

*BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL*  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

Present: Cllr J Hodgson, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr K McAllister, Cllr J Mann, Cllr J Morrison, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr J Dumper & Cllr B Keane.

In attendance: Heather Bourner-Clerk

HCC David Drew

4 Members of public

**Apologies for Absence & resignation**

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr M Mossman & TVBC A Johnston. Cllr Hodgson noted the resignation of Cllr Robson. He thanked her for her work and contribution to the Parish Council in the last two years. The Clerk will arrange for the relevant notice to be posted on the website advertising the vacancy.

**Public Participation**

2) The members of public present had come to give a presentation on the community energy initiative, discuss a planning application and update on the sports field use. (see relevant paragraphs)

**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 12<sup>th</sup> November were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr J Mann seconded Cllr Mrs. K McAllister. All agreed.

**Planning**

5) **The following decisions by TVBC were noted:** None

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

24/02625/TREES- tree work, Old Church Farm- no objections

24/02676/VARS- variation of conditions- Hyde Farm- no objections

24/02651/FULLS- single storey granny annex- 6 Downs Close- The applicant was present and said the proposed annex was to house elderly parents who now needed care, the build would not be visible from the road and although the design included a flat roof, she was aware of various other extensions and additional accommodation that had been built in the village incorporating flat roofs. The Parish Council discussed the application and concern was raised that the size and scale of the proposed addition did dominate the plot. The Clerk was asked to communicate this comment to TVBC who will be the authority making the decision regarding the application.

24/02749/TREES- tree works, Linden House, High Street- no objections

24/02734/FULLS- installation of air source heat pump, King Cottage, High Street- no objections

24/02808/TREES- fell 2 trees on land opposite Ruth's Cottage- no objections

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

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

The Clerk will send track numbers for the work required to white lines on Queenwood Road to Cllr Drew who will press for the work to be carried out.

**TVBC Cllr Johnston** had sent her apologies.

**Sports Field Pavilion Update**

7) Cllr Hodgson reported he had met with the chair of the sports committee regarding the general rights of access to the field. The lease says permitted use is for the playing and

watching of sports and for general recreational and leisure, social and entertainment linked to sports teams and recreational pastimes by members of Broughton Sports Club their guests and opposing teams.

Also, for members of the general public who will have access to the grounds, but not the club house for general leisure, recreational, social and entertainment purposes linked to sport and recreational pastimes.

The Chairman of Broughton Football Club provided an update on the position regarding railings around the football pitch and the advertising hoardings erected on the railings. He said there had been some confusion regarding the Parish Council agreement to these and they had been fitted before this was officially given. The Parish Council had raised concerns regarding general access once the railings were in place but he confirmed there were gaps in the railings by each dugout, a large gap where a tractor can access the field and a further area where the horizontal bar can be removed. It had also been reported the advertising boards would be removed between games but it seemed they had been secured in a way which would not allow this. It transpired that very windy weather had necessitated the secure fittings to prevent injury to football players on a particular match day. Given those who had paid for the boards would expect to see them on a match day this was agreed as the best solution at the time. He agreed to ensure that the removable bar was removed from the barrier at the end of the football season, that signs would be put on the barrier asking users to walk around the pitch and that the advertising boards would be removed between games

Cllr Taylor reported meeting with a sports committee representative regarding sites for the installation of adult gym equipment and an agreement for sites has been reached. He has obtained two quotes, the third is awaited. He will send a full report to all Councillors before the next meeting including equipment and installation costs in order that a decision can be made regarding the purchase. There is sufficient S106 funds available for this project.

Cllr Mann reported the first invoice has been received from Haygarth Ross, the company building the new pavilion. He confirmed he had checked the schedules provided in relation to the work carried out so far and confirmed he was satisfied that the invoice was valid. He proposed this invoice for £163585.04 was paid, this was seconded by Cllr Hodgson. All agreed. The Clerk will arrange payment and also make the necessary VAT claim. A further invoice in relation to a deposit for the clock tower had also been received and the Clerk was asked to pay this.

Cllr Keane reported on an initiative where by the sports club committee buy a ride on mower and use this to cut the grass, rather than use a contractor as now. The Parish Council pays the contractor and the suggestion was that this funding be used to assist with costs of the sports group. Concerns were raised about continuity when enthusiasm waned. The Clerk will establish what the cost of grass maintenance would reduce by in the next season when she asks the contractor to quote for next year.

#### **Hedge Cutting around the village**

8) The Clerk confirmed she had received an email from the contractor suggesting the cutting program would be added to the schedule of works required if the Parish Council were happy to continue. He had agreed to carry out the work for the same price as last year. The Clerk was asked to accept.

#### **Broughton Community Energy**

9) Cllr Hodgson confirmed an application for a £40000.00 grant for a feasibility study to supply local green energy electricity has been made and the outcome is awaited. Seven consultants were approached to tender and after a fully audited review a consultant has been chosen but cannot be engaged until the grant is secured.

