

# BROUGHTON HACKETT PARISH MEETING

## Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 7.30 pm by Skype

**ATTENDEES:** Roger Clark – Chair  
Maggie Pearse – Clerk  
Rob Adams – County Councillor  
Linda Robinson – District Councillor  
Bob Brierley, Myra Brierley, Nick Capell, Janet Clark, George Hamilton, Sarah Hamilton, Calum Peterson, Sarah Seccombe, Duncan Varnes, Jamie Wyllie

### 1 **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

- The meeting commenced at 7:45 pm, allowing time for people to log-in. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Apologies have been received from Carl Brassington, Simon Chippendale, Margaret Eastwood, Nigel Pemberton, Di Simms and Jon Stone.

### 2 **APPROVAL OF NOTES ON PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The Minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were accepted by the meeting and signed. A copy will be forwarded to Maggie Pearse.

### 3 **MATTERS ARISING**

#### a. **New Homes Bonus**

- Speed Sign. The posts were installed by WCC at no cost to Broughton Hackett and the speed sign was received from the suppliers in Nov 2019. The sign is rotated around the 3 posts. The actual costs were less than the budget.
- Defibrillator. This was installed in a locked cabinet in the church porch in January 2020 followed by training of 12 villagers by an excellent trainer. The actual costs were less than the budget. The type is Intelligent Public Access Defibrillator (IPAD). The Ambulance Service say that 999 must be phoned before using a defibrillator. The cabinet is therefore a locked cabinet which requires a code to open. The cabinet and defibrillator are registered with the Ambulance Service who will give the code when 999 is phoned. Anyone who does not know where the defibrillator is will be told its location. There are written instructions inside the cabinet and also the defibrillator itself has voice instructions.
- Bench. Permission has been received from Rooftop Group to site the bench on the grass verge outside The Croft. The Chair thanked Nigel Pemberton for arranging this. There has been no further action yet because of Covid, and also getting the other two items sorted out. The Chair will now obtain some quotes. The original budget for this as submitted in the proposal to WDC was £650. However, the actual costs may be more but WDC say this would be satisfactory, provided that we do not exceed the total budget that WDC have approved for Broughton Hackett.
- Unused Money. Of the monies already approved by WDC, £1295 has not yet been spent. However, this includes the amount that will need to be spent on the bench. If the money is not spent by 31 March 2021 then it will be transferred to the Community Legacy Grant Scheme and we will lose it.

**b. Fence around grass verge outside the church**

- The fence was installed by WCC at no cost to Broughton Hackett.
- Carl Brassington, Lengthsman, will cut the grass immediately around the post.

**c. Lengthsman**

- Carl had submitted a report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- He collects quite a lot of litter from the verges on the A422 together with litter that he finds around the village most likely thrown from passing vehicles. He reported that the single general waste bin at the side of the layby is usually full resulting in fly tipping next to it. He indicated that a second bin is required. Rob Adams suggested that this is a matter which should be raised with Barry Barnes, Highways Liaison Officer. He noted that he has a meeting with Barry in the village on Friday, 25 September 2020. The Chair asked to attend this meeting.
- For a period of time this year Carl has not been able to perform his duties around the village due to Lengthsman activities being suspended by WCC because of Covid.
- Rob Adams confirmed that the £500 from WCC in connection with the Lengthsman Scheme was a donation and not a loan.

**d. Blocked Road Drains**

- Over the last 15 months Carl has repeatedly formally reported the blocked road drains to WCC but to date there has been no effective action. Maggie Pearse reported that most of the drains are full of dirt and debris to the surface and grass and weeds are growing out of some of them.
- The Chair reported that he has twice asked the Highways Liaison Officer in person to action clearing of the drains and this will be mentioned again at the meeting on Friday. Rob Adams indicated that he would also take up this matter.
- The road drains outside the Paddocks have been cleared but this was in connection with a planning question regarding the open ditch which is between the Paddocks and the layby, which the owner of the Paddocks has proposed should be culverted.

**4 FINANCIAL**

**a. Parish Accounts**

- The accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chair briefly outlined the income and expenditure. The Balance Sheet indicates that there was £403.82 in the bank account on 31 March 2020.
- These accounts have been thoroughly checked by George Hamilton as internal checker and the accounts were approved by the meeting.
- The Chair reported that there is currently £679.82 in the bank account. This includes half of the precept for 2020/21, ie £500 (rest comes later), and the £500 donation from WCC for the Lengthsman Scheme. However, we are awaiting some Lengthsman payments from WCC and we have paid our Public Liability Insurance for 2020 at £207.09.

**b. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)**

- The Chair reported that there is a regulatory requirement for us to submit this form (Exemption Certificate), otherwise we will be subject to a formal external audit for which we will have to pay.
- The form had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved by the meeting. The Chair will sign the forms and submit the Exemption Certificate to the external auditors (who are appointed by the Government).

