

*BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL*  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025**

Present: Cllr J Hodgson, Cllr J Mann, Cllr J Morrison, Cllr J Dumper & Cllr B Keane.

In attendance: Heather Bourner-Clerk

TVBC S MacDonald

0 Members of public

**Apologies for Absence**

1. Apologies for absence had been received from HCC David Drew, TVBC A Johnston, Cllr C Brookes, Cllr A Taylor & Cllr Mrs. K McAllister.

**Public Participation**

2) There were no members of public present.

**Declarations of Interest**

3) There were no declarations of interest. All Cllrs present confirmed no amendments were required to register of interest documents.

**Minutes**

4) **Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Morrison seconded Cllr Dumper. All agreed.

**Planning**

5) **The following decisions by TVBC were noted:**

24/02486/TREES- tree work Owl Cottage-no objection

24/02503/FULLS- garage conversion, 6 Queenwood Rise-permission

23/01542/NMA1-amendment to gate design, Broughton Grange-approved

24/02466/FULLS- extension, Hill House, Buckholt Road-permission

**Resolved: that the planning decisions on the following applications were endorsed:**

None

**6) County and Borough Councilors' Report**

**HCC David Drew** had sent a report which can be seen at appendix 1.

**TVBC Cllr S MacDonald councillor for the Mid Test area reported-** there is no Mid Test Matters published in January.

He further reported the large increase in targets for housing in Test Valley. This was a top-down target from the government and equated to 76%. He said concerns have been raised given the current shortage of land supply. While TVBC try to address this issue they are very concerned that speculative developers who may be turned down by current planning laws will probably get through on appeal. Developments of this sort do not always attract developer contributions which will further impact local communities. He said there are currently approx. 1 million planning applications agreed for new housing countrywide although little progress with building is being made due to the shortage of skilled labour and materials.

Finally, he noted the current talks regarding devolution and said he believes it is key that local representation is part of any new systems.

**Sports Field Pavilion Update**

7) Cllr Mann reported the build process is progressing well and on track for the target finish date.

The Clerk confirmed she is keeping detailed spreadsheets regarding the grants received and expenditure met. These will be shared with the Parish Councillors leading this project and in future will be sent to all Councillors monthly with the agenda.

Cllr Keane highlighted two quotes for electrical items and solar equipment. Details will be sent

to Cllr Mann for cross reference to the proposed spending before payment is made.

Cllr Keane said there is a meeting of the sports committee on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan to discuss the funding gap. He will ask the club chairman to provide a monthly statement to the Parish Council of all additional funds raised for this project. At this meeting Cllr Dumper will also press the sports club committee to advertise the project in the village so that all parishioners are aware. This may even help with funds to meet the shortfall.

Cllr Taylor was absent but had sent a report regarding proposals for the installation of adult gym equipment. He had obtained three quotes but is planning to visit a site to see some equipment installed before he makes his final recommendation. There are sufficient S106 funds available for this project.

### **Broughton Community Energy**

8) Cllr Hodgson reported the grant application for a feasibility study has been successful in principle provided funds are made available from the Department of Energy. It is hoped these funds will be released in the spring but precise dates are not yet known.

### **Play Area Report**

9) Cllr Dumper reported two broken benches have been removed and a replacement recycled bench has now been installed.

Cllr Hodgson has been approached and asked for a new litter bin to be installed in the play area, however the missing green bin has now reappeared so this will not now be actioned.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

10) Cllr Mann reported a 50% return on the surveys sent to all villagers. The data is now being analysed and a public consultation meeting will follow. This is a significant job and any meeting is unlikely to be until March or April.

### **Clerks Report**

11) School Lane Site- The Clerk reported that she had contacted the solicitor and the legal team representing Lindens and expressed her frustrations that no action had been taken to deal with the damaged trees or to progress the land transfer.

She had told them she was considering whether an approach to the press was required and or a direct approach to Lindens management as various contacts were available online. The solicitor has advised against going to the press and suggested this may not be legal. In the meantime, he has confirmed that Lindens were reviewing the revised figures of funding regarding the MUGA.

Cllr Hodgson reported several issues have arisen when cars left in the school lane car park have been vandalized. A question arose as to whom is liable, presumably Lindens in the same way as they are responsible for the trees which require review. There is also the issue of the lack of proper maintenance of Salisbury Green which is now a messy unkempt field covered in ragwort.

