

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
at the MEMORIAL HALL
on 15th March 2022 - 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. B. Nelson (Chairman), Mrs E. Bradshaw (Deputy), N. Howgill, V. Game, R. Dunford-Brown, Mrs J. Rock and the Clerk, Mrs J. Henderson.

In attendance: Seventeen members of the public.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies** - Cllrs A. Powell, C. Ledward and Mrs D. Rees.
- 2. Co-option of new councillor -**
Resolved: The Chair proposed the co-option of new councillor Mrs J. Rock. Seconded Cllr R. Dunford-Brown and all in favour. The Chair welcomed Cllr J. Rock to the parish council and explained that the position had become available, due to Cllr D. Wicks resigning last year.
- 3. Declaration of interests -**
Resolved: None declared. The Chair reminded Cllrs to ensure their declaration of interest forms held by EDDC, were up to date and also to only use their council email address for council related work and always cc The Clerk.
- 4. To receive and sign the minutes of the last meeting held on 16.11.2021**
Resolved: that they were a true record of the meeting's decisions.
Proposed Cllr Game, Seconded Cllr Howgill - all agreed.
- 5. Chair proposed to waive Standing Orders in order to add an extraordinary item on the agenda, concerning the crisis in Ukraine.**
Resolved: There were no objections to the Chairs proposal, so he went on to explain that several parishioners had asked what the Council would be doing about the Ukraine crisis. It would be very likely that EDDC and DCC would be in receipt of monies for this cause and the parish council needed a well thought out plan to the many unanswered questions. To this end, the Chair proposed the appointment of a Ukraine Co-ordinator to handle all enquiries and whose qualifications meant they were well placed to traverse the many bureaucratic hurdles ahead. In anticipation of the parish council's agreement and due to the urgency of the matter, the Chair had sounded out Mr D Bilverstone of Luton, who was willing and very able to take on the position in principle.
The Chair then offered to take questions from the public at this point.
One member of the public commented on central governments' sketchy plans to date, highlighting many of the problems Ukrainian refugees would face coming here. They suggested setting up processing centres across the parishes and asked what EDDC were working on.

The Chair felt time was not on our side to wait for plans from district and council, rather to put in place a system of our own now and gather information in anticipation of refugees coming here (names of families willing to home refugees etc). Cllr Game asked about the possibilities an entity within the parish under the auspices of the parish council, to sponsor these people. The Chair agreed it was one of many possibilities. More questions from parishioners followed asking if anyone in the parish spoke Ukrainian or knew anyone from Ukraine. Cllr Howgill said he had been in contact with some people in Ukraine through his work, who were also asking what was happening here in UK for them. Another parishioner felt more than one person would be needed to run this initiative and suggested setting up a small sub-group to work with Mr Bilverstone. Lastly, a parishioner wished to highlight a website where people could find more information on supporting new arrivals from Ukraine:
www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk

The Chair thanked the members of the public for their participation and also Mr Bilverstone for taking on the task of Ukraine Co-ordinator. A dedicated email would be set-up for him using the Broadhembury gmail address and more information would follow in due course. (After the meeting an email address was created as: **UkraineCoordinator@broadhembury-pc.gov.uk**)

7.45pm five members of the public left.

6. **Public discussions, Reports, DCC, EDDC, Police:**

Resolved: The Chair read out the Police crime stats for rural Honiton which apart from 4 reported crimes in the Dunkeswell area for the year Feb 2021 - 22, numbers were generally low.

7. **Correspondence:**

Resolved: (i) A resident from St Andrew's Wood had drawn the council's attention to the poor state of the footbridge, having submitted a detailed report on the problem. The Chair requested Cllr Game to follow this up with Highways, as considered beyond the parish council remit or resources.

(ii) Broadhembury Playground committee had emailed and were also in attendance this evening. The Chair brought forward item 14 on the agenda and invited the committee to speak. They would like Cllr Powell to be the PC representative (he had already agreed) and had plans for further fundraising. Future ROSPA reports would be sent to the Playground Committee when the Clerk receives them and Cllr Powell will help with securing S106 funds. The Committee has a bank account now with two signatories, so monies can now be paid to them.

(iii) Kerswell Playground (agenda item 14). Chair ascertained that Cllr Dunford-Brown had agreement from Kerswell for the levelling of the playground to go ahead. The Chair then proposed spending £250 on the levelling work and this was Seconded by Cllr Game.

7.54pm three members of the public left.

