BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1052nd Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings

Mr M Pickford

Mr E Fry

Mt T Cave-Gibbs

Mr Martin Altham

Mr J Allison and Mr T Kimber were also in attendance.

The Clerk, Mr C Rothwell, was in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr S Carter, Cllr S Dawes Cllr E Richter and Wiltshire Councillor N Najjar.
2. To record Declarations of Interest. None recorded.
3. Chairman’s announcements. The Chairman welcomed Tim Kimber and Justin Allison to the meeting.

The Chairman reported the sad news of the death of David Gooden. David had been a previous Chairman of the Parish Council as well as being instrumental in the fund raising and work on the new Chalke Valley Sports Centre. Cllr Pickford recalled an occasion where a Council meeting had been held in David’s bedroom on account he was recovering after falling through a roof.

The Chairman wished to formally record thanks to David on behalf of the Council and of the residents of Broad Chalke and to pass the Council’s respects on to Sue and family.

1. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2022 as a true and accurate record. Approved subject to correction of name of Slate Barn.
2. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

The Clerk reported that the planning application for 1, Knighton Bridge Cottages, that the Council had raised some objections to, had been approved by Wiltshire Council but with some Conditions, including that it should not be occupied other than ancillary to residential use of the main property. This condition met the Council’s primary concerns.

The Clerk also reported that, with regard to village access works and funding, the intention is to submit an application to LHFIG in the new year.

1. Co-option of Parish Councillor. The Clerk advised the meeting that, with the expiry of the formal process and no election required, the Council was able to co-opt to the vacant position of Parish Councillor. Justin Allison had contacted the Clerk expressing an interest in coming back on to the Council and Justin was duly co-opted unanimously.
2. Report from Wiltshire Councillor Najjar. As Southwest Wiltshire Area Board were meeting this evening Cllr Najjar had sent his apologies. Cllr Najjar had indicated to the Clerk that the issue of speeding in the valley was on their Agenda.
3. To receive update on Low Lane Project.

The Clerk had circulated update from Ashley Truluck after his attendance at LHFIG earlier this month to present on behalf of the Council.

The Council discussed the release of funding from funding partners as the contractor is likely to require a proportion up front.

It was agreed that the Clerk write again to Linda Nunn at AONB to get certainty on the funding she has earmarked from DEFRA and that the Project Team meet early in the New Year with Sam from Boswell Bros to set out a work schedule.

It was also noted that the landowner has agreed to a contribution towards the works.

1. To receive update on Councillor Priorities

Cllr T Cave-Gibbs reported on the Defibrillator and that there will need to be some expenditure next year on some replacement parts.

Cllr E Fry reported on the potholes filled by the Parish Steward and his clearance of the footpath down to the Causeway. Identified works for the Parish Stewards next visit include the culverts down high Road again; to look at the standing water that accumulates on Knighton Road outside the bungalows and the sports centre; the ditch at Stoke Farthing on the bend; that a number ‘30’ needs to be reinstated on a speed limit sign on High Lane on the left coming into the village. Tim Kimber raised potholes along to Little London.

The Chairman reported on ROW and all seemed in order. We are not due full reinspection until 2024 but any matters can be reported to him.

1. To receive report on annual Playground inspection.

Cllr T Cave Gibbs took the Council through the highlights of the Inspection Report. There are no Red actions. Most are Amber and linked to surface condition or single post installations consequent of changes to standards that post-date the playground install. There is one bench that has back slats missing and should either be repaired or disposed. EF agreed to see if it was repairable.

There is one post that requires replacement on the ground net and new shackle required. Cllr Cave- Gibbs to organise these works.

1. To discuss the approach to Playground Replacement

A pre meeting on playground replacement had been attended by Cllr Cave-Gibbs, Cllr Altham and the Clerk at which an outline strategy had been agreed and which the Council approved as follows:

* Target for new installation Spring 2024
* Cllr Altham to provide Project Leadership with the support of Cllr Cave-Gibbs and the Clerk
* Consultation is undertaken with relevant segments of the village with the aim of establishing a Friends of Broad Chalke Playground Group (the Clerk has had initial meeting with parents at Teddy Bears and Victoria Pickford and Sarah Dorrington and a couple of other mums have expressed an interest in becoming involved).
* Through the Friends of Group, the type and cost of equipment to be determined, including items of equipment that should be retained.
* Applications made for two grants to be made once costs known.
* A Special Precept to be reconsidered for the 2024/25 Budget setting process in Autumn 2023.
* The Clerk and Cllr Altham and Cave Gibbs to meet further to get this up and running.

1. To discuss initiatives with the police

The PCC and Cllr Najjar had raised with the Chairman a mobile Police Station resource to visit rural villages, further details awaited.

The Clerk has had a meeting with the police on Selecta DNA property marking and it was agreed to look to hold a public presentation with the police immediately before the Parish Council meeting on 8 February 2023- say 6.15pm at which the possibility of establishing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme could also be discussed.

1. To update on village centre parking issues

The Clerk had written to the Queens Head and the Hub. Th QH were happy to try and help but not sure what. No response received from the Hub. The Clerk had also written to the Police and the request for assistance had been passed down the line but no specific follow up received.

The Council discussed the issue, recognised that there is a lack of parking for business and residents in this area but that unless there was illegal parking (which on the whole there is not), then little formally can be done. There is a resistance to double yellow lines, and it is also felt that parking in this area actually slows the speed of traffic. It was felt that the Hub should be contacted again to raise that staff/volunteer parking should still be in All Saints car park and not in the spaces at the Hub, and that the QH encourage use of its car park rather than on road.

1. To consider Planning applications

One application for a garage conversion and extension at Springwell, Tank Lane has been received. The Council did not have any objections to the proposals.

1. To receive Clerks Update

Bank Balance: £15,917.98 of which £1,000 is grant from SSE for Emergency Plan equipment.

1. S137 Grant application- Village Hall cinema and presentation equipment.

The Clerk presented application and a grant of £200 was approved if the project goes ahead.

1. To receive information on suggestion for dog exercise area in the village

Kate and Richard Jowett had raised this thought with a couple of Council members. The Council discussed various pros and cons of such a facility in the village. Further information would be required before more meaningful debate could be undertaken.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.27pm