

Broadhembury Parish Council

MINUTES

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Platform: ZOOM

19th JANUARY 2021 - 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs. B. Nelson (Chairman), Mrs E. Bradshaw (Deputy), V. Game, N. Howgill, C. Ledward, A. Powell, Mrs D. Rees, D. Wicks, R. Dunford-Brown, Mrs J. Henderson (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

AGENDA

1 Apologies None

1.1 ITEM 13 on the Agenda: 'Co-option of Parish Councillor' addressed first:
Chair proposed co-option of Robert Dunford-Brown and seconded by Cllr Bradshaw. Cllr Dunford-Brown was duly welcomed on board by the Chair.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

Request from Cllr Powell acting on behalf of the BCLT, that the following amendment be made to the Minutes of 17th November 2020:

Item 13 (ii) currently reading '... for at least 4 new houses', be changed to read '... for 4 new houses' in line with Housing Survey results.

Chair agreed to make amendment and sign off Minutes as correct.

3 Matters arising

Chair's E-News letter put on hold for now.

ITEM 9 (Prev. Minutes)

Litter Clearance actioned for Springtime (Covid permitting), as situation has worsened.

ITEM 10 (Prev. Minutes)

Broadhembury Playground ROSPA inspection is due in March. Chair asked Cllr Wicks to provide details in order for payments to be made from Section 106 monies.

Cllr Wicks confirmed we have an extension of 25 years to the existing lease

(ends May 2027) taking us through until 2052 and will duly furnish us with a copy.

Chair reminded Cllr Dunford-Brown that until we have a 10 year lease, or own the play area at Kerswell, we are unable to offer funding.

ITEM 19 (i) (Prev. Minutes)

Repairs to Church Roof match fund. Chair suggested a grant of £2,000 specifically for roof repair, but we would be unable to cover grass-cutting expenses as well.

Chair proposed and was seconded by Cllr Rees.

Cllr Bradshaw to advise when funds are required.

ITEM 19 (ii) (Prev. Minutes)

Noticeboards. New system working well - thanks go to Cllrs involved.

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- 4 Reports, DC, EDDC** None
Police Annual Report received from Darren England, PCSO.
Reductions of Crime/Incidents in the parish from 51 - 2019/20, to 43 - 2020/21 and those reported via 101/999 or Online from 78 to 73.
Public discussion: *(go to item 8)*
- 5 Planning report**
Cllr Bradshaw reported 4 applications, 3 of which were supported. The 4th (a revisit of James Barn, Kerswell due to an appeal being lodged with EDDC), resulted in agreement that the applicant would reduce visual effect of acoustic fencing, by planting up either side of the fence. *(At this point, Cllr Ledward joined the meeting.)*
- 6 Correspondence** None
- 7 Budget**
Councillors agreed the budget for the forthcoming year. In answer to Cllr Game's enquiry, the Chair advised that the Church Roof grant would be coming out of the Reserve Account, while the £500 Grant in the Budget was for other causes.
- 8 Precept**
Councillors agreed the years precept set at £8471.
(At this point the Chair returned to Item 4 of the Agenda for any points of Public Discussion - None.)
- 9 Capital Spend Initiatives**
Current initiatives include: First Aid Course, Bike Shed, Church Roof Repair (£2k commitment from PC during this meeting), Website, and Green Repair Cafe. The Chair requested Cllrs give some thought on this item and report back at the next meeting.
- 10 Increase in Parish Councillors**
Recognising that a significant number of our Cllrs work full-time, it was not always possible to commit to some of the requests we receive from EDDC and OPCC for Snow Wardens/OPCC Cllr Advocate Scheme etc. The Chair explained that with the devolvement of more responsibility to Parish Councils from County, there was now a strong case for additional representation in order to adequately serve the parish. Cllr Bradshaw proposed the increase P.C's and this was seconded by Cllr Rees. The Chair will now notify EDDC formally of this decision.
- 11 Report from CLT**
Cllr Powell reported that the CLT is making excellent progress and as of that day, membership stood at 92 members. A new website would be launched in mid February where all Minutes from their meetings will be available to view. Currently they are awaiting the outcome of a 'Planning Permission in Principle' submitted by Mike Drewe on behalf of the CLT, which identifies 'suitable sites'.
The Chair congratulated the CLT on all their hard work to date.

