

# Broadhembury Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Platform: ZOOM

16th MARCH 2021 - 7.30pm

## MINUTES

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. B. Nelson (Chairman), Mrs E. Bradshaw (Deputy), V. Game, C. Ledward, A. Powell, Mrs D. Rees, D. Wicks, R. Dunford-Brown, Mrs J. Henderson (Clerk)

In attendance: Cllr P. Skinner (EDDC - Tale Vale), Cllr G. Long (Guest speaker & Chairman of Upottery P.C.) and ten members of the public.

### AGENDA

1 **Apologies** Cllr Howgill

2 **Minutes of the last meeting**

BPC Meeting on 19.01.2021 and PIP meetings on 1.02.21 & 8.02.21 were approved, subject to one amendment:- BPC Minutes Item 11, should read 'Report from CLT' and not 'Report from CLT sub group'.

3 **Matters arising** - dealt with elsewhere.

The Chair took this moment to pay tribute to John Cathcart, Major (Retd.), who sadly died earlier this month. The Chair said he would remember his contribution to the community, his sense of humour and his leadership of the Remembrance ceremony. A date for his Memorial Service is yet to be announced. Our thoughts are with his family.

4 **Carbon Footprint Calculator Presentation**

Cllr Long gave a very interesting presentation of this new technology, which enables parishes to see the carbon footprint of their community in great detail, and then compare their output to other parishes. For example, a third of Upottery's carbon footprint comes just from the A303. More information can be found at:

<https://impact-tool.org.uk/about>

Cllr Long brought the presentation to a close and offered to take any questions.

Cllr Game asked in what way Upottery parish were hoping to impact their carbon emissions, from the data available on the website?

Cllr Long explained that it is early days and his parish are yet to see the demo he has given us this evening, although they have the link to the site and are being asked to explore the data. It is important everyone understands the data first, before its use can be fully exploited. New and innovative ideas will hopefully follow from parishes, or even individual households.

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Any further questions for Cllr Long can be sent to him direct, or through the Clerk. The Chair thanked Cllr Long, who then left the meeting at 8.05pm.

## 5 **Public discussions, Reports, DC, EDDC, Police**

There were no questions from the Public, or Reports, DC, or Police.

The Chair invited Cllr P Skinner to speak, and although not having anything specific to report from EDDC, he'd kindly come along to answer any questions generally.

Cllr Ledward asked for updates from a meeting they had a year ago, on Dulford Speedwatch issues and the 30mph sign. Cllr Skinner explained that since the pandemic very little progress had been made, but asked Cllr Ledward to get in touch and brief him with developments so far.

## 6 **Correspondence**

D. Hinshelwood - reported via email, damage to woodland on the Common land, south of Dunkeswell Airfield. Cllr Howgill and the Chair are looking into what can be done about the damage off-road vehicles are causing to the area.

BNCLT - The Chair referred to the exchange of E mails ( dated 23/26.02.21, & 1/2.03.2021) between the Chair of the CLT and the PC. In summary they alleged that the Chairman of the PC had acted improperly by representing the CLT in discussions with Parishioners.

The Chairman first addressed the tone of these E mails. He had found them surprising and abrupt. He felt it was inappropriate for a Community Land Trust to address the elected representatives of the community in this way particularly since both parties had agreed to cooperate in the interests of the community.

Turning to the substance of the E mails he refuted strongly any suggestion that he or any other Cllr had acted improperly. He explained that Parishioners often approached Cllrs with concerns or complaints, but rarely wanted their complaints attributed. He went on to assure the Trustees of the CLT, that he normally urged Parishioners to speak directly to the organisation or individual about whom they were complaining, but usually people declined. For the CLT to allege otherwise with no evidence, was unfounded and totally misunderstood the proper duties of a Parish Councillor.

He concluded by saying that this was not the first occasion on which he had mentioned to the Trustees of the CLT, that their actions in writing had been inappropriate and unfounded. Accordingly, he said that the relationship between the two bodies had in his view, irretrievably broken down and that the PC was in danger of reputational damage by association. He therefore proposed that the PC should rescind it's appointment of Cllr Powell as the PC nominated Trustee, with immediate effect.

The vote was carried by a majority and no one voted against.

After the vote, the Chairman said that the CLT should in future communicate with the PC through the Clerk, in the same way as any other organisation.

The PC would of course reconsider this decision if requested to do so by the CLT'

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## 7. **Planning report**

4 Cllr Bradshaw reported on 4 applications (excl. the PIP), all were supported and included: 21/0556/CPE, 21/0362/FUL, 21/0156/LBC and 21/0294/PDQ  
Visit <https://planning.eastdevon.gov.uk/online-applications/> for more information.

## 8 **Traffic Speed update**

Cllrs Rees and Game had met with Phil Morgan, Highway Neighbourhood Officer, on 2nd March, to discuss traffic speed issues through Broadhembury. Once lock-down concludes, Phil Morgan will return to the village with a hand-held device and take various measurements for evidence. He also offered to put Broadhembury forward for 're-marking' (repainting of road markings).

Dulford: Cllr Ledward had heard from Community Speedwatch that they have suspended activity until 29th March due to lock-down. Meanwhile Dulford residents continue with their video training in anticipation of beginning Speedwatch soon.

