

BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 31st MAY 2022

Present: Cllr E James (Chairman), Cllr G Elliott (Vice Chairman) Cllr J Dumper, Cllr P Boulton, Cllr J Mann, Cllr J Hodgson, Cllr Parker-Hamilton & Cllr Morrison.

In attendance: Heather Bourner-Clerk
10 Members of public

The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

Apologies for Absence

1) Apologies had been received from Cllr B Keane, Cllr McAlister, Lucy Macey- Head teacher Broughton School & Derek Smith – Chair of School Governors

2)Annual report from Chairman & Vice Chairman.

Cllr James addressed the meeting his report follows-

Firstly, on the subject of apologies the Council would like to say sorry to the community for the delay of the long expected MUGA sports facility. A versatile sports facility was the number one wanted item that featured on the Village survey done over 10 years ago, it was to be delivered by the Parish Council as part of the legal agreement signed by the Parish and Borough Council along with the land owner of school lane and the developers and also was an integral part of the planning application. We are still working behind the scenes for this to happen, every month we push the solicitors involved and hope to be able to deliver on this promise to the community as soon as possible.

In the last year the Council was saddened by the resignation of 3 Councillors, Tina, Will and Peter Jenkins, we take this opportunity to thank them so much for the work and effort they have given the community. The positive is they have been replaced by Cllr McAllister, Cllr Hamilton-Parker and Cllr Morrison who are already doing great works for our community.

Pre covid, the Council raised the opportunity by way of a climate change forum workshop to see what Broughton could do to help through a community led project, this was widely supported initially, disappointingly over a year and a half has passed along with many request for community involvement, we have dropped the item from our agenda as no members of the community came forward to run the project or any areas of it apart from the successful tetra-recycling project, we thank those members of the community for taking this on. If there is a change of heart for our environment the Council I am sure would happily support.

Recently Broughton Emergency Response Group (known as BERG) has been formed, another community led project, its aims are to be reactive to issues, such as floods, power outages and other emergencies but also be proactive where possible. It is being well supported so far but more volunteers are always welcome. This week a grant application has been submitted to our power provider for £20,000 for emergency equipment including a large generator to keep the Village Hall supplied with electricity, to act as an emergency hub for heat, food, recharging, WIFI and also the benefit to keep the shop functioning. In the event of a major issue plans are underway for the school to be a second community hub, if needed. We are coordinating with Broughton Good Neighbours, to help those most vulnerable if required.

We have added a new defibrillator for the Village at the Doctors surgery while continuing to maintain the other two to help keep us all safe in an emergency.

We strive to keep items maintained in the village such as the well house and streetlights etc, we have facilitated better disabled access from the pavement to the road at Hinwood Close, and a new visible sign has been placed at the entrance to the cemetery, we also helped the Cricket club repair the practise nets after mindless vandalism. We are working with Hampshire Highways to find a solution to traffic entering the no entry traffic system on the Pound also the new traffic calming gates have been installed. All the apple trees received a much-needed prune at the Centenary Garden this year. The Council is working with the Village Hall to potentially install electric car charging for users and the community. Materials have been supplied to helpful volunteers to maintain the wooden sign on the pound.

The state of the two 'vintage signs' in the community, at the Northend junction with school lane and opposite the greyhound was recently brought to the Council by a parishioner, kind grants have been received from Test Valley Borough and Hampshire Councils, the latter who have responsibility for road signs, for some of the refurbishment costs. Given the amount of money involved we asked the community if it was wise to spend Parish funds on these items, there has been an excellent response with over 40 residents supporting this project and just one concerned at the expenditure. An even better response was from the individual who took it upon himself to refurbish the sign at Northend, the Council thanks you, it looks fantastic and will save the parish significant funds. We welcome more support or comments.

Over the year Test Valley Borough Council have kindly asked us to act as a consultant on all Planning application in the Parish, too numerous to mention. given the limitation of the parameters of our comments allowed, we have made comments on all requests. It is worth noting that we only act as a consultant and have no powers over planning applications.

We have been advised by the planning authority that to protect the community from unwelcome development and to find out what our community want with reference to potential future larger planning applications, we need to consider a new Housing Needs Survey and then produce a community led Neighbourhood Plan. We are facilitating an open village meeting in June to consult with the community on these issues supported by Test Valley, again we ask for volunteers to get involved with these projects, but in particular a community led Neighbourhood Plan.

It's the perfect time of year to talk about footpaths now the growing season is in full swing, the Council tries to help keep them under control but we do request that landowners fulfil their responsibilities and adjacent neighbours help to keep Broughton fit for all of us to enjoy.