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12 **Bike Shed Project**

Due to current demand, Cllr Bradshaw had been unsuccessful on this occasion in securing a grant for the Bike Shed. Consequently, this project has been put on hold until an alternative funding source is acquired.

13 **Co-option of Parish Councillor** (see item 1.1)

14 **War Memorial Project**

Cllr Howgill had an initial quote for the stonework, but in order to secure funding for this project, he will be seeking several more. The Clerk is also in the process of completing the paperwork in order to progress the funding needed, for what looks to be a fairly costly project. Cllr Howgill to report back at next PC meeting.

15 **Traffic Speed in Village**

Cllr Rees has sent letters out to several people within EDDC and PCC. A meeting will be arranged with Phillip Morgan for a SCARF assessment. Cllr Rees and Game to meet with Phillip Morgan after lock-down situation alleviated, to agree site for digital speed count device.

16 **Redesign of Website**

The Chair proposed going ahead with the redesign of BPC Website at a cost of £735 for coders fees, this was seconded by Cllr Game. Cllr Ledward (Contractor for website), Cllr Game (agreed to act as Project Manager) along with the Clerk, will be reporting back to the Council with adhoc progress reports. A switch-over of Websites is hoped for sometime in April.

17 **Climate Agenda**

Plan is to complete small, low cost projects that engage with the community, improve the climate and develop our credentials in this area. The Chair was very enthused about a model developed by Exeter University and The Centre of Sustainability, that will enable parish comparisons to be made and prove a useful tool in gaining leverage for climate action/funds. PC colleagues in the Blackdown Hills are engaging with the University, to help gain an understanding of start points in measuring/improving emissions. The Chair will share the data from this meeting in due course.

18 **Report on Meeting with M.P.'s**

The Chair reported on the BHPN (Blackdown Hills Parish Network) meeting with MP's Rebecca Powell and Neil Parish (Marcus Fish was absent). Great uncertainty for farmers with changes in the Agricultural policy and introduction of ELM's. Also discussed Broadband and it transpires the MP's are relatively powerless in progressing this. Airband have been re-contracted for our area and will be providing 'Fibre' to the premises - something they've not done before... Finally discussed transport and interest is dwindling in bus transport for the Blackdown Hills. There was more concern over large vehicles using Satnav and consequent problems arising.

19 **AONB**

Chair had attached the Business Plan, but due to its size, left this item as 'noted'.

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20 Neighbourhood Plan

Chair stated from outset that trustees of the CLT should know that no criticism is intended. Regarding CLT Minutes, the Chair has requested either a redaction or a more congenial re-wording of a section that he felt inappropriate.

He reassured CLT members that he was pressing on with the NP and there were reasons for the delay, but these had little or no consequence to the progress of the CLT and they had been directly assured of this by the EDDC.

21 AOB

(i) Facebook

Cllr Game recommended Facebook to reach more parishioners as it notifies users of new posts, as opposed to websites, that rely on people to return. An old Facebook page for Broadhembury was started by Eva Shepherd who has since left the Parish and we are unable to obtain access. Cllr Ledward suggest we take over an existing Facebook page his neighbour just set up called 'Broadhembury Parish' and he would be happy for us to take it on. The Facebook page will then be linked to the new website. The Clerk will help Cllr Ledward in running the site.

(ii) Floods

Cllr Game mentioned drains with Storm Christoph coming and the need to keep drains and gullies clear. He pointed out problems with run off from fields and also where large vehicles have to pass each other. In addition Cllr Game has reported a BT manhole cover suffering from severe water erosion, on the road towards the Memorial Hall, but still awaiting response.

(iii) Dulford Speedwatch

Cllr Ledward updated on Dulford Speedwatch, but plans halted due to current lock-down.