

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6th JULY 2021

PRESENT

Messrs J Hendry [Chairman], D Kaspar, Paul Gaze, Mrs Sue Williams [County Councillor], Mr Martin Coles [Parish Council's Representative for Whaddon Fields], Mrs A Szabo [Parish Clerk] and 1 member of the public.

21/042 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Rhys, Dave Mossman [District Councillor]

There were no other apologies given for absence.

21/043 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Parish Council Meeting held on 18th May were agreed and signed as true records.

21/044 MATTERS ARISING

Enforcement request regarding dumped rubble on land adjacent to Rose Cottage – The Clerk stated that a large amount of rubble has been dumped again. An email had been sent to head of planning requesting urgent action on this matter. We are to be patient as Planning Enforcement are understaffed at the present time. Cllrs felt that the situation was unacceptable and the Clerk was asked to follow up and strongly request that action is taken.

New Website – The template for the new site including the home page had been circulated for the Council's approval. Once this is approved along with the Privacy and Accessibility Statements, the password will be forwarded, and other documents will be uploaded. It is hoped that this will be complete and running by the end of the month. Cllrs agreed that it looks good and so far, seemed to work well.

21/045 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This had been circulated to Councillors and Cllr Sue Williams was present to explain. Sue stated that she now sits on the Environmental Scrutiny Committee, Planning, Traffic, Highway, and Rights of Way, Governance and Audit. It was explained that we could put forward smaller items so that she could use some of her highway's allowance of £30,000. Cllrs to email Clerk with suggestions. There were no other comments.

21/046 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Dave Mossman's report had been circulated to Cllrs.

21/047 WHADDON FIELDS

Mr Martin Coles reported that it appears that the two Councillors representing Tuffley on Gloucester City Council have no idea as to what the Council's response to the pre-submission to the proposed Stroud Local Plan will be or how things stand regarding this at present. Communications with Gloucester City Council's representatives are non-existent at present as emails are not being answered. It is known that there is a shortfall of 6,000 homes. The next meeting with Black Box will, in all probability, not happen until near to the end of year. Cllr Sue Williams had no further information to add.

21/048 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

21/049 FINANCE

a) Cheques for signature

£1116.60	Mrs A Szabo HMRC	Wages plus £97.37 Expenses and £12 home office allowance PAYE
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b) Independent Audit Report

The report had been circulated to Cllrs. There were several recommendations and actions to be taken.

- 1.1 Wording for Standing Order adoption (minute 20/065) needs to be improved – Noted.
- 1.3 Financial Regulations only draft ones on Website – Will be updated on new site.
- 1.7 Code of Conduct Review – Item 12 on Agenda.
- 2.3 Direct Debit and Standing Orders – Will be done at precept.
- 3.2 Insurance Review – Already carried out.
- 3.6 Asset Register – New Website.
- 3.7 Asset Checks – Will make sure these get minuted and not just logged.
- 3.8 Bank mandates – These are done when there are any changes to Councillors. They do not need doing after elections when there is an uncontested election.
- 4.2 Transparency Code – These are all on the website once approved by Council in June.
- 5.2 Reserves Policy – Item 11 on the Agenda.
- 6.5 Clerks Pension – Done annually will make sure it gets minuted in future.
- 7.9 External Audit 2020 – This report did get circulated but not discussed and minuted due to COVID 19 restrictions. However, there were no points of concern or recommendations.
- 8.1 GDPR Risk Assessment – Noted and will be on new website.
- 9.2 Minute signing – the minutes are already signed and initialled as required.
- 9.3 Members Interests – Already on old website.
- 9.5 Summons – Noted and changed.

c) Internal Auditor for 2021/22

It was proposed that Cllr Rhodri Rhys carry out this task on behalf of the Council. The Clerk to ask his approval for this.

21/050 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications for consideration

S.21/1354/HHOLD Pound House, Single storey extension and internal changes
Stroud Road,
Whaddon

There were no objections to this proposal from Councillors. However, members of the public have not had a chance to make representations to the Parish Council, and because of holidays and COVID isolation it is not possible to hold a separate planning meeting. Therefore, it was proposed by the Clerk and accepted by all Councillors that a notice be placed inviting members of the public to make representations in writing and then the Clerk would liaise again with Councillors before submitting a response under the Emergency Scheme of Delegation.

b) Decisions received from Stroud District Council

S.21/1046/HHOLD 3 Maitlands Permission Granted

S.21/1027/CPE Land at Wynstones Drive Permission Granted

21/051 DECISIONS UNDER THE EMERGENCY SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO THE CLERK

Planning consultation response for application S.21/1331/FUL, Solar Panels Days Cottage Upton Lane. After consultation with Councillors there were no objections. Cllr Dave Kaspar had a pecuniary interest and was not consulted regards the consultation process.