**c. Precept 2021/2022**

- The Chair suggested that the precept for 2021/2022 should be £1000. This would result in about £11 or £12 per annum for a Band D Council Tax and proportionate amounts to other bands, which was the case for 2020/2021. This was approved by the meeting.

## 5 PLANNING MATTERS

### a. Brookside Kennels

- Linda Robinson indicated that there is nothing further to report.

### b. The Paddocks

- A trench was dug around the perimeter of the site but this has now been filled in. The heap of road 'scalpings' that was on the site has now been spread out across the site.
- Linda Robinson indicated that there is nothing further to report other than the owners now acknowledge that they need to adhere to the planning process. She asked to be kept informed of any further developments.

### c. Horne Hill

- Works have taken place on this property to remove trees, construct buildings and to import fill to the field adjacent to the brook. This field is part of the floodplain so there are concerns about water ponding upstream of these works and also potentially affecting the road bridge. Officers from WDC and the Environment Agency have visited site and works have now stopped. Linda Robinson indicated that because the Environment Agency is involved it is likely that the fill will have to be removed. We should now wait for the regulatory process to take its course.

### d. South Worcestershire Development Plan

- This was briefly discussed under Item 6.

## 6 COUNCILLORS

### a. County Councillor - Rob Adams

- Rob expressed his thanks in advance for the sensible questions normally asked at these meetings. He reported on the kindness shown by the community as a whole during this pandemic. He was very appreciative of the work by the Fire Service and the Ambulance Teams in support of the community. The Fire Service had been delivering PPE, driving ambulances and looking after the deceased. He expressed his thanks to one and all.
- The Worcestershire Parkway Station is now operating, although the advent of Covid has reduced the numbers of people using the service. The second bridge across the Severn is nearly on track; delays had been caused by the winter floods. There is now further activity in conjunction with the Worcester Six Development which should bring more jobs to the area
- The County Council are looking at ways to support 16 to 24 year olds with better education and seeking help from businesses to take on apprentices or be able to spend time with companies and give them a chance with financial support from the County Council.
- He is aware of the problems facing mums getting children to schools and the difficulty facing relatives now that restrictions have been imposed on visiting loved ones in Care Homes. Care Homes in the area are coping and now only allowing essential visitors once again.
- A Ring a Ride Community Volunteer Bus Service is being instigated with the help of £1000 from Rob's Members Divisional Fund. There will be two services - the first will be Peopleton / Drakes Broughton / Worcester and back run by Pershore Volunteer Centre and the second will be Naunton Beacham / Broughton Hackett / Peopleton / Drakes Broughton / Pershore and back operated via Worcester Wheels. These services will commence on 9 October 2020 and further details are to be issued.
- With regard to speeding traffic on the A422, Rob took on board the villagers' concerns in respect of vehicle speeds through the village, in particular motorbikes who follow a circuit through the villages causing much distress. He has a meeting with our local MP, Nigel Huddleston, this coming Friday and will bring this matter up with him. These concerns were echoed by many attending this Parish Meeting.

**b. District Councillor - Linda Robinson**

- Linda's report had been circulated prior to the meeting, together with other supporting documents. She indicated that Councillors have focussed on keeping residents safe and sharing information with their parishes, plus sign posting those in need, working closely with the County Council. Linda wanted to thank all those who have helped and supported others in our rural communities during lockdown and beyond. As so often in times of crisis, we have seen examples of tremendous community spirit and many selfless acts particularly from NHS workers and carers, many of whom live amongst us in our villages. She said that her heart goes out to anyone who has suffered loss or bereavement. Linda thanked Roger and Maggie for their part in acting as an essential 'go between' for her.
- Wychavon's emphasis is now on recovery and encouraging people back into our High Streets, thus supporting local businesses. So far £29 million has been paid out from the Councils Legacy Grant to small businesses and the hospitality sector. Government also, through their Bounce Back Loan and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan, has paid out 1,810 loans to businesses in Mid Worcestershire, totalling £66.5 million.
- Linda wanted to draw attention to proposed Government white papers for this autumn. The first is on proposals for Devolution and the handing down of powers to local government with potentially an enhanced role for town and parish councils. Also, there are two proposals on Planning and changes to the current planning system with a focus on streamlining and modernising the planning process. This raises concern that the local voice could be taken away from the planning process and with it the benefit of local knowledge. This has raised much consternation at District level.
- The second is on changes to the recommended standard method for calculating the housing requirement in a local plan such as our SWDP Review. This could have severe consequences for us at Wychavon as the proposals suggest more than a potential doubling of numbers, so may not be in our favour. If you have strong feelings on either of these issues, please contribute to the relevant consultations as indicated in the papers that were circulated prior to the meeting. Concern was raised by those attending the meeting as to whether the Government proposed overall increases in new housing are actually required, because feedback from various sources seems to suggest that there is already a large amount of housing stock that is unoccupied.
- The SWDP consultation on the preferred options has fallen behind due to Covid and is likely to be further delayed by the planning changes. Overall, it will be delayed by about 12 months and therefore may be superseded.
- Wychavon have set up a Community Recovery Fund to help local communities and our local economy recover. More detail on this was circulated prior to the meeting. Linda had attended a briefing on it that same afternoon.
- Concern was expressed by the village about the number of proposed future houses to be built around the Parkway Station area up to the Nightingale Public House and the lack of inclusion of improved infrastructure and indeed more schools, doctors and hospitals etc in these plans. Rob indicated that some 5000 houses could be planned in this area. It was felt that the meeting with Mr Huddleston should include these concerns when Rob meets him on Friday to talk about speeding traffic and future planning.
- It was noted that some third of planning applications which go to appeal are overturned at appeal. Linda indicated that an effective way to lobby regarding planning is through the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).