8. Result of petition to EDDC to increase PC size:

Resolved: The Chair addressed the only negative comments from unidentified respondent '19' on the list.

a) Respondent 19 was opposed to the increase in Cllrs due to all having been co-opted: *This is untrue as some Cllrs were elected unopposed i.e.: stand for election, but no one stands against. Contested elections in rural areas were quite rare as local people tend not to stand against one another.*

b) They also suggested we (PC) should just do less:

However, most of the things we are asked to do come via County/District and if we didn't action them, they wouldn't get done and available funding/grants would be lost, resulting in parishioners losing out.

c) Finally, why couldn't the PC just ask for more volunteers or set more tasks for volunteers?: *The Chair cited the CLT and CIO Memorial Hall as examples and the difficulties they experience maintaining Trustee numbers. Some of the PC undertakings require more commitment than volunteers can understandably commit to. The Chair therefore rejected the comments of respondent 19. Apart from this, the response to the EDDC petition was overwhelmingly in favour and from the next elections in May 2023, the PC will be increasing its numbers from 9 to 12. He said that it was encouraging that so many parishioners had said positive things about the work of the PC and he thanked them.*

9. Jubilee Celebrations and financial provision:

Resolved: The Chair invited members of the Jubilee committee to speak regarding their plans and funding requirements from the PC. The Council agreed to buy 70 Jubilee mugs costing around £500 for the children of the parish and the Chair requested the Jubilee committee notify the Clerk of the exact mugs they require. Cllr Howgill will be the PC representative on the Jubilee committee. Cllr Bradshaw also informed the council of the Glider Club's invitation for people to join in their celebrations when they light a beacon on the night of the 2nd June at 9.45pm. However, some members of the public expressed concerns about the possible fire risk and the Glider Club will be alerted accordingly.

10. Flooding in Broadhembury - access road update:

Cllr Game had met with Dan Wood (Neighbourhood Highways Officer). They looked at the Grange road and there is still no update as to whether the resurfacing scheme proposed for 2022/23 has been agreed. They also looked at Stafford Hill which is in a bad way, but due to only one scheme per year being permitted, this will have to wait for works to be done, although some remedial work may be carried out meanwhile. Pothole repair is planned within next two weeks, but again, no update that this will definitely happen before end of financial year. Before moving onto the prevention of flooding scheme in Broadhembury, the Chair advised the council that Cllr Rock has a declared interest in this item but could remain present, without contributing to the discussions. The unhelpful situation of the Allen's to reject the PC's proposal of a V ditch option had been remedied by Michael Pyle and his creative solution of piping in a diagonal line across the field, cutting a corner of the Allen's field and joining the

hedge and verge, then disappearing off down the gully and ending up further down the road in the leat which has been dredged (by Michael Pyle) and now able to take on more water. This is a significantly more expensive option at £5,500 and one that Michael Pyle has very generously offered to pay for, but would welcome a contribution from the PC. The Chair recorded his disappointment with the decision of the Allen's despite protracted discussions and a meeting on site. He also felt confident that the work would make a significant impact to the state of the road, access to the Hall and village and the safety of all and the whole community should acknowledge the work of the Pyles to tackle the issues.

Resolved: The Chair proposed the council pay £1k (from PC flood funds) towards the cost, which would have been PC contribution for the original plan turned down by the Allen's. Seconded by Cllr Game, all agreed.

11. **Memorial Hall CIO Trustees update:** The Chair expressed his concern over current numbers of Trustees (four being the minimum number required in the articles of association for continuation). He was assured by the committee members that they have a definite four, with a fifth in the wings. They also have 'Friends of the Hall' which is a list of volunteers to help with jobs at the hall, leaving the Trustees to concentrate on the decision making and organising. They now have a new booking clerk, but don't have a chairman, as they chair the meeting as a group. The Chair reminded them they can't continue below four trustees. The Trustees assured the Chair that they have contingency plans in place with additional members ready to step up should they need to. The Chair agreed that the 'Friends' idea was a good one and said the PC would do all it could to help.

Financials:

(i) **Precept (if published)** - still not published

Resolved: (ii) Retrospective invoices for approval - Proposed Cllr Bradshaw, Seconded Cllr Game

(iii) **Subscription to Blackdown Hills Parish Network** - Proposed Cllr Bradshaw and Seconded Cllr Game

12. **Repair Café project:** In the absence of Cllr Powell, the Chair reminded everyone that the first Repair Cafe was opening at the hall this Saturday from 10am. As Cllr Powell couldn't be here this evening, the Chair asked the Council on his behalf if they would consider donations from the refreshments of the Repair cafe, going to a UK charity supporting the Ukraine appeal. However, as the council had appointed their own Ukraine Coordinator, maybe it would be better if the donations went to that instead.
Resolved: Agreed by all.
The Chair wished the venture well and apologised he would not be able to attend.
13. **Play Area updates** - Item covered earlier in agenda (item 7)
14. **Proposal to join Payhembury PC in the campaign '20 is plenty':**
Resolved: All agreed to endorse the campaign.