21/052 RESERVES POLICY

Proposed by Cllr Dave Kaspar and Seconded by the Chairman that this policy be adopted.

RESOLVED

21/053 REVIEW OF CODE OF CONDUCT

Proposed by the Chairman and Seconded by Cllr Dave Kaspar that this review be adopted.

RESOLVED

21/054 REVIEW OF GENERAL PRIVACY STATEMENT

Proposed by the Chairman and Seconded by Cllr Paul Gaze that this review be adopted.

RESOLVED

21/055 ACCESSABILITY STATEMENT FOR WEBSITE

Proposed by the Cllr Paul Gaze and Seconded by Cllr Dave Kaspar that this statement be adopted.

RESOLVED

21/056 STROUD DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN - LETTER TO INSPECTOR

Councillors examined the Draft letter to cover soundness of the Local Plan as far as G2 site is concerned. It was stated by Mr Martin Coles that “Safeguarding” should be to protect greenbelt not for JCS. It appears that this is the wrong wording for this decision. He felt that it would be better to lodge our response after Gloucester City Council’s response as this could change our views. It was suggested to wait until 19th or 20th to be lodged. It was proposed by Cllr Paul Gaze and Seconded by Cllr Dave Kaspar that the Council approve the draft structure and this will be the basis for the response. Subject to sight of the final draft to be sent to Stroud and on to the Inspector.

RESOLVED

Mr Martin Coles felt that it would be prudent to consult a barrister costing, in the region of £500 and the Clerk was asked to put this on the Agenda for September.

Martin was thanked for all his work on this subject.

21/057 TRAFFIC SURVEY BY DRONE

Councillors agreed in principle to this costing in the region of £250 but this will need to be looked at in the Autumn when traffic is back to normal and representative. It was decided to review in September, when quote has arrived.

21/058 MEMORIAL PLAQUE FOR ELIZABETH AND CHRIS BRENT-SMITH

It was proposed by Cllr Paul Gaze and seconded by the Chairman that the Clerk go ahead and order the plaque as circulated costing £24.20 plus VAT.

Stainless Steel, 125mm x 50mm, 4 screw holes

Cllr Dave Kaspar took no part in these discussions having a personal interest.

21/059 ASSET AND DEFIBRILLATOR REPORTS

The Clerk reported that there was strimming needed urgently to the bus shelter at Whaddon (north side) the waste bin, Old Forge Green (east) and bench on Whaddon Green bench. Mr Eric Hibbert offered to carry this out. It was also reported that the bin on Old Forge Green (west) is in need of being relocated back onto its plinth.

The Clerk reported that new pads had been installed to the Defibrillator at Fagin’s. The other defibrillators were fine.

21/060 REPLACEMENT TREE WHADDON GREEN

It was agreed that a semi-mature tree native broad leaf tree costing £300/400 be provided. Mr Eric Hibbert agreed to investigate as to the best tree and logistics such as permission and utilities.

21/061 INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

Cllr Dave Kaspar reported that a drone has been flying over Orchards in Upton Lane.

Cllr Paul Gaze reported that he had replaced the original plaque on the new Bench in St Swithuns churchyard. The Clerk was asked to add this bench onto the Assets Register. It was agreed that the bench would be secured with a steel stake and padlock by Cllr Paul Gaze.

Parliamentary Boundary changes to Hardwicke Ward. The Parish Council has been asked to consult on the change to the Cotswold Constituency. Comments to be received by end of July.

It was felt that there was no affinity and no historical relationship to this area. There is also no obvious administrative centre. This Parish has affiliation and historical relationship with Stroud. This new proposed constituency is extremely large and made up of unconnected areas.

21/062 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

It was reported that Wynstones School is now permanently closed. The Farm has been sold already and will be used for agriculture.

There were no further questions or comments.

21/063 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 7th September

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.03.

Chairman

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