



# BROUGHTON HACKETT PARISH MEETING

## Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 at 7.30 pm by Zoom

**ATTENDEES:** Roger Clark – Chair  
Maggie Pearse – Clerk  
Linda Robinson – County and District Councillor  
Nick Capell, Janet Clark, George Hamilton, Howard  
Nicolls, Mell Nicholls, Lucy Robinson, Sarah  
Seccombe, Duncan Varnes, Keleigh Varnes

### **1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

- The meeting commenced at 7:40 pm due to some technical difficulties in people logging in. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Apologies were received from Calum Peterson.

### **2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- The Minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 were accepted by the meeting. A signed copy will be forwarded to Maggie.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING**

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

- The new Bench was installed in March 2021. Most people seem happy with it, liking the style, but at the same time there have been a few adverse comments regarding style, height and position.

#### **b. Lengthsman**

- Carl Brassington provided a report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **c. Lay-by Waste Bins**

- We now have two bins in the lay-by and they are larger than the previous one bin. Thanks were expressed to Jon Stone for contacting Wychavon to bring this about.
- Every week these bins are full and Carl reports this to Wychavon. His report suggests that extra or larger bins would be useful. The question is whether this would then just encourage people to bring more rubbish to Broughton Hackett to put in them and it was generally acknowledged that this was likely. The Chair suggested leaving the situation for the moment.

#### **d. Blocked Road Drains**

- The road gullies on the approach to Bow Brook bridge on the A422 are blocked and this has been reported. As we know, this can lead to flooding of the road in heavy rain.
- Gullies along the A422 in Alcester Road have regularly suffered from blockages. These have been reported and mostly cleared but there are still outstanding issues.
- There is an unidentified issue in the road to Churchill outside The Annex. Water appears through the road surface after rainfall and the road gully outside the house is blocked. This has been reported and jetted but it is likely that there is still an issue in the pipework.



- The roadside drains in The Croft have been blocked for a long time. They have been jetted but WCC report that there is a blockage in the pipework that needs to be fixed. We are awaiting action on all the above issues.

**e. Footways**

- Carl has sprayed weedkiller on the vegetation that is pushing through the pavement between Kitts Lane and The Turnpike. He reported the issue to WCC again in May this year.
- The condition of the footway between the March Hare and Upton Snodsbury has again been reported to WCC in May this year. It was discussed at a meeting with Rob Adams and Barry Barnes last year. WCC advise that it is on their action list.

**4 FINANCIAL**

**a. Parish Accounts**

- The accounts were circulated prior to the meeting. Total income was £3506 and total expenditure was £2847 giving a surplus for the year of £659. At the time that the accounts were prepared there was an outstanding lengthsmen payment of £135 due from WCC. This has now been paid and will go into the next accounts. The Balance Sheet indicates that there was £1063 in the bank account on 31 March 2021.
- The accounts have been thoroughly checked by George Hamilton as internal checker. Thanks were expressed to George.
- Approval of the accounts was proposed by Maggie and seconded by Nick.

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

- Each year we must produce an Annual Governance and Accountability Return. The Certificate of Exemption then gets submitted to the external auditor before the end of June, otherwise we will be subject to a formal external audit for which we will have to pay.
- The AGAR was circulated prior to the meeting. The Certificate of Exemption, Section 1 Annual Governance Statement and then Section 2 Accounting Statements were approved by the meeting as proposed by Nick and seconded by Maggie.

**c. Precept 2021/2022**

- The Chair proposed that the precept for 2022/2023 should again 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 2021/2022. Agreement to this was proposed by George and seconded by Nick.

**5 PLANNING MATTERS**

**a. Horne Hill**

- The large stockpile of soil is still present on the stream floodplain. The concern is that this stockpile reduces the floodplain capacity. The land has been flooded in the past and the reduced capacity could exacerbate this in the future. There has been no further feedback regarding enforcement, but Linda will check the current situation.

**b. Little Hall Farm**

- The access road to Little Hall Farm is on the left-hand side of the A422 between Broughton Hackett and Upton Snodsbury. The boundary between the two parishes runs along the Bow Brook so the farm is within Broughton Hackett. A planning application has been submitted for the conversion of an existing agricultural building to 2 units of holiday let accommodation. It is understood that Wychavon are happy with this but that the application has been turned down by Highways due to traffic



safety concerns where the access road meets the A422. (Post meeting note – the application has been withdrawn pending further consideration of the access).