## 7 VILLAGE

### a. Mill Lane

- At the end of the lane down to Churchill Mill a sign had appeared saying Church Mill Road but as far as the residents were concerned it had never been called Church Mill Road and it is a lane not a road. WDC had consulted the National Gazetteer which indicated that the lane was called Churchill Mill Road. However, an error was made in the sign making. The Parish were requested to organise a consultation of residents and businesses on the lane. There was agreement that the lane should be Mill Lane with a no through road symbol and this has now been changed.

### b. Data from Speed Sign

- The Chair indicated that there is too much data to present in full at the meeting, so gave a brief verbal summary.
- For traffic outside the church travelling from Crowle, we generally have one vehicle a week that exceeds 30 mph. Going towards Crowle it is up to 6 vehicles per day exceeding 30 mph with speeds up to 40 mph. There are generally between 300 and 550 vehicles per day in each direction with the lower numbers being at weekends.
- On the A422, maximum speeds are normally up to 60 mph, but up to 65 mph during lockdown. Traffic travelling from the west, i.e. from Worcester, there are between 15 and 25% of vehicles over 40 mph between the hours of 8 in the morning and 8 in the evening. Traffic travelling from the east, i.e. from Upton Snodsbury, there are up to 35% of vehicles over 40 mph and sometimes up to 50% or even 70% between the hours of 8 in the morning and 8 in the evening. There are generally between 8,000 and 13,000 vehicles per day (24 hours) in each direction with the lower numbers being at weekends.
- The speed sign appears to be having some effect in slowing down the traffic. However, the sign is obviously not enough.

### c. Village White Gates

- West Mercia Police have been contacted regarding the speeding on the A422 and as a result a patrol car has been seen in the layby by watching the traffic but this has only been on infrequent occasions. The Safer Roads Partnership has been contacted by people in the village including the Chair but they say that lockdown was an artificial situation and they were not carrying out any enforcement during this period. Further contact will be made with them.
- The Safer Roads Partnership has indicated that White Gates at village entrances combined with road markings can be an effective measure to reduce traffic speeds. The Chair contacted Barry Barnes, WCC Highways Liaison Officer, who came out to measure up and inspect. Approval for these gates has now been given by WCC but Broughton Hackett Parish would need to sign an undertaking. This was circulated prior to the meeting. Our insurance covers public liability but at present we would not be covered for the gates themselves. The Chair will contact our insurers regarding this. The cost of the gates would be about £3000 for purchase plus installation and funding will be required for this.
- Rob Adams indicated that the local Police and Crime Commissioner provided funding for the gates at Crowle. WCC may be able to help in respect of some funding. Linda Robinson indicated that the balance of the NHB could also be used but a separate proposal would need to be made to WDC. The Chair undertook to contact all these sources.



- Jamie Wyllie indicated that Sarah Gilmour, ITS Manager at County Hall, would likely be interested in any speeding data. Rob indicated that contact with Kieran Hemstock would also be helpful in this matter. The Chair agreed to make contact with these people.

**d. Parish Games**

- These are run by the Parish Games Association which is totally self-funding. Last year we had a joint entry with Crowle. There have been no Parish Games this year for obvious reasons. Calum Peterson has kindly offered to be the Broughton Hackett coordinator for any future games. Further information on these games can be obtained from Calum (calumpeterson\_7@hotmail.co.uk).

**e. Village of Culture**

- This is a Wychavon initiative and has been running for a number of years. A bid was submitted in 2019 by a combination of Broughton Hackett, White Ladies Aston, Churchill and Spetchley. The bid was successful and we were awarded Village of Culture for 2020. Due to the pandemic this has now been extended by WDC to the end of 2021. There is a logo which was at the top of the agenda for this meeting and this is also on the Broughton Hackett website. We will shortly be receiving banners which can be put up in the villages. There was to have been quite a list of activities (38 activities) including things like Camera Club, Film Night, Gardening Club, Singing Group, Whist, etc. The committee met virtually last week and there will be another meeting in the next three weeks to see whether it will be possible for any activities to take place in the near future.

**8 AOB**

- There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9:15 pm.
- Thanks were expressed to the Chair for the input into the village.

**9 NEXT MEETING – to be arranged**