

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1st OCTOBER 2024

Present: Cllr J Hodgson, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr R Robson, Cllr K McAllister, Cllr J Mann, Cllr J Morrison, Cllr C Brooks. Cllr M Mossman & Cllr J Dumper

In attendance: Heather Bournier-Clerk

4 Members of public

Apologies for Absence

1. Apologies for absence had been received from HCC David Drew & Cllr B Keane.

Public Participation

2) The members of public present commented as follows; -

A concern was raised that overflow parking from the sports field at the cemetery was not appropriate given that the cemetery was supposed to be a place for quiet reflection and that use of the land for parking would restrict burial space in the future. Cllr Dumper said this was only a temporary measure while the new club house is being built and the intention being that the land by the allotments is used in the first instance. It was agreed the Clerk would inform the sports club they can use the spare allotment land but that if cemetery land was required, they would need to contact the Parish Council

Concern was raised that the white lining on Queenwood Road has still not been replaced. The Clerk has reported this but will do so again and ask HCC David Drew to push for this on the grounds of safety given the number of pedestrians who walk this route.

A question was asked if a weight limit could be introduced in the village and a 20MPH speed limit installed. The Clerk explained it was possible to request these but evidence to show both necessity and community support were required.

Finally, concerns were raised regarding blocked ditches and drains causing flash flooding in heavy rainfall. Cllrs Mossman and Taylor are drawing up a plan to tackle flooding in the village (see item 17) Cllr Dumper will send the Clerk some photographs of an area on the Salisbury Road of concern and she would report this to HCC

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 3rd September were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Brooks, seconded Cllr Mann. All agreed.

Planning

5) **The following decisions by TVBC were noted:** 24/01644/FULLS- demolition of outbuildings & erection of extensions, Hillside, Salisbury 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 apologies.

TVBC Cllr Johnston had circulated the latest Mid Test Matters but was not present.

Closure of Churchyard

7) A representative of the Parochial Church Council present confirmed they have agreed to close the churchyard at St Marys Church, Broughton and as such have requested the Parish Council take over responsibility for maintenance of the Churchyard. The Clerk explained that this was a legitimate request in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 however

under the same law it was possible for the Parish Council to resolve to pass this responsibility to the Borough Council.

It was confirmed that there had been no burials for some time and no room for any more, plus in particular the PCC want to transfer responsibility for maintenance of enclosing walls to another body. These have been assessed by a builder and are not thought to be at high risk currently. The PCC representative confirmed that interment of ashes would continue to be possible. While the transfer of responsibility would include grass maintenance which is currently being undertaken by volunteers, the hope is that this can be allowed to continue, although it is possible for this to be reversed if volunteers cannot be found in the future. Cllr Mann proposed the Parish Council immediately pass the responsibility to the Borough Council. This was seconded by Cllr Brooks. All agreed. The Clerk will send the appropriate letters to the Borough Council.

Sports Field Pavilion Update

8) Cllr Keane was absent but had reported the Sports Committee are in possession of a basic build programme. Work has started and the next phase is the erection of the pre-fabricated timber frame which is planned for mid-October.

He had also forwarded a form request to allow sports field users to park on allotment land while the build program is in place. This was agreed until the end of April 2025. Any use of cemetery land would require a further formal request

Cllr Hodgson noted from the latest Sports Committee minutes that the ECB loan has not yet been applied for and that a sub-group is now starting fundraising again. Cllr Hodgson also noted that the Sports Committee has not publicised to the village what is being built, what facilities it will have and the opportunities it will offer to the village as a whole. All agreed the community should be aware of these facts in order to maximise fund raising to complete the project.

Safety of the site is still of concern in that fencing is not in the correct place and the building company need to be asked to ensure the site is secure. Cllr Mann said from a health and safety perspective the requirements of the contract are not being met. Cllr Mann will draft a letter setting out the council's concerns to be sent to the contractor (copied to the Sports Club) by the clerk.

Cllr Hodgson reported an email request he had received from the football club regarding erecting railings alongside Salisbury Road which would allow advertising hoardings to be displayed with the funds received from the venture raising funds. The matter was discussed however it transpires the railings have been erected. It was agreed this should be an agenda item for the next meeting, in the meantime Parish Councillors can visit the site and view the installation.

Cllr Taylor reported he is still waiting for further quotes for adult gym equipment at the sports field. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

Play Area Report

9) Cllr Mann reported the broken fence has not yet been repaired although the contractor has agreed to do this.

Cllr Dumper reported two benches need to be replaced and he and Cllr Mann will review these and make recommendations at the next meeting.

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 the Clerk will contact TVBC to ask for installation costs and establish if the location would enable collection.

Dog Waste Bin

10) The Clerk referred to an email she had received from TVBC environmental services in respect of the dog waste bin on Buckholt Road. The current bin has rusted out at the bottom and was reported to TVBC as defect by a member of the public. To purchase and fit a new bin would cost the Parish Council £298.08 (net). Cllr Mossman proposed the Parish Council pay for a new bin to be fitted; this was seconded by Cllr Dumper. All agreed. The Clerk will arrange this with TVBC.

