

BROUGHTON HACKETT PARISH MEETING

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 20th May 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

in St. Leonards Church

ATTENDEES: Mr. Roger Clark – Chair
Mrs. Maggie Pearse (Secretary)
Mr. Rob Adams – County Councillor
Mrs. Linda Robinson – District Councillor
Mr. Carl Brassington - Lengthsman
Mrs. Janet Clark, Mr. George Hamilton, Mr. Duncan Varnes, Mrs. Sue Stanley,
Mrs. Marion Capell.

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES: The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting
Apologies were received from Ms. Margaret Eastwood and Mr. Nigel Pemberton.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21st January 2019 were signed.

3 MATTERS ARISING:

a) Worcestershire Parkway Station – Mr. Rob Adams reported that the station could be completed by Christmas 2019. The site looks smart and provision has been made for 500 car park spaces. They are planning for 11 coach trains but the platform cover will not extend the full length of the platforms. The station will provide access to Paddington, the West Coast Mainline, trains to the South West and Bristol and trains to Hereford via Worcester Stations. Piling has been undertaken on the Paddington line to provide dual track at a later date.

b) Worcester Technology Park - Mrs. Linda Robinson reported that 3 business units are now occupied, with interest being shown for others. The land is still being landscaped. She has recently visited the site and is encouraged that the buildings will not be storage type but will be more in line with the original plan. New applications are being sought. Currently there are a number of medical companies on the site. Thought has been given to the look and environmental aspects of the site with buildings facing inwards and planting of trees, development of screening bunds and biodiversity taken into consideration.

c) M5 Junction 6 – Mr Rob Adams said that Highways England are now looking at Autumn 2019 for completion.

d) Village Website – The Chair reported that the Village Website is now being run by the Parish Meeting and has been expanded to include Parish Meeting Minutes and Notices, the Broughton Hackett Social Committee, Wychavon District Council details and Church Rotas, etc.

4 PLANNING MATTERS:

a) South Worcestershire Development Plan – progress is slow as all sites that have been put forward are being thoroughly reviewed to ensure that the land is actually available for building.

Many of the sites have been put forward without the owner's knowledge or permission and this has caused much upset. Some thousand possible sites are being examined and this would be completed by November 2019. 14,000 new homes are required in the area by 2041. Wychavon DC will take into account infrastructure, design and quality of the proposed builds. It is hoped to engage a dedicated person in planning to ensure that sensible criteria are met.

b) The Paddocks - there is concern in the village as to what is to happen in this area, as site has been cleared. It is believed that ownership is uncertain and it may have been sold, so no further information is available at present.

c) Brookside kennels - Mrs Linda Robinson reported that overall there had been no progress as there was some confusion over the number of people involved in the development of a Care Farm. Permission for the siting of a residential caravan with associated change of use has been granted following an appeal.

5 COUNCILLORS

a) Mr. Rob Adams – reported that there is not much money available for road improvements, but work had been undertaken to improve the A44 traffic to Station Road. The road from the Wyre Piddle Bypass over the railway lines has also been improved to help ease the Evesham traffic. He commented that the Lengthsman Scheme is good value and he is pleased to see that Carl Brassington has been appointed as Lengthsman for Broughton Hackett. In answer to a question on the state of the traffic islands where high vegetation is resulting in poor visibility, Mr Rob Adams confirmed that the normal grass cutting time will be soon. There is a meeting scheduled with Barry Barnes the new Liason Officer and these and other points will be raised. With regard to the overall Worcestershire County Council's budget, 70% is allocated to vulnerable children and adults.

b) Mrs. Linda Robinson – expressed thanks to those who had voted for her and said she is pleased to have been re-elected to represent the Upton Snodsbury Ward. She mentioned that 50% of the councillors had retired and new members will be coming on to the council. Crime is relatively low but there is a surprising amount of poverty in the Ward and the food banks are well used. Further statistics about Wychavon can be found on the Wychavon.gov.uk/insight webpage.

6 VILLAGE

a) New Homes Bonus – the Chair reported that the application to WDC in respect of NHB was submitted on 20th March 2019. This followed a consultation within the village after the last Parish Meeting held in January 2019. The details of the consultation were circulated as an insert into the Bowline, as a leaflet through every letterbox and on the village website with a request for further ideas to be put forward in respect of how the money should be spent. Thirty percent of households responded and, by comparison with other consultations reported at a Wychavon Workshop, this is considered to be a very good proportion. The breakdown of results was as follows;

Speed Sign – 15	Bench – 11	Defibrillator – 4
Bus Shelton – 3	Marquee – 3	Wild flower area – 1