A community workshop was held recently when approximately 40 parishioners attended. A set of power point slides had been circulated highlighting the aims of the project to supply a reduced tariff cost electricity across the community which should in turn encourage users to opt for technology which will help to reduce the carbon footprint.

Cllr Mann started by thanking the working group for all the work carried out so far and proposed the Parish Council continue to support what he described as a very worthwhile initiative. All agreed they were comfortable with aims and objectives and to continue to

support this initiative.

### **Play Area Report**

10) Cllr Dumper reported two broken benches, one of which needs to be replaced. Cllr Keane will remove these.

The Clerk provided quotes for a replacement picnic bench one made from wood and the other from recycled materials. It was agreed a bench from recycled materials would be purchased. Cllr Hodgson has been approached and asked for a new litter bin to be installed in the play area. A site has been proposed and an officer from TVBC has asked to meet a representative from the Parish Council to review the potential site. Cllr Hodgson will contact the TVBC officer to arrange a meeting.

### **Draft Budget 2025/26**

11) A draft budget had been circulated and was discussed. In particular the Parish Council were keen to increase the budget for resilience work given the amount of flooding and standing water that has been present in the village in the last few years. These funds could be used for clearing ditches and grips, although these were a HCC responsibility was just not getting done. After much discussion the budget was agreed (a copy will be retained with the minutes) and Cllr Hodgson proposed the precept level be raised to £33500.00. This was seconded by Cllr Brooks, all agreed.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

12) Cllr Mann reported all those questionnaires returned are being reviewed, however it is apparent analysing the data will be a huge task. He said the NP steering group would like to engage a contractor to do this. A quote will be obtained, in principle the Parish Council agreed with this approach. He said the hope was to hold a public meeting in the spring.

Finally, he said as a result of issuing the questionnaire some new volunteers have come forward to help with producing the plan.

### **Clerks Report**

13) School Lane Site- The Clerk reported that she had spoken twice to the solicitor regarding both the dead trees and the land to be transferred to the Parish Council. On both occasions the solicitor acting on behalf of Lindens has said they are awaiting instructions from their client. The lack of progress was discussed and it was agreed the Clerk would take whatever steps were necessary to move the matter forward, including if necessary, contacting the CEO of Linden Homes. She will start by communicating this to Shentons solicitors.

A request to complete a return to the government regarding land and rent and the sports pavilion and field has been made.

The Clerk confirmed she has reported the faded white lines on Queenwood Road again given the problems encountered by a visually impaired parishioner.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed she had invoiced the Dowse Trust for payment of the grass cutting of the Dowse Field.

### **Footpaths.**

14) Cllr Morrison reported his application to Countryside Access for a grant to buy equipment and train volunteers has been successful. With the correct training volunteers will be able to help keep footpaths around the parish clear.

He also confirmed the fitting of the footbridge on footpath 12 was now complete.

### **Communications**

15) Cllr Hodgson reminded Councillors to submit any news items to Broughton news and to the Clerk for uploading to the website.

### **Flooding**

16) Cllr Mossman was absent but had sent a report confirming some work to clear ditches opposite the Village Hall along with the ditch at the top of Rookery Lane has been completed by Hampshire Highways.

He also confirmed he had held a meeting with a representative of the Test & Itchen

Association and riparian owners when responsibilities, weed cutting and the timing of this were discussed. He confirmed extensive work had been carried out on the brook on land belonging to Mill House. While this should help with flooding issues it should be noted the water table level is already high.

### **Community Bus**

17) Cllr Morrison reported the route for the bus will be updated based on usage and the timetable updated. The proposal would have to be assessed and agreed by the Traffic Commissioners so the change will not take place immediately.

He confirmed £24000 funding has been secured from HCC toward the purchase of a new community bus. An application has also been made to the TVBC community asset fund and a response is awaited. The hope is to buy a new electric vehicle and full details will be shared with the Parish Council in due course.

### **Finance**

18) To note the bank balances -

To note the bank balances at 27/11/2024

TSB Charity account £252372.86

TSB Business Instant £73909.55

United Trust £32525.26

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

H Bournier sal	£727.26
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H Bournier exp	£26.00
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HMRC	£11.60
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Hugo Fox	£23.99
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Grass & Grounds	£636.08
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Ace Liftaway	£312.00
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TVBC dog waste bin	£412.90
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### **Retrospective**

Danebury School	£30.00
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### **19) Items to carry forward**

### **20) Correspondence**

None

### **21) New items for next meeting**

Container at Village Hall

### **Community news**

22)

### **Date of next meeting**

23) 7.30 pm on Tuesday January 7th 2024

### **Appendix 1**

## **Real-life story inspires heartwarming search to find more foster carers in Hampshire**

Hampshire County Council is calling on more people to come forward and care for vulnerable children in need of loving homes this winter and beyond

The County Council's latest campaign to find more foster carers is inspired by the real-life story of local foster carer Hannah, whose reflections on her own experiences of fostering have been transformed into a heartwarming new film. Played out in a charming short animation and voiced by a fellow foster carer, Hannah's message is that the most special moments are often the most everyday – from building 'forts' with sofa cushions to stargazing before bedtime – and that these moments have the power to positively change foster carers and the children in their care.