Neighbourhood Plan

11) Cllr Mann reported the steering group has made progress. The questionnaire has been finalised and a price for the printing is awaited. A copy will be delivered to every house in the parish, hopefully by the end of October. Once the questionnaires are returned data will be analysed and a public meeting will follow.

Cllr Mann made a request for funding for printing, enveloping and delivery of the questionnaires, a maximum of £1000. Cllr Dumper proposed this expenditure which was seconded by Cllr Hodgson, all agreed

Hedges On Queenwood Road

12) Cllr Keane was absent but had raised a concern regarding hedges encroaching on Queenwood Road from properties in Queenwood Rise. Several other areas were noted where hedges were obstructing footpaths and roads. A notice will go on Broughton email asking all householders to cut back hedges and plant growth which impinged on roads and footpaths. If necessary, this will be followed by targeted letters to specific households.

New Village Bus

13) Cllr Morrison had circulated a report on the proposals to buy a new village bus. Lots of information on current passenger trips and numbers had been provided along with details of grant applications. The bus committee have made a formal request of the Parish Council to provide grant funding for this project of £5000.

The project was discussed and Cllr Mossman proposed, in principle the project be supported by a grant made per Section 137 LGA 1972. Cllr Morrison will report at the next meeting if other grant applications have been successful and the sums required to allow the project to reach fruition.

Clerks Report

14) The Clerk reported as follows: -

The Clerk reported that she had informed the solicitor of the dead trees on the land near School Lane to be transferred to the Parish Council and he will ask Lindens Solicitor to arrange for these to be removed. He agreed to press for a response to the outstanding agreement for land transfer at the same time.

The website has been upgraded to a silver model which means anyone who signs up via the website will receive email notification of any planning applications in the parish.

Mottisfont Parish Council will again be arranging for residents of Broughton and Mottisfont to attend the warm hub cinema events at Kings Sombourne. The Broughton Bus will be used for transport and TVBC will provide grant funding to cover some costs. Mottisfont have asked that Broughton Parish Council split any costs above the grant, this is likely to be no more than £100. All agreed this was a very important thing to support.

The clerk reported she had been contacted by the new Awbridge Parish Clerk regarding the speed awareness sign shared with Broughton. There did not appear to be any signed agreement between the two Parish Councils and Broughton had not been invoiced for their share of the costs since May 2023. There was therefore an outstanding payment due of £764.56. Full details had been provided to the Clerk along with an agreement for each Parish Council to sign. All agreed the Clerk should sign the agreement and pay the outstanding charge.

The Clerk detailed dates for Parish Council meetings in 2025. These will be the first Tuesday of the month with the exception of May when this will be the second Tuesday (13th) and August when there is no meeting held.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed the level of office expenses suggested by HMRC as covering home office working had risen to £26.00 per month.

Footpaths.

15) Cllr Morrison reported he has applied for a grant to fund the purchase of machinery and training for footpath volunteers. No volunteers have been found as yet but it is hoped some will step forward to volunteer to clear footpaths given that funding constraints mean less and less will be done by Hampshire County Council in the future.

He said footpath concerns raised to HCC have been listed as jobs although no dates for the work to be done have yet been given and requests to householders and landowners to clear areas for which they are responsible have been good.

Communications

16) Cllr Mossman raised the issue of how the PC communicates with the village. He suggested some items should be highlighted in the newsletter. Also, individual Councillors need to make an effort to talk about PC initiatives at other groups they attend. The website needs to be kept up to date and villagers encouraged to sign up to the latest news. All Councillors will think about new and updated articles and send details to the Clerk to upload.

Flooding

17) Cllr Mossman reported on his review of flooding in several areas in the village. While the ditches are a problem this is minor when comparing the need to get water out of the village by unblocking the brook. His conclusion is that reducing weed in the rivers at the correct point in time, along with reducing growth on river banks will help reduce flooding significantly. He will circulate his up-to-date report to all Councillors and consider if a meeting with HCC regarding the issue will be of benefit.

Finance

18) To note the bank balances -
21/09/2024

TSB Charity account £253742.40

TSB Business Instant £73726.37

United Trust £32525.26

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

H Bournier sal £659.73

H Bournier exp £52.00

HMRC £61.20

Hugo Fox £23.99

Wel Medical £351.48

Galea Gardening £125.00

Grass & Grounds £636.08

Carel Davenport £120.00

Aceliftaway £312.00

Awbridge Parish Council £764.56

Retrospective

Clear Insurance £1490.61

Galea Gardening £385.00

19) Items to carry forward

S shaped bench repair, children's play area.

Funding for disabled toilet

Communications

Sports field grass maintenance & purchase of mower

Erection of barriers at sports field

20) Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed she had received:

A letter regarding funding for a workshop at Broughton School. The Clerk will speak to the administrator of the school to establish details

21) New items for next meeting -None

Community news

22) Cllr Hodgson highlighted a cyber security presentation at the end of October - full details will be highlighted on the Broughton goggle email group. Cllr Hodgson advised that the Parish Council along with the Broughton Community energy group, is applying for a grant to pay for a feasibility study to establish if local green energy electricity generating projects for the village would be viable.

Date of next meeting

23) 7.30 pm on Tuesday November 12th 2024