Therefore, the application to WDC was for a speed sign, a bench and a defibrillator. For the defibrillator to be accessible at all times, it needs to be outside. This means that it has to be in a heated cabinet in order to work properly in all weather conditions and therefore requires a small amount of electricity for the heater. Thus, the application indicated that the defibrillator would be located just outside the wall of the church with power supply from the church. The PCC have agreed to this in principle but require further information on the amount of electricity required before

making a final decision. This will be investigated further once approval of the expenditure has been received from WDC. We have received an acknowledgement of receipt of the application from WDC and under normal circumstances a decision by WDC would have been expected by now, but the decision has been delayed by the local elections.

b) Other Grants – these are possibly available to pay for perhaps a bus shelter but more research is necessary and there would be a certain amount of work involved in making an application. At this stage it would be better to complete matters associated with the NHB before progressing any other applications. One of the grants that had been considered was the Community Legacy Grant Scheme which Mrs Linda Robinson mentioned at the last meeting, but Mr Rob Adams commented that these were usually given for bigger projects such as village halls and playing fields.

c) Lengthsman – the village welcomed Mr. Carl Brassington as our newly appointed Lengthsman with effect from 1st March 2019. He introduced himself and explained that he could be identified whilst working around the village by his orange high visibility vest. He will be responsible for maintaining the road verges, drains and grass cutting a 1m strip at the side of the road together with sightlines around road corners, but bearing in mind conservation issues. He will also pick up any litter he finds and will report potholes and any highway matters to WCC. He has unblocked the culvert under the A422 and has reported a broken manhole cover in the footway within the parish towards Upton Snodsbury. He would be responsible for the moving of the activated speed sign and recharging of the battery. He has cleared out debris from the road drains to the extent possible with hand tools but some of them are still blocked. He has reported this to WCC but only limited action has so far been taken. Mr Rob Adams offered to involve Mr Carl Brassington and the chair in the meeting with Mr Barry Barnes at the end of May so that the problem can be discussed.

d) Grass Verge Outside the Church - following the Parish Meeting held in January 2019, a letter concerning this was sent by the Parish Meeting to Mrs Linda Robinson who had forwarded it to Rooftop but has had no reply. Mr Rob Adams has suggested that in order to prevent vehicles from parking on this grass, a low-level wooden fence be erected around the area similar to the one at Whittington, funded by WCC. Some concern was expressed by those present that this could result in the same vehicles simply parking further along the grass verge. One suggestion was put forward that the verge outside the church could be converted to a parking area, but it was also noted that the church is a picturesque aspect of the village and therefore the overall appearance in this area should be preserved as much as possible. No decision was taken on the way forward, but it was suggested that the matter could be included in the discussions with Mr Barry Barnes.

e) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) - Regulation 3 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. As explained at the January 2019 Parish Meeting, in order to join the Lengthsman Scheme it was necessary for BHPM to open a bank account. Now that we have a bank account and in order to avoid the need for the accounts to be audited, which involves a fee, it is necessary for BHPM to issue an Exemption Certificate which has to be approved at a meeting of BHPM between 13th June and 19th August. The Chair will sort out what has to be done in respect of this Exemption Certificate.

f) BHPM Bank Account and Precept - another requirement of joining the Lengthsman Scheme is that BHPM must have Public Liability Insurance. This has been taken out through BHIB Insurance Brokers who specialise in providing such insurance for Local Authorities at a cost to BHPM of £207 per annum. WDC were holding £100 for Broughton Hackett resulting from a previous precept of £25 per year but had not been able to release this because BHPM did not have a bank account. This has now been transferred to the BHPM bank account. A small donation has also been made

into the bank account which now results in a balance of £64 following payment of the insurance premium. The system for the Lengthsman Scheme is that we pay the Lengthsman's invoice and then claim the monies back from WCC, but to do this there needs to be a certain amount of money in the bank account and also to pay other incidental expenses that may be incurred to benefit the village, all subject to approval at a Parish Meeting. The Chair suggested a precept of £1000 which, as there are 68 properties in the village, would result in an addition of £14.70 per annum to a Band D Council Tax and proportionate amounts to other bands. This was approved by the meeting. However, an application for a precept would have had to have been made in February 2019 in order to apply for the 2019/2020 tax year. As a 'stopgap', Mr Rob Adams kindly offered a loan of £500 as a float to pay the Lengthsman's invoice until an application can be made for a precept in February 2020.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - a copy of the agenda for the meeting had been sent out prior to the meeting by email to all those for whom an email address is held by BHPM. Would anyone who did not receive a copy of the agenda by email and who wishes to receive information about Parish Meetings in the future, please send an email to broughtonhackett@gmail.com

8 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING – to be decided.

The meeting closed at 9:05 PM.

SIGNED:

DATED