

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5th NOVEMBER 2024 - at Brookthorpe Village Hall

PRESENT

Messrs John Hendry [Chairman], Paul Gaze, Eric Hibbert, Rhodri Stokes-Rhys, PCSO Nicola Wood, Martin Coles [Whaddon Fields Representative], Nigel Bone [St Swithun's Church Building Lead], Mrs Anne Szabo [Outgoing Parish Clerk], Mrs Tina Balgobin [Parish Clerk] and 2 members of the public.

24/151 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr, Demelza Turner-Wilkes [Stroud District Councillor] and Cllr Susan Williams [Gloucestershire County Councillor]

There were no other apologies for absence.

24/152 INTRODUCTION OF TINA BALGOBIN AS THE NEW CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chairman introduced Tina Balgobin as the new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

24/153 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Clerk (Mrs Anne Szabo) notified the Council that she had made a couple of minor changes to the draft minutes.

It was proposed by Cllr John Hendry and seconded by Cllr Eric Hibbert that the amended minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October be agreed and signed as a true record. **RESOLVED**

24/154 MATTERS ARISING

Concerns surrounding the mounds of rubble at Kalisco Farm – Mrs Anne Szabo reported that she had investigated and there appears to be no planning application submitted for this activity at this location. She reminded Cllrs that this area falls within Harescombe Parish.

There were no matters arising that did not appear on the on the agenda elsewhere.

24/155 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Nicola Wood stated she had not compiled a report for the meeting, but she answered questions surrounding the Multi Agency meetings and was thanked for her help in this matter. This item also appears later in the minutes.

She also gave advice on a situation that had arisen due to someone giving a false address and an alleged assault.

24/156 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

The report from Cllr Sue Williams had been received and circulated to Councillors.

24/157 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Although Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes was not at the meeting she had provided the Clerk with an update on issues that she had been following up.

Andrews Close – It has now been stated by Stroud District Council that this is private land and therefore they will not supply a new sign. Cllrs disputed this, as the dwellings were originally Council Houses, and that Stroud District Council are still responsible for the land in front. The Clerk was asked to relay this information back to Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes.

Hedge at the Haresfield Lane and A1473 – An action ticket has been raised for this with Ubico, but there have been no dates set. It is on their radar and will be chased up until we have some progress.

Tree Survey – It appears that all trees that Stroud District Council are responsible for were surveyed in early 2024. Anne Szabo stated that she would follow this up to ensure that the trees adjacent to the Village Hall were included in this survey.

24/158 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Eric Hibbert declared his pecuniary interest in item 10c and 15 on the Agenda – Enforcement action and the blocking of EBR 25 and EBR 26.

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

24/159 FINANCE

a) Cheques for signature

Cheque No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1279		Mrs A Szabo	Clerk's Wages, Office Allowance and Expenses of £27.00
1280	£115.40	HMRC	PAYE
1281	£252.00	PKF Littlejohn LLP	External Audit
1282	£30.00	BlueTree	Website update

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

b) Money credited to account

£411.12 Gloucester County Council Verge Cutting

c) External Auditors Report for 2023/24 – The Clerk (Mrs A Szabo) reported that PKF Littlejohn reported that it was found under regulation 15 of the 2015 Local Audit Regulations the Council had failed to give proper notice to parishioners of the Electors Rights. Therefore, next year when the question is asked on the answer will be no. There were no other comments.

d) Internal Auditors report for July – September.

Cllr John Hendry reported that all checks were carried out and appeared correct with no additional comments.

e) Prepared reconciliation. - It was proposed by Cllr John Henty and seconded by Cllr Eric Hibbert that this is a true reflection of the Councils finances and should be signed. **RESOLVED**

f) Budget control – The prepared figures were reviewed. There were no further questions.

g) Bank Mandate – The Clerk (Mrs A Szabo) reported that the changes to the mandate had been accepted by Lloyds Bank and were no in operation.

h) Pre-Precept meeting – Mrs Tina Balgobin [Responsible Financial Officer] would prepare the Precept and circulate for comment prior to the meeting to be held on 3rd December.

i) Setting up of online banking. It was proposed by Cllr Eric Hibbert and Seconded by Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys that Mrs Tina Balgobin [Responsible Financial Officer] begin the process of setting this up and also looking into an account to pay interest. **RESOLVED**

24/160 PLANNING

a) Planning applications for consideration

S.24/1852/HHOLD	White House, Stroud Road, Whaddon	Erection of a detached garage
S.24/1836/LBC	Cllrs had no objections to these proposals Brentlands Farm, Upton Lane, Brookthorpe.	Replacement windows and internal alterations.
S.24/1657/VAR	The Barn,	No objections This application had been considered on 1st October.

b) Decisions received from Planning Authority.