TVBC Cllr MacDonald suggested the S106 agreement for this planning application should be revisited, he questioned if there a possible enforcement breach, and suggested either the planning team or the legal team at TVBC could help with this matter.

It was agreed the Clerk will send the facts to Cllr Macdonald and he will speak to officers at TVBC. In the mean time the Clerk will continue to engage with Shentons solicitors, Gatley Solicitors who represent Lindens and also attempt to contact Lindens head office.

The Clerk confirmed she has made the necessary precept request of Test Valley Borough Council; she has requested a quote from Grass & Grounds regarding grass maintenance in 2025 and she has been informed that the churchyard at Broughton has now been officially closed.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed she has received payment from the Dowse Trust for the grass cutting of the Dowse Field.

### **Footpaths.**

12) Cllr Morrison reported his application to Countryside Access for a grant to buy equipment and train volunteers has been successful and the funding has been received.

Footpath number 16 has a section closed for maintenance work by the land owner. This is supposed to be for up to four months and Cllr Morrison will monitor.

The footpath at Beechcroft Cottages is completely blocked and this has been reported to HCC. Some of the adjoining hedge has been cut back although it is not clear who has carried out the work.

Cllr Dumper reported an area of pavement which was very muddy and dangerous caused in part by an overgrown hedge. He will obtain a photograph and confirm the address of the adjoining land so the Clerk can report the matter and write to the householder.

Cllr Keane said while some of the hedges on Queenwood Road have been cut back there are still some problem areas including a large privet hedge near Greyhound Mews. He will obtain photographs and confirm the appropriate addresses so the Clerk can take the necessary action.

### **Upcoming Village Projects**

13) Cllr Mossman outlined several projects in the village which are being pursued by groups in the community. These are not all parish council led projects but he believes it is wise for the Parish Council to understand all ongoing and aspirational projects in the parish.

Those currently known about are:-

The new sports pavilion

Build the MUGA

Project at the village school to build a library

Buy a new village bus

Set up Broughton Community Energy

Develop the community hub area in the village hall

Reopen the Tally Ho public house

If there are any other either ongoing projects or aspirational projects it would be very useful if the Parish Council could be notified.

.

### **Flooding**

14) Cllr Mossman reported some work to clear problem areas has been carried out and that the successful meeting with a representative of the Test & Itchen Association and riparian landowners will mean an early weed cut should take place in April, before the closed season with those landowners upstream of the village not cutting weed but allowing water meadows to develop. Both of these initiatives should see the unhindered flow of water through the village and limit flooding.

Cllr Hodgson reported on the closure of Horsebridge Road by Southern Water where tankers are required because ground water levels are high and to prevent pollution affecting the stream. Cllr Mann noted the lack of tankering over the Christmas period and raised concern that overspill may have been allowed to enter the stream. Cllr Hodgson is in communication with both Southern Water and Caroline Nokes MP and will report updates to the Parish Council as he receives them.

### **Community Bus**

15) Cllr Morrison reported £24000 funding has been secured from HCC along with a £25000 grant from TVBC toward the purchase of a new community bus.

He said that now funding has been secured the bus committee will carry out a feasibility study into what sort of bus would be best for the community along with the necessary EV charging points should an electric vehicle be considered best, and finally secure storage for the vehicle when not in use. Cllr Morrison will update the Parish Council once the Village Bus Committee have had an opportunity to discuss his findings.

### **Finance**

16) To note the bank balances -

To note the bank balances at 30/12/2024

TSB Charity account £250666.91

TSB Business Instant £73999.81

United Trust £32525.26

ii) To approve the following payments and authorise on line transactions: -

H Bournier sal	£727.26
H Bournier exp	£26.00
HMRC	£11.60
Hugo Fox	£23.99
NBB recycled furniture	£588.00
Ace Liftaway	£312.00

**Retrospective**

Southern Electrical	£4196.96
---------------------	----------

**17) Items to carry forward**

Grass maintenance at the sports field

**18) Correspondence**

An email from a parishioner regarding hedge cutting at the allotment was discussed. The Clerk will respond direct to the parishioner.

