

BRIGHTWALTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Held Monday 12th July 2021 8pm, Brightwalton Village Hall

Present:

Shaun Orpen – Chairman
Annie Agnew – Councillor
Sue Sayers – Councillor
Tim Wyatt – Councillor
Christine Delahunty – Councillor
Mike Cooper – Councillor
Sarah Youldon – Clerk
Clive Hooker – Downland Ward Councillor
3 Parishioners

Minutes: The May and June meeting minutes were agreed and signed as an accurate record. There were no declarations of interest.

Village Hall Committee: A successful tour of Woolley House raised over £500, and the opening up the railway last weekend raised £300 for the hall – committee thanked all those involved. The committee have more ideas for fundraising in the pipeline. Bookings are currently minimal, so income is low. It was reported that some maintenance will be required soon, but not urgently.

ASPIRE Update: Phase one work continues.

Matters Arising:

Village Community Co-ordinator: A steering group has been formed with representatives from the PC, Church, school and VHC. The team have formulated details of the role and job description together with an information leaflet. Drafts are just being finalised before publishing, the information leaflet will go to every house in the village and will include details on how people can contribute to the project. A £5000 match funding grant has been obtained so the group need to raise the other £5000 by October, this will then provide funding for the role for the first 2 years. It was agreed that the PC would act as the employer for this role with the chosen candidate reporting into the Clerk and steering group.

Old Churchyard Wall: Clerk presented 3 quotes for the rebuilding of the wall at a lower level, the quotes ranged from a short-term solution to a longer-term solution on a concrete foundation. Although all agreed that the expanding tree basal growth and bank of soil behind would mean that the wall would still be compromised over the years. All agreed that this would require ongoing investment and concerns were raised about the rest of the wall and the long-term plan. PC discussed other options and heard suggestions on possible replacement with pillars and a marker with plaque for where the wall stood, and / or replacing with a hedge. Clerk to set up site meeting with neighbouring landowners to discuss options further.

Playground ROSPA inspection: Clerk reported that the junior swing seats had now been replaced and rubber chippings were arriving tomorrow, in line with the requirements noted on the report. Other matters reported had be noted for monitoring. Clerk to look at options for replacing the bird spikes which had been purposefully broken above the junior swings. T Wyatt to write article for Brickleton News / Facebook on respecting the playground equipment and not throwing the rubber chippings.

Brightwalton Hill Planting in Memory of Sir Philip Wroughton: Initial proposals were presented with an avenue of ornamental trees (cherry /crab apple) proposed for the first section from the Keepers Cottage junction along the road to the end of the playing field, and then an avenue of mixed native trees round the bend and down the hill. Some concerns were raised about trees disrupting the view from the village hall up to Spray wood. Clerk to draft an article with images for the September Brickleton News to canvas opinions. S Orpen to speak to Woolley Park, Clerk to investigate costs, funding opportunities and discuss proposals with Chaddleworth PC. Report back at September meeting.

Queens Green Canopy: Parishioner had put forward proposals for tree planting under the Queens Green Canopy campaign, suggesting along the B4494 as an option. Councillors had concerns about interrupting sightlines, plus the land was privately owned.

Dunmore Pond: One of the sycamore trees at the far side of the pond had been identified as diseased. Clerk presented 3 quotes, two to remove the deadwood from around 8ft up and one to fell the tree in its entirety as tree surgeon had identified that it was rotten from the base. Councillors accepted that tree

should be felled, Clerk to obtain comparison quotes on that basis before instructing tree surgeon. All agreed trunk should be left on bank as a natural seat, with brushwood chipped and remaining branches chopped for logs. Councillors agreed logs could be offered to villagers; with suggestion they may like to make a small donation. Details to go on Facebook/website when appropriate.

Superfast Broadband Coverage: Following the request at the Parish Meeting to investigate a fibre connection for the circa 50 houses in Pudding Lane, Southend and The Green that missed out on the Gigaclear FTTP rollout, Clerk had spoken to Gigaclear who agreed to investigate feasibility. It was stated this may take some months to come back, Clerk agreed to speak to the broadband team at WBC in the meantime. Clerk stated that other villages were looking at this too, T Wyatt offered to be part of a joint project committee if it could assist.

Highways: WBC Highways team confirmed that the Vehicle Activated Sign at the Holt should finally be adjusted to the agreed 50mph speed July / August. Delay had been with the contractors and the Covid regulations/absences.

Cricket Nets: M Cooper has spoken to West Ilsley Cricket Club who were in the process of replacing their own nets, potentially their old practice nets may be available, M Cooper to keep in contact. Working party would need to be arranged to dismantle, transport and rebuild. Clerk to check out surfacing and get quotes for refurbishment if required.

Gov.uk Domain & Central Email System: Councillors reviewed guidance from the Governance and Accountability regulations on a Gov.UK domain name, costs were considered to be disproportion to the benefit. Also considered the recommendation of a central email system to give Councillors a PC specific email address, all agreed it was inappropriate for a small PC and would cause delay in Councillors picking up emails. The current set up with the Clerk using specific email address for PC business was considered appropriate at this time.

Brickleton News Articles: T Wyatt to write article re playground.

Planning: It was stated for the record:

21/00688/FULD West Glebe, Common Lane application for a proposed 4-bedroom dwelling in the residential curtilage of West Glebe. Application withdrawn

Finance: Balance of the Current Account as of 12th July £4,196.35 Deposit Account £9,035.11

Transactions since the May Meeting: 10/05 CIL payment received £2,649.59; 16/06 BACS Oxford Diocese Hall & Field Rent £634.80 (inc £105.80 VAT); 23/06 BACS Scofell May Mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18 VAT); 23/06 BACS Imprint Colour May BNews £67.00; 23/06 BACS Rospa Playsafety £82.20 (inc £13.70 VAT); 23/06 BACS Adomast Rubber Chippings 2 x 500kg £630 (inc £105 VAT); 23/06 Direct Debit – ICO data Protection fee £35.00; 01/07 S/O Clerk Wages April to June £419.04; 01/07 S/O HMRC PAYE Q1 £104.60
Payments to be authorised online: 12/07 BACS Fenland Leisure Toddler swing seats £182.40 (inc £30.40 VAT); 12/07 BACS Scofell June mowing £247.10 (inc £41.18)

2020/21 Accounts & Audit: External auditor had confirmed receipt and acceptance of the Certificate of Exemption. Public Rights notice period is currently displayed on the notice board.

Agreed budget review and Clerk appraisal would be arranged before next meeting with S Orpen.

Any Other Business:

Defibrillator Training: Parishioner requested another training session. Clerk to investigate.

Wildflower Corner: Suggestion from parishioner to seed a wild flower section in the corner of the playing field where the cricket sheds once stood. Agreed as a good idea, area needs to be cleared first at a working party.

Additional Correspondence: WBC consultation in progress reviewing how WBC communicates with the town and parish councils. Clerk to complete with feedback given. Parliamentary Boundary consultation in process, Clerk to send on details.

WBC June summary received from Councillor Hooker, copy distributed to Councillors and uploaded to village website.

Meeting closed at 9.55pm.

The 2021 Meetings will be held: 13th September and 8th November

Signed: S K Youldon 15th July 2021