Before I hand you over to The Vice Chair Cllr Elliot to talk about the Pavilion project, I have to thank our Borough and County Councillor's for all their help and support they give us and our fantastic Parish Clerk Heather who keeps us going and advises us on everything. Finally coming up this weekend thanks to our Jubilee committee, who are organising a fantastic weekend to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and organising a street party for over seven hundred people.

There will be time at the end of all presentations to ask the Council any questions you might have, and at the end of all presentations you are welcome to join the Council for a drink.

I now hand you over to Cllr Elliott to talk about the Sports Field and Pavilion project.

Cllr Elliott addressed the meeting his report follows-

Sports Pavilion

Since the last annual parish meeting, I am pleased to confirm that the CIL bid for £200,000 from TVBC has been successful. With the previous commitment of £150,000 from Broughton parish council, together with other local donations and planned fundraising, this meant that the Sports Club Committee could proceed with some confidence. Over recent months, detailed schedules of works and tender documents have been prepared, and tenders were finally issued during May, with a return date of 22nd June. Building costs will inevitably have increased since the project was initiated, but we will soon know the extent of any funding shortfall. The committee are confident that with forthcoming events and planned approaches to 'top-up' funding bodies, that the project will soon become a reality.

Footpaths

Cllr James has already mentioned footpaths, and now we have received some welcome rain the grass and foliage are growing well. Cllr Morrison and I try and keep an eye on most of the paths, but we are always grateful for any information on potential issues; we are also grateful for any assistance in keeping paths clear. I have recently asked our clerk to write to two landowners, growth from whose hedges is restricting byways. After winter storms, other landowners were very helpful in removing fallen trees and branches.

Road improvements

The scheduled traffic calming measures on the B3084, delayed during the pandemic, have finally been completed by HCC Highways. The last task was the re-siting of the speed alert warning, which is now positioned just north of School Lane junction. We hope that this will have a greater impact than its previous

position, which advised drivers of the 30mph limit almost as soon as they entered the 40mph section. There is still a need for tree pruning to improve visibility of the new, higher 30mph signs.

Children's play area

Despite regular efforts to keep the fence and gates in good order, part of the fence has now succumbed to rotting posts and collapsed. The council is awaiting a quote to rectify this. The lifespan of this fence has been disappointing, due to the lack of suitable timber preservatives following the discontinuation of effective but now non-approved treatments.

Finance

3)The Clerk gave a brief overview of the Parish Council finances including details of annual accounts. She also gave details of the budgeting process and the level of precept and confirmed to all present that full finance details can be found on the Parish Council website.

Reports From local organizations

4) PCSO

The PCSO's had been unable to attend the meeting. The Clerk will ask them to supply some crime statistics which can be circulated to the parish via email.

5) Broughton School

The Head Teacher and Chair of Governors of the local school had sent their apologies.

6) Broughton Charities

Cllr Boulton gave a report on behalf of the Thomas Dowse Charity and United Charities.

He reported that the Thomas Dowse charity has 6 trustees to help provide grants to villagers in particular with educational needs. Almost all applicants last year were successful.

He confirmed the old scout hut on land owned by the trust has now been dismantled there being no interest in the Village in a Scout Group. A new fence between the field and the hall car park will be erected in due course.

Thanks were expressed to the secretary and treasurer for the group for all the work carried out to support the charity and in particular manage the let property owned by the charity.

The United Charities is a smaller charity but has been able to respond with assistance to parishioners in financial need. Thanks again were expressed to those who help run the committee and in particular the treasurer who deals with all the finances.

7) County and Borough Councilors' Report

HCC David was not present.

8)TVBC Cllr Johnston-

Cllr Johnston was not present.

9) Public participation

Questions asked by parishioners present were as follows-

Q- has the Parish Council made a decision to put together a Neighbourhood Plan

A-No decisions have been made and will not be until after the public consultation in June

Q- Is there any development on the proposed extension to the Solar Farm

A – No formal application has yet been made but the PC are already considering if they will be able to gain any financial benefit should

Q- There is an terrible amount of weed growth on paved areas around Hinwood Close and Dixons Lane. This is terrible mess. Is the Aster Housing responsibility?

A Cllr Elliott has looked recently and agrees the Parish Council will follow up on this matter.

Q-Lots of footpaths are overgrown.

A-The PC are not responsible for all footpaths. There needs to be a wider discussion about whether the Parish Council use funds to pay a contractor. This will be considered by the Parish Council.

Q-The rivers trust sent information about invasive species- what feedback has been received

A-No further information has been received but the Parish Council will follow this up.

Q-If the MUGA is not built could the funds that have been ringfenced be used for another project.

A-The agreement was for the Parish Council to take ownership of the lands where the MUGA should be built. It will almost certainly happen it is just a question of when.

The meeting ended with those present enjoying refreshments and having the opportunity to have informal discussions with those Councillors present.