**c. Court Farm Pet Cremation Facility, Upton Snodsbury**

- Court Farm Industrial Estate is on the left-hand side of the A422 just passed the turning to Peopleton and what used to be The Coventry Arms. The planning application is for the change of use of one of the units to a pet cremation facility. Upton Snodsbury Parish Council have submitted a very comprehensive objection covering hours of operation, noise, odour, emissions, pollution and visual impact.

**d. Parkway Station developments**

- No further plans have been submitted. It is likely that things have been held up by the pandemic.

**e. Changes to the Planning System**

- Planning for the Future White Paper. One of the key changes proposed was a new system whereby the Secretary of State could grant 'planning permission in principle' and push everything else into a later technical details process. Housebuilders are in favour but there has been a lot of opposition from other organisations and the public. This is being discussed further in Parliament.

**f. South Worcestershire Development Plan**

- The publication version of the plan is now scheduled for October/November 2021. This allows time for further work to be done on the Sustainability Appraisal. A consultation has also taken place regarding providing fixed sites for travelling and travelling show people, but there do not appear to be any proposals for this general area.

## **6 COUNCILLOR**

**a. County and District Councillor - Linda Robinson**

- Linda said it was a pleasure as always to be at the Parish Meeting, especially as it was her first meeting as both our District and County Councillor. She has been quite busy since the elections learning about her new role. Many inductions and the challenges of the County IT system have been quite a challenge, particularly as they are still operating remotely. Linda has been made vice chair of planning and a member of the Fire Authority both of which seem very interesting. Having spent years both on and chairing Wychavon's planning committee, her first County application will be a new cycling and footway bridge across the River Severn.
- Locally for Broughton Hackett, we had the excellent result on fly tipping recently in the A422 layby. Linda expressed her congratulations and thanks to all involved in a great team effort from residents and Wychavon. George suggested that a camera should be installed in the layby to detect any future instances of fly tipping. Linda will consult with Wychavon as to whether this is possible.
- Linda had spoken to Barry Barnes on the day of the meeting on relative highways issues and had thanked him for the long overdue re surfacing works from Spetchley roundabout to the village. This is all part of County's road safety appraisals along the A422 from Spetchley to Alcester. Linda has been promised a copy of the draft report once available. She understood that another of the benefits will be no charge to the parish for the white village gates to be installed which are normally quite costly but have been recommended as part of the survey. On the downside it does not look as though there will be any changes to the existing speed limits or straightening of any of the bad bends where so many accidents occur towards Inkberrow.



- Linda noted that since our last meeting we have all been affected and continue to be by the ups and downs of COVID. County are very good in communicating latest statistics with members and she provided the following statistics to the meeting.
- Statistics for the most recent seven days per 100,000 up to 20<sup>th</sup> June showed 90 in England and 34 in Worcestershire. Bromsgrove had the highest rate at 68 with Wychavon third from the bottom with 27. The vaccination take-up continues to be good with appointments now being made for the over 18's.
- At least 2.7m people in the U.K. have downloaded the new NHS app which is separate from the Test & Trace one and allows users to share their vaccination status when travelling internationally or attending large events in the UK such as Wimbledon or Euro 2020 games. A huge bonus has been that the surge in downloads has triggered a rise in numbers registering for organ donation with 51,000 donor preferences being added in the last four weeks which is five times more than in April.
- Finally, some interesting national travel statistics. On trains, passenger levels have fallen to 22% of pre covid levels whilst bus travel is currently at 21% and traffic volume is at 90%.
- Linda advised that there is now a call for volunteers for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. For those who are interested, details can be found at [www.birmingham2022.com/volunteering](http://www.birmingham2022.com/volunteering)
- Linda's new County email address is [LRobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:LRobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## 7 VILLAGE

### a. Village White Gates

- An application was made to the local Police and Crime Commissioner for funding for White Gates for the village. The response did not give a commitment for funding but indicated that if other measures such as road markings were also put in place, the application will be looked on favourably. This application is no longer being pursued as it has been superseded by the recommendations from the A422 study (see Items 6a above and 7b below).

