

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22th MAY 2022

PRESENT

Messrs J Hendry [Chairman], D Kaspar, R Stokes-Rhys [Parish Councillors], Mr D Mossman [District Councillor], Mr E Hibbert [Village Hall Committee], Mr Simon Jarvis [Neighbourhood Warden], Mr Deryck Pritchard [SARA], Natasha Ramm and Paul Harrow [Wynstones School], Mrs A Szabo [Parish Clerk and RFO], and 4 parishioners.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Paul Gaze and PCSO Debbie Collicot and 2 parishioners.

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed and thanked all present for attending.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please see attached report Appendix A.

FINANCE REPORT FROM THE PARISH CLERK

RFO stated that at the beginning of April there were reserves of £25,824 with £7,500 earmarked for An Impact Statement for proposed development on Whaddon Fields and Road Safety projects. A precept of £18,300 was set by the Council in December 2022 and a budget spend of 32,324. The Clerk highlighted the Council's website where all financial information can be found as well as the details of elector's rights to examine the financial records and make representation to the External Auditors.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

There was no report submitted.

QUESTIONS FOR STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

CLlr Dave Mossman reported the SDC was under major reorganization. IT systems have been found not fit for purpose and are being overhauled. There are staffing problems due to the wages that can be obtained elsewhere. More enforcement actions have been won on appeal than lost.

Information received from Blackbox suggests that there are no differences as to numbers of houses and negotiations with Gloucester County Council are ongoing. SDC do not need the Whaddon site. JCS and inspectorate in 2007 suggested that Whaddon could provide land for Gloucester City but Gloucester City would rather go north. Until Gloucester request the land for housing, SDC will turn down any application.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN REPORT

Simon outlined his role, and explained his visits to the Parish were dependant as to when he is in area. He also covers Stonehouse, Upton St Leonards and Hardwicke. Fly tipping should be reported to SDC and they will clear.

PRESENTATION BY SARA

The work and reason for the organisation were outlined. Crew numbers, callouts and equipment were detailed. It was stressed that all members were volunteers and that there were no paid staff. All donations welcome.

REPORT ON FUTURE OF WYNSTONES SCHOOL

Natasha explained that over the next 2 years the trustees would be looking at options for the school. It is hoped to keep an interest in the site although they will be looking to understand the planning situation and market. Trustees may need to obtain the best market price. They are working with SDC support to prepare a preplanning brief with an estate agent. Protection for the historic buildings and trees would be sought. Concerns as to access onto Church Lane, environmental safeguards and possible increase in number of dwellings in Whaddon were raised. There was a promise to keep local people informed.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mr E Hibbert reported that the hall was owned by the village, run by 6 trustees and supported by the Parish Council. Due to the Covid pandemic there has been a loss of income. SDC grants have been a help and there would be income from a site office for the Wynstones Drive development for 9 months. Eric thanked all trustees for their work. He explained that the proposed plans to extend the hall have been shelved, and it is now planned to make the most of the kitchen and out house areas to increase the size of the hall.

Mr E Hibbert thanked all members of the Parish Council for their work and their ongoing support for the Village Hall.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no further questions from the public

There being no other matters Cllr J Hendry thanked everyone for attending and refreshments were served.

Chairman:

APPENDIX A

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). Paul Gaze (Vice Chairman).

Rhodri Rhys Dave Kasper

2 x Vacant Positions (Any Volunteers)

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.