

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD ON 6th APRIL 2021

PRESENT

Messrs J Hendry [Chairman], D Kaspar, Paul Gaze, Rhodri Rhys, Cllr Dave Mossman [Stroud District Councillor], Cllr Andrew Miller [Gloucestershire County Council Representative], Kirk Walton [Tuffley Matters], Sue Williams [Prospective County Councillor], Mr Martin Coles [Parish Council's Representative on Whaddon Fields], Mr Ian Stuart [Planning Consultant], Mrs A Szabo [Parish Clerk] and 5 members of the public.

21/025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for absence.

21/026 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2nd March were agreed and signed as a true record.

21/027 MATTERS ARISING

Replacement Bench St Swithun's – It was reported that this is now in place.

Enforcement request regarding dumped rubble on land adjacent to Rose Cottage – The Clerk reported that in a recent Email from Chris Sly, the enforcement dept are looking at possible legal avenues to deal with this situation.

Flyer – Cllr Paul Gaze and Mr Eric Hibbert stated that the flyers would be ready for delivery by the end of the week.

21/028 WHADDON FIELDS

Cllr D Mossman stated that the Draft Stroud District Plan was now on the website, with an allocation of 2,500 homes included at Whaddon. The Traffic Modelling that has been carried out for the plan overall, and not for individual sites and is deemed to be acceptable. Alterations to Junction 12 of the M5 would have major costs (£10m+). St Barnabas Roundabout would have high costs (£2 - £10m), with 4 arms of the junction to be increased by at least 1 lane. It recognised the roundabout at Haresfield Lane as being a problem area but there would be no plans to upgrade this roundabout as there is a wish to deflect traffic away from this cut-through. There would be a briefing of the full Council on 13th April and a vote at the full Council Meeting on 29th April. If approved the plan will then go to the inspectorate for their approval. Cllr Mossman stressed the need to have an updated plan in place by 2022.

Mr Ian Stuart stated that he could not comment on the Plan at present as he had not seen it. Concerns were raised with regard to the Stroud District Council website and access to the Plan.

However, Mr Stuart felt that the inclusion of housing at Whaddon may be premature due to proposed significant changes in legislation and the need to co-operate, and the fact that no numbers for Gloucester were not known and would not be until the Joint Core Strategy Plan is out for consultation in 2022. He advised the Parish Council to object to this part of the Draft Plan on these grounds.

A debate followed during which Cllr Andrew Miller stated that Gloucestershire Highways have issues with St Barnabas Roundabout that remain unresolved. He was unaware of the proposed changes and said that he would obtain further information as a matter of urgency.

In conclusion, it was proposed by Cllr Dave Kaspar and seconded by Cllr John Hendry that the Parish Council should send a letter of objection to every District Councillor before 13th April. All Councillors agreed to this action. It was decided that the letter be drafted by Mr Martin Coles with the help of Mr Ian Stuart and agreed via email by Councillors before sending.

The Chairman thanked Mr Martin Coles, Mr Kirk Walton and Mr Ian Stuart for their expertise and help in this matter.

Mr Andrew Miller, Mr Kirk Walton, Mr Ian Stuart Mrs Sue Williams left the meeting at this point.

21/029 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Dave Mossman reported that the Environmental Health Dept have warned businesses that have been closed during shutdown about the possible risk of Legionnaires Disease in the water systems. He reported the start of the Lucky Severn Lottery with a top prize of £25,000. Tickets costing £1.00 can be purchased by logging on to www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk. Sixty pence in every £1 going to good causes.

Cllr Mossman urged that the Parish Council register any unregistered rights of way before the list is updated in 2026.

He stated that the District Council was in support of the Government's drive for Fusion Power and warned of a scam involving false Royal Mail representatives trying to obtain NI numbers.

Cllr Dave Mossman left the meeting at this point.

21/030 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Dave Kaspar declared his interest in item 12 on the Agenda – Style of Kissing Gate on land owned by Brentlands.

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

21/031 FINANCE

a) Cheques for signature in line with the Emergency Payment Schedule

Councillors confirmed that cheques should be written in line with the schedule of essential payments April - June as circulated, due to COVID-19.

b) Independent Audit Arrangements – The Clerk confirmed that arrangements had been made with GAPTC and Vanessa Lawrence has been appointed.

21/032 PLANNING

a) Planning Applications for consideration

There were no planning applications for discussion.

21/033 PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Following concerns as to the accessibility of the present website and the difficulty of making it compliant with current guidance, the Clerk reported that she had been investigating other options. A quote had been circulated for the cost of build and ongoing support for a new website. In addition, a further quote for the registering of a new domain name and two years registration. It was decided to get a second quote (Cllr John Hendry to action) and the Clerk was asked to double check ongoing costs for both the website and domain name.

21/034 NEW STYLE OR KISSING GATE REQUEST FOR LAND AT BRENTLANDS

Cllr Dave Kaspar left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Dave Kaspar has requested that the Parish Council with the help of the Cotswold Warden Scheme put in a new Style or Kissing Gate at the junction of Upton Lane and Public Right of Way EBR113. The Council agreed to this in principal and asked Mr Nigel Bone if he could liaise with the Cotswold warden as to feasibility and cost.

Cllr Dave Kaspar re-joined the meeting at this point.

21/035 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk informed the Council that at present the legislation enabling the Parish Council to hold meetings over Zoom will end on 8th May and at present the Government do not plan to re-visit this. The Clerk stated that both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council due to be held on 11th May were statutory meetings and legislation dictates that they must go ahead. Mr Eric Hibbert [Chairman of the Village Hall Committee] stated that the Village Hall could not be made available due to social distancing requirements and unpredictable numbers. With this in mind, the Council decided to plan for the Annual Parish Meeting to take place over Zoom on Thursday 25th May at 7.30. The topic being Meeting Your New Councillors.

21/036 INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS

It was decided to invite Acorn Care to the next meeting on 11th May in order that questions can be asked with regard to their change of use for Brookthorpe Hall.

Cllr Rhodri Rhys notified the Council of children playing on the level crossing at Naas Lane recently.

21/037 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Concerns were raised as to the new activity at Wynstones School when police were involved due to intimidation of residents. The Parish Council was not asked to take any action at this point.

Mr Eric Hibbert asked the Council to subscribe to the newsletter, as agreed in 2019, so that this can resume. No payment was made in 2020.

21/038 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 11th May 2021 starting at 8pm remotely through Zoom.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.00 pm.

Chairman

Date.....