

# **BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> JUNE 2024** - at Brookthorpe Village Hall

## **PRESENT**

Messrs Paul Gaze [Chairman], Eric Hibbert, Rhodri Stokes-Rhys, Demelza Turner-Wilkes [Stroud District Councillor], Cllr Susan Williams [Gloucestershire County Councillor], Mrs Anne Szabo [Parish Clerk] and 2 members of the public.

## **24/074 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr John Hendry, Martin Coles.

There were no other apologies for absence.

## **24/075 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE TO OFFICE**

Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys signed his declaration of acceptance to office and the clerk witnessed.

## **24/076 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

It was proposed by Cllr Eric Hibbert and seconded by Cllr Paul Gaze that the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council and the normal monthly meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> May be agreed and signed as true records.

**RESOLVED**

## **24/077 MATTERS ARISING**

Insurance – The Clerk reported that the Council was now covered by Zurich Municipal on a three-year contract. Although this will not prevent the premium from increasing it will give the Council a better rate.

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

## **24/078 POLICE REPORT**

No report submitted.

## **24/079 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The report from Cllr Sue Williams had been circulated prior to meeting.

Further to the report Sue advised that the ongoing issue with HGVs was being addressed with Barratt Homes and the developers were asked to erect new “no construction traffic” signage. It was clear from photo evidence sent to Yakub Mulla that this is a continual problem.

Following statements made at the Multi Agency Meeting, it was stressed that the Parish Council represents the public and therefore if the Parish Council sends a complaint, then this comes from the public and should be treated as such.

Sue stated that she had been elected as Vice Chair to the Council.

It was stated that Gloucestershire roads have one of the highest rates *per capita* of deaths or serious injury in England and this is to be investigated.

It was stated that the County Council will support the restriction of minimum service levels at times of industrial action.

The County Council have issued an apology to mothers and children who were forced into adoption.

A signpost to help and therapeutic services would be set up.

## **24/080 STROUD DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes reported that she was due to meet Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP and the Housing Minister at short notice. She would have liked to get them down to discuss Whaddon Fields but the short notice did not allow for this. It was agreed that after the election to arrange a meeting locally with the representatives then. The JAC report is still on track to be completed by 24<sup>th</sup> August. This should give an indication on numbers of dwellings Gloucester City will need to be compliant with the government requirement for new housing.

On the problems of lorries and speeding traffic in Upton Lane, Demelza advised that in Hunts Grove, when the same sort of problem had been encountered, fixed penalty notices were generated by the County Council and developers.

Demelza was advised that the planned meeting with the traveller community at Mount View on 23<sup>rd</sup> May did not go ahead and was rescheduled for today but it is not clear if this had gone ahead.

At the Annual Meeting of Stroud District Council, she was elected to the Development Control Committee.

## 24/081 MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Eric Hibbert declared his pecuniary interest in Public Right of Way EBR 25.  
There were no other declarations of interest to items on the agenda.

### 24/082 FINANCE

#### a) Cheques for signature

Cheque No	Amount	Payee	Reason
1261		Mrs A Szabo	Clerk's Wages, Office Allowance and Expenses of £112.80
1262	£115.40	HMRC	PAYE
1263	£40.00	Information Commissioner	Subscription

#### b) Cheques signed out of meeting

1260	£634.55	Zurich Municipal	Insurance
1259	£377.68	Mrs A Szabo	New Printer

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

#### c) Review of authorisation payments of councils standing orders and direct debits.

£14.00	Monthly	BlueTree	Website consultant
£25.00	Annually	Glos Rural Community Council	Subscription
£36.00	Annually	Campaign for Rural England	Subscription

It was proposed by Cllr Paul Gaze and seconded by Cllr Eric Hibbert that these payments should stand.

**RESOLVED**

#### d) Reaffirming of payment to the Village Hall for 50% payment of internet.

It was proposed by Cllr Eric Hibbert and seconded by Cllr Paul Gaze that this annual payment should continue.

**RESOLVED**

#### e) Reaffirming payment to the Village Hall for payment of £1200 annually for the production of the quarterly newsletter.

It was proposed by Cllr Paul Gaze and seconded by Cllr Eric Hibbert that this annual payment should continue.