S.24/1905/DISCON Gloucester Asbestos from application S.24/0138/FUL. **APPROVED**
The Clerk was asked to raise concerns that the screening associated with this application has now been removed and metal barriers erected.

c) Planning Enforcement Mount View, Naas Lane.

The Parish Council had reported an alleged extension beyond the approved 2.5 acres. An enforcement officer has now been appointed and information requested from the Parish Council. Cllr Eric Hibbert will represent the Parish Council and will attend a meeting to discuss the alleged extension on a date to be arranged.

24/161 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH NEW CLERK ATTAINING CILCA

It was proposed by Cllr Joh Hendry and Seconded by Cllr Eric Hibbert that the Parish Council should cover the cost of £235 for Course and £410 for SLCC registration, in order that the New Clerk, Mrs Tina Balgobin attain the CiLCA award. It was recognised that study time would also be required.

RESOLVED

24/162 AWARD GRANTS IN LINE WITH THE COUNCIL'S GRANT AWARDING SCHEME

It was proposed by Cllr John Hendry and Seconded by Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys that the Council should award £750 to St Swithun's Churchyard fund for upkeep.

RESOLVED

There were no other applications.

24/163 GRANT AWARDING SCHEME

The Scheme was reviewed and it was proposed by Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys and seconded by Cllr John Hendry that the proposed changes be made to the length of time and use of the grant money. This to come into effect for future allocation of grants.

RESOLVED

24/164 CHRISTMAS EVENT AT VILLAGE HALL

Mrs Lynda King verbally requested a donation to the Christmas event to be held on the 1st December. It was proposed by Cllr Eric Hibbert and seconded by Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys that £1000.00 be granted out of the Communities Event Budget with the proviso that any unused money to be carried over.

RESOLVED

24/165 BLOCKING OF GREEN LANE NEXT TO MOUNT VIEW

Cllr Eric Hibbert recapped history of problem beginning last year. PCSO Nicola Wood started the multi-Agency meetings and has been instrumental in enabling the regular meetings since. Gloucestershire County Council, through PRow have been pressured into taking action. It is hoped that there will not be a need for any more meetings, unless needed, and they can be reinstated. EBR 26 has yet to be sorted out. Although it has been agreed verbally by the Mount View Representative that required action will be taken.

Contractors have cleared EBR 25. The swing arm barrier and boulders have been left in place, but both boulders will be removed, and a horse friendly barrier will replace them. This will be locked with access for landowners and legitimate users only with code or something similar. The barrier has been ordered and PRow would lease with all interested parties before work is done. Gloucestershire County Council to retain the right to control the lock. It was reported that there were no issues encountered during clearance or since and a fence has been erected for privacy and security for the site.. Request for a diversion had been agreed by PRow.

24/166 PS RENEWABLES TO DONATION TO THE VILLAGE HALL

It was proposed by Cllr Eric Hibbert and seconded by Cllr John Hendry that PS Renewables should donate directly to the village hall for repair and replacement windows as part their community benefit responsibility. It has also been suggested, verbally that they would be willing to donate toward the fitting of solar panels to the hall.

RESOLVED

24/167 PROPOSED WHADDON FIELDS DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL PLAN

Mr Martin Coles thanked Mark Ryder (District Councillor) who enabled the reply to the latest consultation. It was stated that there would probably no more news until next easter. Cost and timing of upgrading junctions 12 and 14 remain extremely problematic to the Draft plan and the housing targets.

24/168 STRUCTURAL CONDITION OF ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH

Churches Conservation Trust to look at electrics and cordon off the dangerous area before the carol service. There remains the need to show that the church is needed by the community in order for the structural work to be completed.

24/169 ASSET AND DEFIBRILLATOR REPORT

The Clerk (Mrs A Szabo) reported that these had been carried out. A missing mask and new pads have been ordered, for the defibrillators at the telephone box and Church Lane, respectively. All other assets appear fine with no concerns.

24/170 INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

Twelve bags of winter salt have been delivered and will be stored between Cllr Eric Hibbert and Cllr John Hendry for use on pathways during adverse weather conditions.

Upton Lane closure for resurfacing is projected although no date has been set.

The new Union Flag has been purchased, as previously agreed, by Cllr Paul Gaze. Invoice to follow.

The damaged manhole in Haresfield Lane has been repaired but broken down again. This has been reported.

24/171 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Concerns were raised regarding the amount of fly tipping and dog fouling happening in Whaddon. It was suggested that the Dog Warden be informed.

24/172 THANK YOU TO ANNE SZABO THE OUTGOING CLERK

24/173 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3rd December 2024 at 8pm.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55.

Chairman

Date.....