*Cllr Rees left the meeting 8.19pm*

## 9 **Capital Spend Initiatives**

Approx. £21k reserves.

Grant aided funds for War Memorial, First Aid Training, Committed £2k for Church roof and Bike Shed on hold. Cllr Dunford-Brown mentioned requiring playground equipment for Kerswell (referred to item 17). Cllrs asked to put on thinking caps for future ideas.

## 10 **Propose new date for AGM - 4th May 2021**

New date of the 4th May in order to avoid lock-down uncertainty.

The Chair proposed the new date, seconded by Cllr Bradshaw and all agreed.

## 11 **Process Review**

Review of yearly check on processes.

Cllr Bradshaw feels bi-monthly meetings seem to work well, but something we should come back to and can always have additional meetings in-between.

Cllr Dunford-Brown asked whether parishioners had been asked their views and the Chair felt it had been a while since their opinions had last been sought, so something to plan for in the near future, once lock-down eases.

## 12 **Governance review**

Document formally requesting this is on the website.

The request is for 12 Councillors - an additional 3 required.

The Chair asked Cllr Skinner for his thoughts.

Cllr Skinner supported the initiative given the reasoning behind the request.

The Chair proposed the document is now signed and sent to EDDC, seconded by Cllr Game and all in agreement.

## 13 **Clerk Salary**

All Cllrs received salary review details via email with proposal to increase salary from 1st April 2021.

Chair proposed salary increase, seconded by Cllr Game and all in favour.

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## 14 **Approval of Retrospective Invoices**

During the pandemic, the Clerk was given authority to pay invoices online and seek approval retrospectively. No queries were raised and the invoices were approved by all.

*At this point Cllr Skinner left the meeting: 8.27pm*

## 15 **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

An internal auditor is sought on a formal arrangement for which there is remuneration. If anyone knows of, or uses the services of a local accountant, could they please contact the Clerk before the end of this week. In the absence of any suggestions, the Clerk will seek to employ the services of an auditor elsewhere, subject to approval of a full P.C. meeting.

## 16 **Litter Pick Day - propose 22nd May 2021**

The Chair thanked Steve Carpenter, one of the parishioners who helped to clear litter in the village and also proposed a new date for the BPC Litter Pick Day of 22nd May. The Clerk will arrange the necessary kit and teams of volunteers will be headed up by: Cllr Rees - Broadhembury; Cllr Powell - Luton; Cllr Dunford-Brown - Kerswell and Cllr Ledward - Dulford.

Date to be reviewed nearer the time.

## 17 **Kerswell & Broadhembury Play Areas**

Kerswell: Cllr Dunford-Brown has now secured a 10yr lease that enables investment in the play area. It is proposed that as Section 106 monies was already earmarked for Broadhembury, the P.C. provides £1200 out of its own funds for Kerswell play equipment. The Rospa Safety report has also been published, outlining areas requiring attention. Cllr Dunford-Brown wanted to ensure all credit went to Stuart Ship for negotiating and the Cottrills, who had magnanimously given up their land. Regarding the Rospa report and equipment funds, Cllr Dunford-Brown felt there may be a shortfall, that would require some match funding. Cllr Dunford-Brown to come back with a proposal.

Broadhembury: The Chair thanked Cllr Wicks for making good the Wendy House. Cllr Wicks will come back with a proposal to replace the slide, integrating it with a climbing structure.

The Chair reminded that for insurance purposes, we will need to revisit the playgrounds in due course, to see how works are progressing in line with requirements outlined in the Rospa report. Scheduled for July's BPC meeting.

## 18 **Maintenance of Memorial Hall Car park/Millennium garden/playground/triangle**

Millennium garden - to rely on regular working parties

Memorial Hall - covered by the Chair and Cllr Powell

Triangle - Cllr Bradshaw advises a parishioner has kept it trimmed on a voluntary basis

Playgrounds - Cllr Powell to seek 2 quotes for grass cutting, for both Broadhembury and Kerswell playgrounds.

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## 19 **Website update**

Cllr Game reported on the series of meetings he has held with Cllr Ledward and the Clerk, in getting a new website and logo up and running. It is hoped to have a visual ready very soon. Chair thanked all for work on this project.

## 20 **AONB 30 Year Anniversary**

The Chair has invited the AONB to hold celebrations at the Memorial Hall for their 30 year anniversary, along with a farewell to Cllr Paul Diviani. We wait to see if they take up the offer.

## 21 **AOB**

Cllr Bradshaw wishes to officially thank Michael Pyle, for all the ditch clearing he has done in and around the village. Cllr Game also wanted to add his thanks. The works carried out by Michael Pyle have made a big difference, including clearing the leat, which will help reduce flooding risks to the village.

Cllr Wicks referred the Clerk to 'Keep Britain Tidy' for their annual litter campaigns and also referred Cllr Dunford-Brown to EDDC Match Crowd Funded Funds.

Cllr Game mentioned a way to un-mute yourself quickly during Zoom meetings, is to press the space bar.

Request from parishioner to use Memorial Hall bins for litter picking disposal. Stephen Syrett, Broadhembury Memorial Hall Trustees Chairman, said they were welcome to use the Memorial Hall bins, unless it becomes burdensome.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.