## **Further cost of living support for Hampshire households**

Struggling households in Hampshire are set to receive much-needed support as the County Council unveils plans to allocate £7.1 million in funding to help with rising food and energy costs

This funding, which extends the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) until 31 March 2025, aims to provide relief to those facing financial hardship.

The Household Support Fund and the Department for Education funded Holiday Activities and Food programme are both administered through connect4communities.

The connect4communities website includes information for households seeking help and for organisations looking to deliver support. Information about applying for community grants will be added to the website in the coming weeks.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/241129HSFfunding>

## **Setting a course for economic success in Hampshire**

Creating jobs that will bring employment security for Hampshire residents, serving the future needs of businesses across the county, and tackling financial and social inequality are among the priority outcomes to be driven by a strategy for economic prosperity in Hampshire

Backed by the Hampshire Prosperity Partnership Board (a group of representatives from local government, education, and business), an update to the Economic Strategy for Hampshire for 2025-27 has been agreed by Hampshire County Council's Cabinet (15 November) to align it with the latest national policy so that an Economy and Growth Plan for Hampshire can be developed.

The Economic Strategy for Hampshire 2025-27 is in line with the Government's ambition for a stronger economy and builds on the transfer of the former Local Enterprise Partnership functions to Hampshire County Council (effective 1 April 2024). It complements and will be applied alongside other key strategies and plans, including Hampshire's Local Transport Plan, Public Health Strategy and Climate Change Framework.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/20241118EconomicStrategyUpdate>

## **Empowering local government for the future is the key to tackling financial pressures**

Hampshire County Council's Leader, Councillor Nick Adams-King has warned that Government must fund local government properly or give Hampshire greater freedoms and flexibilities to help the Council tackle its financial pressures in the years ahead

Since becoming Leader in May this year, Councillor Adams-King has repeatedly pressed Government to take action to enable councils to be more innovative, commercial and reform local services and therefore their financial positions, as demand and costs to deliver vital social care for growing numbers of vulnerable children and adults continue to soar.

At the meeting of the County Council's Cabinet today (15 November 2024), Cabinet Members considered the Local Authority's financial position over the next two years (2025/26 and 2026/27) and the prospect of formal talks that may be needed with Government to request permission to raise council tax for 2025/26 above the permitted 5% national threshold, unless Government's anticipated Policy Paper on Local Government Finance provides necessary changes in the law and greater freedoms and flexibilities to help the Local Authority address the urgent financial pressures it faces.

Councillor Adams-King explained: "Like many councils nationally, our budget pressures may be considerable but what sets Hampshire apart is our solid track record of strong financial

management and our determination and commitment to remain proactive in our efforts to tackle these challenges head-on - but we must have the support we need from the Government to do so.

"We have always been open and honest with the people of Hampshire about our finances. The exceptional budget pressures we face are not of our making - namely unprecedented demand for local services, particularly across social care and services for children with special educational needs and disabilities, as well as rising costs. The report we have considered today is a snapshot in time which warns of a stark financial challenge that potentially lies ahead in two years' time. We continue to do everything in our power to address this recurring budget gap - now anticipated to rise to £182 million from 2025/26 onwards. We have already identified a substantial part of this amount through our recent decisions around savings, however there is much more still to do.

"We are looking again within our own organisation, working more closely with our district, borough and parish council colleagues, and exploring every opportunity to find efficiencies, reduce costs and increase income, but we recognise that these steps alone, won't be enough to keep pace with the ongoing pressures in those key services we must deliver by law."

Providing further context, he added: "Alongside councils up and down the country, we were hoping Government would announce a significant increase in funding in their recent Budget, to help with social care pressures, together with some extra freedoms and flexibilities over council tax setting and raising income. Frustratingly, this didn't happen, with only an extra £8 million or so for Hampshire from the additional £1.3 billion earmarked for local government overall.

"The Government needs to be mindful that demand for services like social care and special educational needs and disabilities continue to soar in Hampshire. They need to be properly funded, and the council needs greater powers on how we prioritise our spending rather than having to deal with Government rules.

"With little prospect of any more money in the short-term, we are leaving no stone unturned in our work to tackle the challenges ahead. While we pursue further dialogue with Government, we remain focused on our core purpose; caring for our most vulnerable residents - evidenced by the further commitment set out in today's report, to employ more social workers to protect and support the growing number of children at risk of harm in the county."

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/News/11152024Cabinetfinancialoutlook>

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