

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 18th JUNE 2026

Present: Cllr J Hodgson (Chairman), Cllr Mike Mossman (Vice Chair), Cllr K McAlister, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr J Mann, Cllr J Dumper, Cllr C Brooks, Cllr S Dunn & Cllr Y Ezra .

In attendance: Heather Bourner-Clerk
HCC David Drew
Andrew Illingworth -Broughton Community Energy
28 Members of public

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

1)Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC A Johnston & Cllr J Morrison. (And from members of the public, Clare & Richard Davies)

2)Annual report from Chairman

Cllr Hodgson reported the Parish Council had continued to act on behalf of the parish and each Councilor present would report on the areas for which they lead as well as there being a short presentation regarding Broughton Community Energy.

3) Broughton Community Energy

A recent update has been circulated to all those who use the village email confirming the group is still trying to identify sites suitable for the installation of solar panels.

Work has started to install three EV charging stations at the car park in School Lane. One of these will be dedicated to the Village Bus, the others will be for public use. The hope is these will be live by September. Finally BCE has its own website where there is lots of information for anyone wanting to find out more about heat pumps and solar panels.

4) Proposed MUGA-Cllr S Dunn

Cllr Dunn handed round some pictures of the proposed scheme. He explained the plan was to build a court large enough for tennis and pickle ball. Mindful of the impact on residents close to the area, there will be no flood lights, the Parish Council are exploring acoustic barriers to mitigate noise, there will be no organised football, the School hope to make regular use of the facility, and there will be casual use by villagers. He explained the original scheme was to fit a much smaller MUGA not big enough for courts so it would be a hang out area for groups rather than a sports facility, making it larger makes it a much more useable space. He said he wants to explore forming a tennis club and potential paddle ball club. He said a planning application is likely to be submitted in August when residents will be able to make representations if they wished. He plans to hold an open public meeting when details of the proposal will be available and questions can be answered.

Comments from the public included-the court needs two access gates as an antibullying measure, there also needs to be marked out courts for netball and basketball, there will need to be a booking system and some planting of trees and shrubs will be required to soften the height impact.

5) Report from County Councilor

HCC David Drew started with thanks to all those who voted at the local elections on 7th May. He reported that HCC have two years to exist before Local Government Reorganisation. Further elections will take place in 2027 to combine the current county and borough representatives. He recognised that planning matters were of great concern to local communities including in Broughton and is a great advocate for community led projects.

6) Report from Borough Council

TVBC A Johnston had sent apologies.

7) Update on NDP

Cllr Mann confirmed an update had been recently been sent to the community via the Village Email group. He reiterated that the plan is currently in a consultation process. The steering group are currently analysing the comments that have been returned under the recent consultation. He explained there will be further

consultations and feedback to parishioners before the plan reaches the point for referendum. Cllr Mann confirmed the NDP will now be considered in any planning application although it is not yet formally adopted. Its importance will remain even after Local Government Reorganisation

A member of the steering group expressed thanks to the community for responding to the last consultation. He said the process to make a plan is a very detailed, legal process which had to be followed.

A point was made by a member of the public that not all residents used village email but it was confirmed that there has been a mail drop to every house, posters were put up in several village locations, social media was used to provide updates and open meetings held.

TVBC David Drew said a Neighbourhood Development plan does help shape development in the community but the planning process currently under review means that there are an enormous amount of speculative applications. This is because the government target for housing cannot be met with current land registered as available for building.

Concerns were raised about a report from Stratland Estates submitted to TVBC regarding the NDP *as related to a planning application for 9 houses off Coolers Farm*. Cllr Ezra suggested the Parish Council engage an expert to review and produce counter proposals, particularly in light of the open application to build up to forty dwellings at Hasley Meadows. When *the Coolers Farm* application is reconsidered by the *TVBC Planning committee* the full details of the NDP will need to be taken into account *This is likely to be* on 30th June.