**RESOLVED**

#### f) Independent Auditors Report

The following notes were noted by the Council and appropriate action taken:

- 2.3 Noted and now completed.
- 3.1 Although the Council does do this annually it will be minute as such in future.
- 3.3 Although the Clerk does do this annually it needs to be done by the Council and minuted.
- 3.6 Noted and will be done in future.
- 3.8 This will be looked at in July.
- 4.2 Look at in future.
- 4.4 Although this is done, the Clerk will make sure it is minuted quarterly.
- 6.3 Although this is done, at the Annual meeting of the Parish Council she will change the wording in future.
- 6.4 Noted and will do so in future.
- 7.5 Although the Council does do this it will be minuted as such in future.

#### g) To APPROVAL OF ANNUAL RETURN STATEMENTS (AGAR)

##### i) Annual Governance Statement

It was proposed by Cllr Eric Hibbert and seconded by Cllr Rhodri Stokes- Rhys that these statements were correct and it was **RESOLVED** that they be signed.

##### ii) Accounting Statements

It was proposed by Cllr Rhodri Stokes-Rhys and seconded by Cllr Paul Gaze that these statements were correct, and it was **RESOLVED** that they be signed.

iii) The exercising of public Rights.

The Clerk confirmed that the exercise of electors to view financial documents and make representations to the external auditor begun on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and will last until 12<sup>th</sup> July with notices on the noticeboard and the website.

**24/083 PLANNING**

a) Planning applications for consideration

S.24/0909/FUL Wynstones Drive,  
Brookthorpe.

Erection of 6 dwellings with associated works  
The Clerk was asked to reply by asking that confirmation is obtained in writing that the capacity of existing foul water system can cope with additional homes.

**24/084 ADOPTION OF NEW COUNCILS STANDING ORDERS**

It was proposed by Cllr Eric Hibbert and seconded by Cllr Paul Gaze that these be adopted in line in line with the latest NALC model. **RESOLVED**

**24/085 ADOPTION OF NEW COUNCILS FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

It was proposed by Cllr Gaze and seconded by Cllr Hibbert that these be adopted in line in line with the latest NALC model. **RESOLVED**

**24/086 LATEST DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING OVERWEIGHT LORRIES AND SPEEDING IN UPTON LANE**

Already covered in 24/079 and 24/080.

**24/087 BLOCKING OF GREEN LANE NEXT TO MOUNT VIEW MULTI AGENCY MEETING**

Cllr Eric Hibbert declared his interest in adjoining land.

A professionals meeting had taken place on 17<sup>th</sup> May. As a result of that, a meeting at the site had gone ahead with PROW and Police in attendance. The problems with the access along EBR 25 and EBR 26 were examined with a plan for resolution to be developed.

**24/088 REPORT ON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

It was reported that Councillors felt disappointed with lack of attendance by the public.

**24/089 NEW UNION FLAG**

Deferred until July meeting.

**24/090 PROPOSED WHADDON FIELDS DEVELOPMENT**

In his absence Martin Coles forwarded a report drawing attention to the recent article in Gloucestershire Live from Carmelo Garcia.

**24/091 STRUCTURAL CONDITION OF ST SWITHUN'S CHURCH**

There was no new information regarding this topic.

**24/092 INFORMATION FOR COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Paul Gaze reported that the corner Harefield Lane and A4173 was again obstructed for pedestrian use. Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes said that she would inform the District Council's Property Services to get this resolved.

Cllr Paul Gaze reported that the pedestrian footpath to Hilmead was dangerous with fallen leaves and debris. Cllr Demelza Turner-Wilkes said that she would inform the District Council's Property Services to get this resolved.

The Clerk informed the Council that a planning meeting would be necessary to discuss application S.24/1000/OHL. Councillors felt that a planning meeting was not necessary because of the nature of the application.

The Clerk advised that she had had a letter from HMRC to say that £341.55 (including interest) was owing, despite all payments being cashed to date. It was felt that this was an allocation problem at their end and not to worry unduly about this but to check on the government gateway.

The Clerk had indicated verbally that she would be giving up in November this year. She was asked to set in motion the plans for finding a replacement Clerk.

**24/093 QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Comments were made and questions asked as to the state of pothole filling, only to have them break up again within weeks. Cllr Sue Williams answered that if utilities had completed the repair and it was found to be unsatisfactory then they are made to do it again. County Council repairs should not break up as suggested.

**24/094 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 8pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

Chairman .....

Date.....

DRAFT