adams (County Councillor)

1. APOLOGIES

None received.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held 14th May 2016 were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. REPORTS

(a) Parish Council

Mrs J Butterworth gave the annual report:

It has proven to be an interesting and busy year for the Parish Council. As well as the regular monthly meetings, a number of additional full council meetings and subcommittee meetings have been held during the year in order to provide proper time for consideration of the important issues that needed our attention. I thank everyone for the commitment they have shown.

You may recall that this time last year there were 4 vacancies for Parish Councillors and I am very pleased to report that since November 2016 there have been no vacancies. Cllr Sylvia Wynn was co-opted as a member to represent Pirton in June and the vacancy for Wadborough was filled in July when Pip Crouchman was co-opted. Vacancies for Drakes Broughton increased with the resignation of Cllr Ken Skilern however we were pleased to welcome Cllr Tina Pell and Cllr Ray Turner as representatives for Drakes Broughton in July and Cllr John Driscoll in November.

I am grateful for the work undertaken by The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. This group, chaired by Steve Williams, with representatives from Drakes Broughton, Wadborough and Pirton and in consultation with the local community drafted the Neighbourhood Plan. Since this time last year, the Plan has progressed through all the required stages, including a public referendum and it was formally adopted on 26th April. The Neighbourhood Plan has taken around 3 years to complete and is the first plan to have been adopted in Wychavon. It will now form part of the development framework and be used alongside the South Worcestershire Development Plan and other material considerations in determining planning applications in the neighbourhood area. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this plan.

Policy DBWP10 in the Neighbourhood Plan is concerned with Community resources arising from development. It states that any money awarded because of development should be directed towards a Sports Pavilion, Children's play area and the Village Hall. With this in mind the Parish Council met with the depleted Village Hall committee in June last year and have been supporting the re invigoration of the Village Hall committee since then. It is pleasing to see the progress that is being made by the newly formed Village Hall committee. The Parish Council have made approaches to Lady Coventry to enquire about the potential for purchase of the freehold for the Village Hall. These discussions are still ongoing.

Earlier this year the Children's play park did receive some attention, however the Council are conscious that the area would benefit from a review and refurbishment. 106 money made available because of development may be available to support this work and we are grateful for the generous £2,000 donation from the Village Events committee that is to be used to purchase new equipment in the play area. There are plans to reform a working party to direct, and where appropriate, undertake work to maintain this facility and the playing field area whilst plans can be developed and discussed for the whole site. Be assured no major changes will be made without full public consultation.

Planning hasn't dominated as a topic this year; however, we did hold a special meeting in October last year to discuss the apparent non-adherence to planning process for the reserve matters application W/14/00273/OU for 32 houses on Walcot Lane. During the meeting the Parish Council agreed to pay £1250 to pay for solicitors to make representation to Wychavon on our behalf.

Other matters that have required our attention this year include the 41 Parish Council owned street lights in Drakes Broughton and the ongoing issue with dog waste. We have also continued our work to review and where appropriate update our practices to ensure that the Parish Council operates effectively within its remit.

We are grateful for the efforts of many people within our community for the many and varied contributions they make in making ours a great place to live. Most of this work "just happens", often without anyone really noticing! I would like to thank Wadborough residents Mr Bev McCordall for undertaking to representing local interests about local bus services and to Mr Roly Cother for his work in the community to try to ensure roadside hedges are not allowed to restrict visibility on our country lanes. I'd also like to thank our local footpath warden Ray Turner for the work he does as footpath warden in our community.

We would like to say thank you to the Pirton residents who repainted the phone box and repaired paint work on the grit bin art installation – "grit and determination" and we have to thank County Councillor Adams for the grants that have been provided towards the purchase the paint for the phone box and to provide a replacement Parish Council notice board for Pirton.

The Parish Lengthsman is responsible for maintaining the verges and associated drainage along minor roads around our villages. I would like to thank him on behalf of the Parish Council for the good work he does for us and I'm pleased to report that Worcester County Council have confirmed they will continue to offer the Lengthsman's Scheme for 2017/18.

The Parish Council received a satisfactory report on its 2016/17 accounts. The total value of grants awarded by the Council in the year 2016/17 to our communities was £350, grants were awarded to St Barnabas' Church, Drakes Broughton and the Villager magazine.

I think that The Clerk & RFO, Nikki Nicholson, is a now a familiar figure within our parishes and I thank her the support she provides to me as Chairman and for her work with the Council over the past year.

I would also like to thank both our District and County Councillors for the continued support they provide by attending our monthly meetings and liaising with their respective Council officials on our behalf. My thanks also go to the Parish Councillors for all their support and collective and individual energy, enthusiasm and commitment over the last 12 months in the work they do on behalf of the local community. Thank you

(b) County Council & District Council

a. County Council Annual Report – County Councillor Rob Adams

County councillor Adams advised that it was pleasing to see the County come 2nd in a recent nationwide survey as the second most desirable place to live in the UK.

Councillor Adams congratulated the Chairman and Clerk for picking up the reins and moving forward with the many parish needs over the past twelve months County Councillor Adams thanked and congratulated the Wadborough Councillor for his work surrounding bringing faster broad band to the villages.

County Councillor Adams advised that the county council has three main areas of spending. Namely, Adult Care with an ever growing aging population 2% of spending had been ring fenced for this. A recent report showed a projected 90% increase in the numbers of the community that will be over 90 going forward, their care was a priority and all the needs associated with that. Looked after children and children's services was the second area advising that schools would be scrutinised over their safeguarding policies.

The other main spend was on Roads and Pavements.

County Councillor Adams advised on the importance to responding and engaging with consultations that were sent out by the county council.

County Councillor Adams drew attention to the main projects going on within the County. Parkway Station, work has started on this much needed station which all are hopeful will boost the area's economy. Energy from waste plant at Hartlebury, which has reduced significantly the waste going to land fill at Hill and Moor and significantly extended the life of that site. County councillor advised he was pleased to see the lengthsman scheme continue once again, He thinks this is very good value for money. The County Councillor members continue to have a small fund to use at their discretion for projects in the Parishes he serves. Councillor Adams advised of growing support for the expansion of the Carrington bridge. This would attract a £70-80 million spend.

County council Adams advised that County Council spending is still very tight.

The Clerk thanked County Councillor Adams.

b. District Council Annual Report – District Councillor Paul Middleborough

District Councillor Middleborough confirmed that the DBWPPC neighbourhood plan was in fact the first in Wychavon and congratulated the parishes and the efforts of the steering committee.

Councillor Middleborough spoke around the outline planning permissions in Drakes Broughton and the future large growth in numbers of houses within the village. The positive outcomes from this would be the funding for the community facilities via the new homes bonus scheme. Councillor Middleborough advised that there was a renegotiated waste collection contract with a new company. Residents would see the same staff as they would transfer to the new company and a new collection for small broken electrical items would be introduced. Councillor Middleborough advised of the successful embedding of the new working practices with Malvern Hills DC. It has been external reviewed and found to be exemplary. Wychavon DC remains in the lowest 10% council tax billing in the UK.

The Clerk thanked District Councillor Middleborough.

5. ANY MATTER AN ELECTOR WISHES TO RAISE

None

The Clerk & Mrs J Butterworth thanked all for attending.

The Meeting closed at 7.35 p.m.

DRAFT