A debate as to whether the Parish Council could engage a consultant followed and the Clerk explained to all present that the Parish Council does not have the General Power of Competence and cannot adopt this because less than two thirds of the current councilors were elected. This could change when Parish Council elections take place in May 2027. The only option open to the council would be to use the powers of S137 to fund this initiative but up to the maximum sum of £11.60 per elector of the parish. She said at the next PC meeting councilors can take a view as to whether they want to support and set aside funds to pay for a consultant.

Members of the public present asked if the Parish Council would consider holding an emergency extra meeting to debate this point and if agreed engage an expert to write a report before 30th June. Given the legal time lines required for advertising a meeting and the necessity for a Parish Council to obtain three quotes before engaging a consultant it was agreed there was not time for the Parish Council to meet the 30th June deadline.

Cllr Ezra suggested a consultant could be engaged privately and asked if the Parish Council could consider reimbursing such costs. Cllr Hodgson said this was not possible and went on to say it was obvious the document has been written by a planning consultant on the steer of the proposed developer. TVBC are so far happy with the Neighbourhood Plan as written but the Parish Council can review the report and point out inaccuracies to the planning committee.

A question was asked- Could the parish consider buying the land? Answer-It was likely to cost millions of pounds to do so.

A group has been set up, Broughton Sustainable Development and work to set up a constitution, bank account etc would begin in earnest. The group has obtained a quote for a consultant to carry out the work for £4500 + VAT. It was suggested a private fund be put together to pay the consultant.

Finally the Neighbourhood plan steering group asked Cllr Drew to pass on thanks to Sarah Hughes the NDP officer at TVBC who has given the group a great deal of assistance.

8) Allotments/Green spaces

Cllr Mossman reported that a great deal of work had taken place to improve the allotment and surrounding area - removing rubbish, cutting back hedges and clearing long term unused plots. He said the area looked so much better and a member of public present who was an allotment holder thanked Cllr Mossman for all the work and support he had given to allotment holders.

Cllr Mossman also reported a new contractor has been engaged to cut the grass at the cemetery and this now looks very good. The same contractor is also cutting all green space in the village and has a good working relationship with sports club ensuring pitches are in good shape for matches.

Finally he reported that since the ownership of the land in School Lane has now passed to the Parish Council he has been seeking quotes for the restoration of Salisbury Green. So far he has only been able to obtain one quote from a contractor for £11,000! He is currently discussing a way forward with Broughton Nature Group.

9) Play Area

Cllr Dumper reported the annual safety check of the play equipment shows all is safe but there are some issues with fences and gates and the mostly unused skate park. The area in general is looking tired and the Parish Council has a healthy pot of S106 funds that could be used to provide new equipment .He said it is important that residents of the village let the Parish Council know what they want in both the playground and skate park and he will be organising a village survey to gather views. It was suggested the parents of those who attend Broughton pre School and the Village School should be asked along with the children who attend the school.

10) Local Government Reorganisation.

Cllr Ezra said that the new unitary authority areas have been announced but little further detail is available. Concerns have been raised regarding the draft local plan which forms the policies to inform planning and whether this will be complete before the new authorities come to power.

11)Adult Gym Equipment

Cllr Taylor reported the new equipment is in place with the exception of the all access unit. There is still some installation work and tidying up to do .

12) Footpaths

Cllr Morrison had sent his apologies but Cllr Hodgson reported lots of volunteers are helping to keep footpaths tidy and expressed thanks to them all. He also thanked the Village Hall for providing space to store all the equipment for this work.

13)Trees

Cllr Hodgson confirmed he looks at applications for tree works in the Village. Most of these are trees in a conservation area but the only possible action if there was disagreement to such an application was to request TVBC put a Tree Preservation Order in place.

Close

Cllr Hodgson finished by thanking all those currently involved with the Parish Council. He asked those present to think about getting involved and reminded them that Parish Council elections take place in May 2027 and new members will be needed.