### b. A422 Study

- This study has now been completed and reported. The study was for the stretch of A422 from the A 44 Pershore Lane to the A441 at Arrow. The study was undertaken in response to several road traffic collisions since 2014 including four fatal collisions. The village have not been provided with a copy of the report, but Linda and the Chair have been advised that the recommendations for Broughton Hackett are a SLOW marking on the road before the bend by the Turnpike, a series of marker posts both sides of the road around the bend, the installation of a Village Gateway just passed the Turnpike and a further SLOW marking after the gateway. A further Village Gateway at the other end of the village and marker posts both sides of the road beyond the gateway are also included.
- In addition, the Chair has agreed with Barry Barnes that 40 mph roundels will also be painted on the road at the 40 signs both sides of the village.
- It is understood that funding for the implementation of these proposals has been obtained but there are no indications yet as to when the work will be carried out.
- To assist in safety along the A422 through the village, the chair asked if those who have properties fronting onto the A422 would keep their hedges and other vegetation as far back as they can to maximise the width of pavement. At times, the pavement can become difficult to negotiate alongside the moving traffic and several villagers have made the above request.



**c. Footpaths**

- There have been two complaints raised regarding footpaths. One is the section of footpath to Crowle from Rye Hill Lane just beyond the house gardens. The path underfoot has become extremely uneven and a bit difficult for the less surefooted people. The other one is the footbridge over Bow Brook south of Churchill Mill where one of the planks has a hole in it. A child could seriously injure themselves if one of their legs went through the hole. Both these issues have been reported to WCC.
- A request was made at the meeting regarding a tree from the garden of No 1 Hop Kilns which overhangs the pavement alongside the A422. The Chair offered to speak to Sarah at the property.

**d. Dog Waste**

- There have been appeals from villagers living on Mill Lane for something to be done about dog walkers leaving filled poo bags along the lane. Some have been thrown into hedges, some over hedges into fields where sheep are grazing and others have been just generally left in the countryside. Enquiries have been made regarding a waste bin at the top end of Mill Lane but the village would need to fund this and it is not just the cost of the bin and installation but also the regular emptying of the bin, all of which is not an insignificant amount of money. What has been done is for signs to be put up along Mill Lane in the hope that this will encourage dog owners to be more considerate.

**e. Notice Board**

- This is in a bit of a dilapidated condition and it was agreed that action is needed to replace it. The Chair will make enquiries regarding the types of noticeboards available and the costs. It was noted that the present noticeboard is made of wood which fits in with the character of the village and that replacements are often made of artificial materials. However, it is thought that wood 'lookalikes' may be available.
- It was suggested that the present location of the noticeboard is not the safest place for anyone standing looking at the notices, due to traffic at the junction. An alternative of next to the bench was suggested.
- If anyone has thoughts on other things that the village needs, could they please email Roger or Maggie.

**f. Parish Games**

- These have been generally in abeyance due to the pandemic. The only confirmed event to date is angling which will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> September. The organising committee are hoping to release a schedule of other knockout one-day events in August and September.
- Calum Peterson is the Broughton Hackett contact. He will send through any further updates, and these will be circulated around the village. In addition, it was suggested that details should be put in the Bowline. Further information on these games can be obtained from calumpeterson\_7@hotmail.co.uk.

**g. Village of Culture**

- The Big Art Show will be at the church in Broughton Hackett on 3<sup>rd</sup> July between 2 pm and 4:30 pm. This is meant to be fun and everyone is welcome to join in, all ages and standards. It can be any artwork that people in the villages have done over the years. There will be no judging because it is meant to be fun and relaxed. Everyone is encouraged to go along to the church and have a look on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
- The Civil War re-enactors will be in WLA on 29<sup>th</sup> August and there will also be a pig roast. Further information on that will be provided in due course.
- The WLA Fete will be on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. This is not a Village of Culture event and as usual it is being organised by WLA. There will be a Village of Culture stall at the fete.



#### **h. Churchyard**

- Although not a Parish Meeting matter, information was provided regarding the policy for the cutting of grass in the churchyard. Much of the grass is deliberately being left long in accordance with the 'living churchyards' initiative which is supported by the Church of England and WCC. The purpose is to encourage natural habitat for wild flowers, insects and small animals. The recommendation is that the remaining long grass is cut once per year in late summer.
- In addition to the above, the pandemic has prevented the collection of money for the Churchyard Fund and throughout last year and this year-to-date the grass cutting that has been possible and appropriate has been done by volunteers, particularly Marion.
- The PCC will continue to monitor the situation and determine when and where grass cutting is to be done.

#### **8 AOB**

- Nick advised that his family will be holding a get-together in the field behind their house and villagers are invited. Details of date etc have been circulated by email.
- There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

#### **9 NEXT MEETING – to be arranged**