

**MINUTES OF BROOKTHORPE-WITH-WHADDON
ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT BROOKTHORPE VILLAGE HALL ON
TUESDAY 3 JUNE 2025 AT 7.45PM**

Present: Cllr John Hendry (Chair)
Cllr Paul Gaze (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Eric Hibbert
Cllr Kirk Walton

In attendance: Tina Balgobin (Clerk) Reporting
Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes (District Councillor)
2 Members of the Public

PARISHONER QUESTIONS:

There were no Parishioner questions.

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys and County Councillor John Patient.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS IN ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA:

Cllr Eric Hibbert declared an interest in Agenda Items 8 & 9.

3. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 6 MAY 2025:

The minutes were duly signed by the Chair as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION REQUESTS:

None had been received at this time.

5. REPORTS:

- (a) **To receive a report from the County Councillor.** County Councillor John Patient tendered his apologies and his report was circulated to the members prior to the meeting.
- (b) **To receive a report from the District Councillor.** District Councillor Demelza Turner Wilkes gave an update on District Council matters highlighting the SDC Local Plan, Local Government Devolution next stage, 25 / 26 contract with UBICO.

6. TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PROPOSED WHADDON FIELDS DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL PLAN:

The Parish Council received an update on the above.

7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ST SWITHUNS CHURCH:

The Parish Council receive an update on the above.

8. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON EBR 25 / 26 (CLLR HIBBERT):

The Parish Council received a report on PROW EBR 25 / 26 from Cllr Eric Hibbert

9. TO DISCUSS THE TRAVELLER SITE EXPANSION:

The Parish Council received an update on the above from Cllr Eric Hibbert.

10. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MR NIGEL BONE TO SUPPORT HIS REQUEST TO MERGE BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL AND HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL:

Mr Bone gave the following rationale behind his request for the agenda item:

"Merging of Parish Councils. A few months ago at a parish council meeting I asked if consideration could be given to discussing the possibility of merging the 2 Parish Councils of Harescombe and Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon. This item is on the agenda at the next Parish Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3rd June. Consequently I have been asked to prepare a brief report for discussion.

In my view there are 2 main issues:-

1. The present parish boundaries - Over the years I have lived in the parish (27 years) people have from time to time commented on the rather illogical boundary between the 2 parishes. This is particularly noticeable in the centre of Brookthorpe where properties on opposite sides of Stroud Road are in different parishes. I believe the situation has become more into focus with the recent building of 19 properties in Wynstones Drive, all of which come within Harescombe Parish.

2. The difficulty of both Parish Councils in attracting parishioners to become Councillors - I know that Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon has had great difficulty attracting new people to become councillors and it has been the case that some have felt the need to continue in the role simply because others have not come forward when they may have preferred to step down. From what I have heard about Harescombe the situation is probably similar.

I have not undertaken any kind of research or attempted to get any general view; I do get the impression there is a willingness for the parishes to work together. I wonder at this stage whether Brookthorpe-with-Whaddon Councillors would have a view on a possible merger and if it might be worth having any preliminary discussions with their counterparts in Harescombe"

The Council discussed this request and agreed that as part of the ongoing devolution Parish Councils and their responsibilities are being scrutinised. The process will consider merging smaller Parish Councils with larger Parish Councils, this process is likely to follow once the County Councils' demographic split is decided upon and implemented, and this request could be reviewed thereafter.

11. PLANNING:

S.25/0879/P3R - Change of use of agricultural building to a Flexible Use; falling within use Class B8 (Storage and Distribution). Land Adjacent to Rose Cottage Stroud Road Whaddon Gloucester Gloucestershire. **The Parish Council objected to this application.**

12. FINANCE:

- (a) To approve the Accounts for payment as per the list circulated prior to the meeting. The following accounts were presented for payment:

Accounts for payment June 2025			
Payee	Chq Number	Amount	Reason
T Balgobin	1309	£ 519.12	Salary / Expenses (May 25)
HMRC	1310	£ 149.14	Tax / Employer NI (May 25)
Bluetree Website Design Ltd	1311	£ 30.00	Domain Renewal Fee
	Total	£ 698.26	

The Council unanimously agreed that the above payments be made.

13. COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Paul Gaze advised the Village Hall Committee would be holding their AGM on the 4 June @ 7pm. The fire hydrant that had been covered up by the recent highways works was discussed, DC Demelza Turner-Wilkes would follow up with Highways.

Cllr Eric Hibbert and Cllr Kirk Walton gave an update on the Gloucestershire Fringe Infrastructure meeting they had attended on the 21 May. A letter of common interest would be submitted on behalf of the Parish Council. The next meeting will be held on the 11 June.

Cllr John Hendry gave an update on recent burglaries within the Parish.

14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1 July at 7.45pm in the Brookthorpe Village Hall**

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS
THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.09pm**

Signed: Dated: