

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD ON 2nd MARCH 2021

PRESENT

Messrs J Hendry [Chairman], D Kaspar, Paul Gaze, Rhodri Rhys, Cllr Dave Mossman [Stroud District Councillor], Cllr Andrew Miller [Gloucestershire County Council Representative], Kirk Walton [Tuffley Matters], Sue Williams [Prospective County Councillor], Mr Martin Coles [Parish Council's Representative on Whaddon Fields], Mrs A Szabo [Parish Clerk] and 3 members of the public.

21/012 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for absence.

21/013 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd February were agreed and signed as a true record.

21/014 MATTERS ARISING

Replacement Bench St Swithun's – It was reported that this is still in hand.

Enforcement request regarding dumped rubble on land adjacent to Rose Cottage – Further to emails circulated, the Clerk stated that she would follow this up mid-April when the time given by Stroud District Council would be up. However, Cllr Paul Gaze had been in touch with the enforcement officer and raised concerns that rubble was still being imported to the site. The Enforcement Officer had subsequently revisited the site and is now working with Gloucestershire County Council on this matter.

21/015 COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Andrew Miller reported that although he was not the County Councillor for our parish, he is happy to attend meetings and represent this Parish. He reported that the County Council has approved a budget of £483m; an increase of 4.75%, 2.75% being ringfenced for adult social care. Also, that there was a new Local Highways Manager for the area, Harriet Osburn.

21/016 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Dave Mossman reported that the Stroud District part of the Council Tax has been agreed at an increase of 2.35% and the Police budget will rise by 4.49%.

21/017 WHADDON FIELDS

It was explained by Cllr Andrew Miller that no decision had been made regarding the site of a new secondary school for the south of Gloucester, only that funding is in place for a new school to open in 2023 as schools south of Gloucester were already oversubscribed. Whaddon is not part of any adopted Local Plan at present and the timescale of 2023 was questioned. Highways will not comment until the Stroud District Transport Plan has been finalised and its effect on St Barnabus roundabout can be assessed.

There would be no pronouncements made before all plans have been reviewed for legal reasons.

Cllr Paul Gaze raised concerns regarding the entire road network, not just Stroud Road and St Barnabus roundabout.

Cllr Dave Mossman stated that the Stroud District Local Plan is still to be announced but he believed that Whaddon would be included for the use of Gloucester's numbers. However, there is no guarantee that this will include a new secondary school.

Martin Coles stated that he felt that Taylor Wimpey would be required to provide both a primary and secondary school. However as far as he knew there had been no talks between Black Box and Beacon Trust Schools.

Concerns were raised as to the possible sustainability of a large new school at Whaddon when Black Box have stated that there would be no upgrade of Naas Lane.

In summary, everything hinges on County Highways and St Barnabus roundabout. It was felt that a public meeting with the Parish Council, Local Planning Authority and Taylor Wimpey/Black Box would be needed depending on the outcomes of Transport and Local Plans.

The Chairman thanked Martin Coles for his expertise and professionalism in investigating the matter surrounding Whaddon Fields on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllrs Andrew Miller, Dave Mossman and Sue Williams left the meeting at this point.

21/018 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest to items on the agenda.

21/019 FINANCE

a) Cheques for signature in line with the Emergency Payment Schedule

Councillors confirmed that cheques should be written in line with the schedule of essential payments December – March as circulated, due to COVID-19 with the addition of a donation to be made of £200 each to NHS Charities Together, Alzheimer's Society and Mind.

b) Internal Audit – The Clerk reported that Lynda King had examined the books and had found that the £101 discrepancy occurred due to the wrong start balance being used.

c) Independent Audit Arrangements – It was agreed by Councillors to use GAPTC for the Independent Audit for the financial year 2020/21 at a cost of £175.

21/020 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications for consideration

S.21/0305/HHOLD	Old Orchard Gilberts Lane Brookthorpe	Installation of dormer, two Velux, windows, window colour change, vaulted ceiling and bathroom/shower room position change
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Councillors had no objections to these proposals

b) To receive application decisions from Stroud District Council.

S.20/2784/HHOLD	Greenways Stroud Road Brookthorpe	Proposed first floor extension above garage and single storey rear extension
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APPROVED

21/021 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

After a discussion it was decided that Cllr Paul Gaze and Eric Hibbert would design a flyer to be delivered to every household to raise the Parish Council's profile and encourage more people to stand as Parish Councillors in the May elections. It was proposed Cllr John Hendry and seconded by Cllr Rhodri Rhys that a cost of £30 should be budgeted for this.

21/022 INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

Elections – The Clerk urged Cllrs to take note of information sent out regarding this year's nomination procedure.

Pot holes in both Upton and Naas Lanes were reported. Clerk to action.

It was reported that there was a carpet dumped in the bus stop on Stroud Road. Clerk to action.

The Clerk was asked to recheck the status of the garden wall at Gardeners Cottage with Stroud District Council again.

It was reported that the Gates at St Swithun's had moved and are no longer aligned. The Clerk was asked to ask the installer to look at this.

Defibrillator – It was suggested that when the present contract is up for renewal the Council looks for another provider.

There was no further information for Councillors.

21/023 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Concerns were raised regarding the lease of a building at Wynstones school. Church Lane was being blocked with taxis at various times a day and when local residents have complained they have received abuse both by staff and the service users.

21/024 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6th April 2021 starting at 8pm remotely through zoom.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.04 pm.

Chairman

Date.....