**19) New items for next meeting**

Container/storage at Village Hall  
Well House roof repair

**Community news**

20) None

**Date of next meeting**

21) 7.30 pm on Tuesday February 4th 2025-

**Appendix 1**

**County Council to consider bidding to join the Government's 'fast-track' devolution programme**

Hampshire County Council could be one of the local authorities to apply for inclusion in the Government's Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) – for the delegation of central Government decision making powers and additional funding to local councils to give them more local control over certain areas such as education, transportation, and health services

On the 9 and 10 January, the County Council and its Cabinet will decide whether or not to make a request to be included in the Devolution Priority Programme and be on the fast track to securing devolution for the area, with a view to unlocking the opportunities devolved powers would have as quickly as possible for the benefit of residents and communities across the region.

If it is agreed that a request for inclusion on the fast-track Programme should be made, this would be the first step towards creating a Strategic Authority across the wider region incorporating the local authority areas of Hampshire County Council, Isle of Wight Council, Portsmouth City Council and Southampton City Council.

In addition to the creation of a new Strategic Authority, the Government is also expecting all areas across the country to produce local government re-organisation plans by Autumn 2025. This will create new large unitary authorities across the region, which for Hampshire will mean bringing together the County Council, 11 borough and district councils and small neighbouring unitary authorities into a number of new large unitary authorities.

To help areas develop and implement devolution proposals in the most ambitious timeframes, Government has been clear that they expect local authorities to postpone local council elections from May 2025 to May 2026. This will enable devolution proposals to progress at pace in 2025 and ensure the benefits for the area are realised as quickly as possible.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241231Devolution>

**Working together in Hampshire to tackle climate change: twelve months in focus**

Hampshire residents and communities are making a vital contribution to tackling climate change with over 550 householders investing in Hampshire County Council's third Solar Together scheme, generating their own green electricity and contributing to significant carbon reductions for the region

This, combined with the previous two schemes, will contribute to a reduction of more than 59,000 tonnes of CO2 in the region (over the 25-year guaranteed lifetime of the systems installed), and, with more people seeking repairs for worn out or mechanically failing items through Hampshire's Repair Cafés, over 50 tonnes of CO2 have been saved.

Another key area of the County Council's climate change work, in collaboration with partners such as bus companies and Hampshire's district, borough and unitary councils, is reducing carbon emissions from transport through several ambitious programmes including:

- Helping to secure Government investment for 62 zero-emission (electric) buses operated by First Bus and serving bus passengers in Fareham, Gosport and Portsmouth, helping to improve air quality.
- Improvements to 17 major bus services by funding the extension of services, with some now running 24 hours a day, and on Friday and Saturday evenings – reducing the number of car journeys and lowering carbon emissions.
- Construction of nine local walking and cycling routes in locations across the county, to enable people to walk, cycle or scoot for their local journeys instead of travelling by car.

Other positive climate change action over the past year has included planting many more trees through the [Hampshire Forest Partnership](#), bringing the total number of new carbon-absorbing trees planted in Hampshire to 41,000 since 2022.

To encourage and support younger residents to tackle climate change, the County Council has set up the [Go Green](#) challenge, spotlighting daily actions they can take, such as avoiding food waste or making a pledge to swap just one car journey for a greener alternative.

As part of finding ways to reduce carbon emissions across all County Council services, around 4,500 more people have been supported through Hampshire's Technology Enabled Care Programme, avoiding the need to travel to, or access, wider health services, and instead have received support at home, which significantly reduces carbon emissions.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241210ClimateAR>

### **Hampshire leaders secure commitment from Southern Water to improve their response**

Hampshire County Council has hosted a meeting with Southern Water on the 19 December, bringing together Leaders of local councils and key partners, over concerns around its handling of the latest water supply incident impacting residents in parts of Southampton, Eastleigh, Romsey and the New Forest, and to find out what progress the company is making to improve its services, ensuring reliable water supplies for the county's residents in the longer term

County Council Leader, Councillor Nick Adams-King said: "We understand that problems can and do occur, and that the scale of this particular emergency was significant, but Southern Water must have much better planning for this kind of occurrence. They need a more resilient system of distributing water, be upfront with the public about the impact and what is actually happening on the ground and work with their partners to ensure residents and businesses are helped in a timely and efficient way. Despite our frustrations, I am encouraged at how seriously Southern Water responded to our concerns, accepting that they need to dramatically improve their response to future incidents. We continue to monitor this incident closely and to offer our active support to the company in relation to the current situation, and to help them better prepare in the future."

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241219SWStatementLeader>

[David Drew](#)  
[Test Valley Central Division, HCC](#)

