

## Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon Parish Council – Chairman’s Report 2021 / 2022

I must first report that at a parish Council meeting some months ago councillors and members of the public were threatened, this was reported to the police and they are dealing with the matter.

For this reason I have to remind you all that the Council has a zero tolerance policy to any form of anti-social behaviour, and that should this happen the Police will be informed immediately, and the meeting suspended, until the offenders leave and calm is restored. In line with the government act 1972, members of the public will only be allowed to make comments or ask questions when invited to do so by the chairman, or at the time allocated at the end of the meeting.

With that out of the way, I would like to thank you all and the Parish Council for your attendance at the monthly face to face meetings, on the first Tuesday of the month in the village hall.

Thank you to the following for their past and continued support –

**Clerk** – Anne Szabo, for her continued support and expertise in Council matters.

**County Councillor** – Sue Williams who is new to the role, but is in regular contact through monthly reports.

**District Councillor** - David Mossman who continues in this position whilst having health difficulties.

**Village Wardens.**

**Local Police** - For their support in dealing with a number of incidents, and for conducting speed monitoring in the village, which we trust will continue in 2022 / 2023.

**Eric Hibbert** – For his continued technical support and in preparing the newsletters.

**Nigel Bone** – For the continued distribution of information to parishioners.

**Paul Gaze** - For all that he gives back to the village.

**Martin Coles** - For his outstanding work and commitment lobbying SDC, GCC, planners and developers regarding Whaddon Fields. Without his hard work and hours and hours preparing emails on behalf of the Parish Council we would not have been able to cope with the continued onslaught of changing information.

The small number of the Parish who attended meetings and contributed when possible.

John Hendry (Chairman).

Rhodri Rhys

2 x Vacant Positions (Any Volunteers)

Paul Gaze (Vice Chairman).

Dave Kasper

The last year has been a challenging year for the Parish Council, but following the elections we have regained our General Power of Competence as we are now back to the required 2/3rds of elected members. However we still have two vacancies currently.

## **Essential replacements and repairs, Grants and Charitable Donations.**

Village Hall	£ 1250	St Swithun's	£ 750
Longfield Hospice	£ 250	Severn Area Rescue	£ 250
Newsletter	£ 1,200	New Website	£ 426
Village social Events	£ 1,500	Verge Cutting	£ 803

The Precept for 2022 / 2023 has been set at £18,300, budgeted spend is increased slightly from last year but the increase is actually 0% for parishioners, in fact when looking at the draft tax base from SDC there will be a slight reduction for band D tax payers.

### **Planning**

Several applications were passed although several objections were made, many were rejected and some referred to DCC. Following two years of issues with the SDC they do now appear to be more supportive and understanding when dealing with planning applications that are affecting residents within Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon Parish and take more notice of the comments from ourselves and this small village community.

We do however continue to have major issues when it comes to SDC enforcement actions, some of which are taking longer than a year to be reported back to us and remain unresolved. Continued excuses regarding Covid and staff shortages are more than wearing thin.

We through the efforts of Martin Coles, have been in regular communication with both SDC and GCC, and the planning authorities regarding the possible major housing development at Whaddon Fields. Planning for this has not yet been submitted but there is great concern locally regarding this. Where JCS plans have this site allocated for possible future use by GCC to build 3000 homes should they require it. The Parish council will continue to advise parishioners on this and push the local authorities for clarification.

### **Burglaries.**

Theft continues to be an issue affecting houses, out buildings, farms, and agriculture businesses. This is together with dog theft, a national phenomenon as thieves move out of the cities where there are increased camera systems in use. We will continue to advise the public of issues raised by local police alerts via the email system, and a close working relationship with the Police.

In full time employment and with a growing family, my time on council activities is sometimes restricted, but I will continue to do my best to serve the community with the support of my fellow councillors.

Thank you

John Hendry  
Chairman Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon Parish Council.