

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7th NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT

Messrs John Hendry [Chairman], Paul Gaze, Rhodri Stokes-Rhys, Stephen Davies [Stroud District Councillor], Mrs Sue Williams [Gloucestershire County Councillor], Mr Martin Coles [Whaddon Fields Representative], Mrs A Szabó [Parish Clerk], and 4 members of the public.

23/127 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Dave Kaspar.

There were no other apologies for absence.

23/128 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 1st October were agreed and signed as true records.

23/129 MATTERS ARISING

Closed Public Rights of Way – The Clerk informed the Council that there was no new information regarding the blocking of the Green Lane adjacent to Mount View. Cllr Williams has had a short response from Sarah Macaulay-Lowe to say that due to the complex nature of the issue no action would be taken. It was pointed out by Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys that the permanent blocking of the right of way amounted to criminal damage. It had been suggested by Sarah Macaulay-Lowe that there is a possibility of opening up second access while road is closed due to electricity supply being installed to the Gypsy site. Cllr Williams to follow this up. Meanwhile, the landowners still have no access to their land.

Application for Speed Activated Signs – The Clerk informed the Council that there was no new information to report to Cllrs regarding our application. Cllr Williams to take this forward.

23/130 POLICE REPORT

No report. Cllrs questioned Upton Lane being used by large vehicles.

23/131 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

This report had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr Williams expanded as requested.

23/132 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Local plan – It is unlikely that the funding for alterations to junction 12 of the M5 will be found in the timescale of the plan. South Gloucestershire County Council have declared that they are not interested in developing junction 14. Mark Russell will be leaving his position at end of this month. Therefore, a new Strategic Planning Officer will need to be appointed to take the plan forward. There are further problems with land supply being 5.3 years but not 6 years as stated. All this leaves Stroud District in an extremely vulnerable position. Although this will possibly not affect Whaddon. Houses allocated are larger than government asks without Whaddon being included. These are for allocation to Gloucester City. A new plan may be needed; this will take at least two years and by then it may be clearer if funding can be allocated to fund improving junction 12. In 15-20 years money may be found.

23/133 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

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

23/134 FINANCE

a) Cheques for signature

Cheque No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1234		Mrs A Szabo	Clerk's Wages, Home Office Allowance and £121.28 expenses.
1235	£7.20	HMRC	PAYE
1236	£200.00	Brookthorpe Village Hall	Christmas event

Power used for Council's spending.
General Power of Competence – Power of first resort

b) Money credited to Account

£6,655.23	Stroud District Council	CIL	
£24.00	CPRE		Reimbursement

c) Internal Audit – Cllr Paul Gaze reported that he had examined the books for the internal audit ending 30th September. He observed that all appeared to be in order. Cheque 1231 had not been cleared by the bank at the time of the bank statement and there were a couple of minor mistakes to the spreadsheet. The reconciliation and balance of £51,729.25 appeared correct.

d) Budget Review – The Summary of Council’s spending for budget review had been circulated to Cllrs and there were no questions.

e) Precept Meeting – 16th November 7pm was set for the meeting to set the draft budget for the financial year 2024/25.

23/135 PLANNING

a) Planning applications for consideration

S.23/1971/HHOLD	Tudor House, Stroud Road, Whaddon	Construction of timber framed link between existing house (barn A/Tudor house) and existing sunroom Cllrs had no objections to these proposals
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b) Decisions received from Planning Authority

Appeal:- White House, Stroud Road, Whaddon. Appeal Granted

23/136 WHADDON FIELDS

Martin Coles informed the Council of a residents meeting for Tuffley to be held on Meeting 26th at St Barnabus Church.

23/137 GRANT ALLOCATIONS

St Swithun’s Churchyard – It was proposed by Paul Gaze and by seconded Rhodri Stokes-Rhys to allocate £750 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard.

Brookthorpe Village Hall – It was proposed by Rhodri Stokes-Rhys and seconded by John Hendry to allocate £1750 towards repairs to the hall floor.

23/138 DEFIBRILLATOR AND ASSET REPORTS

The Clerk reported that these had been carried out on 12th October and all was in order except the bench on Whaddon Green which was surrounded by overgrowth and was in line to be relocated. This has now been cleared.

It was reported to the Council that the bus shelter at Whaddon Green has been deliberately damaged sometime between 12th and 31st. and is now in need of repair. Mr Eric Hibbert to put in a quote for the repairs.

23/139 LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

The Clerk notified all present that an archaeological dig of a Roman Villa is due to take place between 12th – 18th November Public are invited to view articles found between 11am and 3pm on Monday 13th or Saturday 18th November. Parking at St Swithun’s.

23/140 STRUCTURAL CONDITION OF ST SWITHUN’S CHURCH

No new information to report.

23/141 INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

Defibrillator Training – The Clerk informed the Council that this has been arranged for Sunday 26th November at 10am in conjunction with a coffee morning being arranged by the Village Hall.

Closure of Naas Lane – 20th November – 1st December from Naas Farm to the railway bridge.
Corner of Haresfield lane has now been cut back.

23/142 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Council was notified of anti-social behaviour happening in Wynstones Drive.
There were no further questions from the public.

23/143 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 5th December 2023.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35