BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1064th Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 13 December 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings

M Pickford

Mr E Fry

Mr J Allison

Mr T Kimber

Mrs E Richter

Mr S Dawes

Mr S Carter

Mr M Altham

PCSO Simon Ward, PCSO Jenny Moss attended for item 3.

The Clerk, Mr C Rothwell was also in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence. None
2. To record Declarations of Interest. Cllr M Pickford declared an interest in item 11 in relation to the Manor Farm Poor Patch by reason of his business associations with one of the interested parties.
3. Chairman’s announcements. The Chairman welcomed PCSO Ward and PCSO Moss. PCSO Ward updated the meeting on policing locally and on the speed checks undertaken outside the Hub since the last meeting, details of which had been provided to the Clerk.

Cllr Pickford raised issue of policing response to a recent incident on Stoke Farm where a local dog had attacked and killed two sheep. He had found it difficult to contact the Rural Crimes Team and wanted to know what further action was proposed. PCSO and Cllr Pickford to liaise directly.

1. To receive any public feedback on the Special Precept of £10,000 approved at the November 2023 meeting.

No adverse comments received following the Chairmans letter in the December Broad sheet and invitation to attend the December Council meeting.

The Clerk reported that the Precepting form had been received earlier today and needs to be submitted by 18 January 2024.

The Chairman considered that the Council has undertaken ‘due diligence’ and Precept for 2024/2025 will be £22,300.

For Band D properties the Broad Chalke proportion of Council tax is £69.33 with the Special Precept. It would have been £38.24 without.

1. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 November 2023. Agreed.
2. Matters Arising. The Clerk asked if any councillor could distribute more wheelie bin speeding signs to their neighbours.
3. To receive update from Wiltshire Councillor N Najjar. None submitted.
4. To receive report from Friends of Broad Chalke Playground.

Cllr Altham updated on position with fundings bids and particularly the National Lottery application which is awaiting finalisation of the new sports ground Lease.

1. To receive a report on the new Sports ground Lease negotiations.

**The Clerk advised the meeting on the discussions with Andrew and Ben Jeans on the new Lease. The draft Lease which is subject to Parish Council agreement is proposed at 15 years which is a shorter Term then the previous Lease but a satisfactory length in terms of security of tenure, particularly for funding organisations. However, the Draft does not include any Rights for further extension at the end of this Term and so the Council felt it should raise again that it would be prudent to have an understanding that further discussions are held in the final 5 years of the new Lease to plan for the future.**

**The Clerk also reported on his negotiations with Trethowans, the landowner’s solicitors, about costs which the Council would be required under the existing Lease terms to fund. Initial costs were proposed at £1500. This figure has now been negotiated down to £750.**

**The Council voted on signing the Lease and this was unanimously agreed, and authority given to the Clerk, as the Responsible Officer, to sign.**

**There was also discussion on whether conversations should be had around securing the land as a Community Asset and purchasing it with support from grant aiding bodies. One to be considered further.**

**There was also a query about a land exchange. It is understood that the Chalke Pyt Poor Patch was exchanged, in part, for land at the Sportsground.**

1. Update on Speeding Initiatives in the village.

**The Clerk reported on progress since the October meeting on the various initiatives:**

**-C12 Speeding Assessment- A specification for this has been received from Wiltshire Council, comments have been made in conjunction with Bishopstone Parish Council, and this has now been issued by Wiltshire Council to their consultants. It is anticipated that the work will be undertaken early in the new year.**

**-SID Location. It was agreed that this would be trialled on South Street.Cllr Carter and Cllr Hitchings to liaise.**

1. Broad Chalke Community Fund

**The Clerk had met with Michael Roe and further investigations with the Charities Commission are being undertaken to establish process for any disposal. There needs to be clarity on ownership and authority to dispose.**

1. ****To discuss the Neighbourhood Plan refresh.****

**The Clerk updated on position with Wiltshire Local Plan process and the submission that had been made to Wiltshire Council, particularly around clarity required on the housing targets and commitments for the village.**

**The Clerk also presented possible areas for consideration in the Neighbourhood Plan refresh that will be worked on in 2024, particularly around promoting carbon neutral and green projects which there was support for from councillors. There was also discussion on housing requirements/targets and the need for the Council to be clearly informing this process through the Neighbourhood Plan process.**

**Cllr Carter to coordinate a meeting.**

1. ****Low Lane Footpath.** The Clerk had met with the Chase and Chalke Landscape Partnership and with the Wessex River Trust with a view to planning some maintenance work through a local volunteer’s group in February 2024. Many thanks to Simon Allsebrook for coordinating the meetings.**

**Cllr Dawes raised an issue with the footpath alongside the Hub perimeter wall from Tank Lane and it is needing maintenance. Footpath surface repairs are the responsibility of the Highways authority so, if this is to be considered a priority it would need to be raised first with LHFIG.**

1. Councillor reports on Priorities Cllr Fry reported on work undertaken by Parish Steward whom he meets with on a monthly basis.

Cllr Pickford raised concern on road flooding at Stoke farthing and it was agreed he would contact David Button.

1. ****Finance Report.** Balance of funds in the bank were £21,659.38 but this included some reserves for Low Lane and grant commitment of £4,800 to the friends of Broad Chalke playground. The VAT repayment to end of October has been received.**
2. Planning Applications. There was no objection to PL2023/10260 for the tree works on High Lane.

The Council debated PL2023/09936, the application to remove Condition 3, the temporary permission for the Queens Head beer garden. The Council felt that it would be far preferable, with the new management in its relative infancy at the Queens Head, for a further period where the beer garden was operated on a trial basis and the Council felt that a further 3-year period to May 2027 would be a satisfactory basis on which to proceed. It would consequently be necessary to object to this application, but it was agreed the Chairman should write to the Chickpea Group to set out the Council’s views as there hadn’t been an opportunity to do so ahead of this application being submitted.

Cllr Kimber updated on the position with All Saints and the Vodaphone aerial that has been installed. The intention of the PCC is to enter into arrangements with other mobile phone operators.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 9.02pm