15. **Dulford Speedwatch:** An update read by the Chair as Cllr Ledward was not at the meeting. Police with volunteers have been speed checking and collecting the data, after previous data had been lost. Progress now being made.
16. **Publish info. to promote website, Chair's Annual Newsletter etc. Agree format (flyer, insert, parish magazine):**
Resolved: Broadhembury Magazine agreed we could have some pages to publicise our website and newsletter and the Clerk would send ready artwork for this. The Chair also advised Cllrs that there would be a flyer to post door to door and counted on their support to help with this. Planned for May.
17. **Planning Report:**
21/2798/FUL: Daisyland, Dulford - single storey side extension - Support
21/2334/FUL: Hanger Farm, Stafford Hill - erection of poultry house phase 4 (EDDC had sent back) - Support
21/3043/FUL: Stafford Hill Farm, Stafford Hill - permanent agricultural dwelling - Support provided finance requirement of EDDC met
21/3126/FUL: Wishes, Broadhembury - all weather riding arena - Support
21/3206/FUL: Wishes, Broadhembury - new 4kw solar PV panel array on existing roof - Support
21/3189/FUL: Egremont Cross Barn - new porch and rear extension with associated internal alterations - Support
21/3195/FUL: Melhuishs, Kerswell - extension to front porch - Support
22/0058/FUL: Pitmans Farm, Dulford - demolition of existing buildings; construction of residential dwelling and detached garage; installation of solar photovoltaic array; landscaping; and associated works - Support in principle with lower profile required. Noted concern from a representative of the neighbours over height of the proposed dwelling and letters regarding this would be lodged with EDDC.
21/3346/FUL: Wishes, Broadhembury - new design of approved New Build replacement dwelling (Class C3) (revised application number 21/2037/FUL) - Support
19/2594/FUL: Grange View, Broadhembury - Certificate of existing use for valid commencement within three years of permission granted under 19/2594/FUL issued on 27/01/2020 for the construction of two storey extension to side and replacement front porch - Support
22/0368/FUL: Crammer Ash, Kerswell - 2 storey side extension, demolition of existing garage, construction of a detached garage and revised access - Support
22/0558/TCA: Drewe Arms, Broadhembury - T1 and T2: fell conifer and group of 4 Ash trees showing signs of die back with large amounts of dead wood with the crown and poor growth. T3 - Beech tree: pruning of the extending limb coming over the garden and reduction via thinning to maintain good shape back into the lower inner crown the tree has allowing more light into the shaded property: replanting of native deciduous trees - Approve
Cllr Bradshaw ended her report.

The Chair then went on to talk about the HELAA sites (Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment which has replaced SLAA - Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment). There are four HELAA sites that apply to Broadhembury, with one in particular being favoured ahead of the others (located north west of Lawrence Close). The EDDC process is all being done in the public domain, and as this is only the planners preference, it could all change.

18. Spring Litter Campaign:

Resolved: A date of Saturday 9th April was suggested by the Chair and Cllrs agreed they would see if they could get teams together around that date.

19. Biodiversity Project: The Chair explained a big event is being held at the hall on March 26th, but there is an issue with regards to funding. Cllr Powell secured £6k funding from the Blackdown Hills AONB. The PC had agreed to give £750 to the fund and in addition cover the first £500 as a primer, until the funds come through. However, as the money needs to be spent before the end of the month and time is running very short, Cllr Powell needs access to more funds now.

Resolved: The Council all agreed for Cllr Powell to go ahead and continue with the purchases and the Council will cover the costs to £3500, on the understanding this will be reimbursed with the grant money from the Project paid by DCC, once claim forms have been sent. It was also expected that claims would be submitted more regularly, that claims for hours labour would be submitted early and in stages and that the PC's contribution would be made at the end of the project after other claims had been settled. Proposed by the Chair and Seconded Cllr Game.

20. AOB:

i) A member of the public enquired about the notice on the small triangle of land in the village of Broadhembury. Cllr Bradshaw explained it was an application put in by the Open Spaces Society to DCC regarding the Common land. The PC were unaware of the application prior to the notice.

ii) The Chair asked Cllr Howgill on an update of the War Memorial and was advised he was still waiting for a date from Woofenden to start work.

21. Date and Time of next meeting - Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council:

Resolved: Tuesday 17th May 2022, 7.30pm at the Memorial Hall.

Annual Parish Meeting, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council and an Ordinary Parish Council Meeting.

Everyone was thanked for attending.

The meeting was closed at 8.55pm