BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1054th Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 6.15 p.m.

The Parish Council meeting was preceded by:

1.

A presentation by Inspector Pete Sparrow of Wiltshire Police on Selecta DNA and from the Clerk on Neighbourhood Watch. Twenty members of the public were present.

**SelectDNA**

Inspector Sparrow reviewed crime statistics for the area and the policing approach through operation Siege. He went on to explain the forensic property marking scheme SelectaDNA and provided attendees with information on how to purchase the kit.

**Neighbourhood Watch**

The Clerk summarised the Parish Council’s desire to see a Neighbourhood Watch established in the village and provided an information leaflet from Wiltshire Association of Neighbourhood Watch and circulated a proforma for attendees to record their interest.

2.

An opportunity for any questions on the Low Lane Footpath Improvement Project. Mr M Dodd spoke to the Clerk. There were no other questions from residents.

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings

Mr M Pickford

Mr E Fry

Mr J Alison

Mrs E Richter

Mr T Cave-Gibbs

Mr Martin Altham

Mr T Kimber, Mr M Powis and the Clerk, Mr C Rothwell, were in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr S Carter and Cllr S Dawes.
2. To record Declarations of Interest. None.
3. Chairman’s announcements. None.
4. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022 as a true and accurate record. Agreed
5. Matters Arising.

Cllr Richter advised that, in the absence currently of Tony at the Hub the recycling initiative remained pending.

On the return to full duties of Cllr Dawes the volunteers register needs to be actioned on the Council’s website.

Cllr Pickford reported on the actions with highways on flooding issues. The greatest concern being the High Road. There is concern that the drainage ditch on the landowner’s property is blocked and is compounding the issue. The Clerk to write to the landowner and if no action to raise with Mr D Button at Wiltshire Council

The Chairman had looked at the ROW signs on Footpath 43. They are currently visible but only propped up. The Chairman to talk to the property owner to see if can be fixed to fence.

1. Report from Wiltshire Councillor Najjar. Cllr Najjar provided the meeting with a summary of work ongoing at Wiltshire Council. The Annual Budget is due to be voted on at the end of the month; locally, speed indicators had been funded; funding had been provided to Barford St Martin for playground improvements; good work was being done with the AONB on a range of environmental initiatives. Cllr Najjar also advised that, as Chairman of SWWAB, he was organising a Jobs Fare at Wiltshire College in May.
2. To receive update on Low Lane Project.

The Clerk summarised the current position with the project. Householder letters had been delivered. Only one request had been received and this would be actioned. The Secretary of the Allotments Society had been briefed by email and the Clerk had also spoken with him. Information had been included in the February edition of the Broadsheet and the Council’s website had been updated.

Advisory signage showing the temporary diversion route will be erected next week. A map showing the route has been agreed with the landowner. This would also be sent into the March edition of the Broadsheet.

The Clerk had submitted invoice to Wiltshire Council for transfer of the funding but, despite chase up nothing had been heard for a month. The Clerk asked Cllr Najjar to follow up with the officer from LHFIG.

The Chairman asked Cllr Najjar as to the security of the funds if there were to be a delay to the project start due to weather/ground conditions. Cllr Najjar advised that a start on site would be sufficient to demonstrate the project was committed.

1. To discuss church car park lighting.

The Clerk advised that he had been contacted by Henry Flint about the possibility of lighting installation in the Church Car Park which is currently unlit. The Council thought this to be a good idea to investigate. Cllr Pickford mentioned the need to have regard for the Dark Skies Reserve and that a conversation with the Dark Skies Advisor at AONB would be a good starting point.

Mr Powis raised the matter of the lighting down the footpath alongside the church. The Clerk has previously reported using the MyWilts App that two of the lights are not currently working and encouraged Mr Powis and members of the Council to do likewise as it seems that volume of reports appears to signify some level of priority to issues being addressed.

1. To discuss Coronation arrangements for weekend of 6 May 2023.

The Clerk had written to village organisations. As yet no plans for any celebrations made. The WI were happy to be of assistance if required.

The National celebrations had now been released.

It was generally thought that a village picnic like the Platinum jubilee might be appropriate. The Chairman asked for this item to be kept on the agenda.

1. To receive update from Friends of Broad Chalke Playground

Cllr Altham gave a comprehensive update on progress since the January meeting. Mrs V Pickford had agreed to be Chairperson of the new Friends Group and Cllr Altham its Treasurer. Mrs Juliet Pearce from CV Playschool had also agreed to help the Group.

A Facebook Page has been set up and there are now 50 followers. Cllr Altham has met with parents at the playground on several occasions and had some great feedback.

An application to SWWAB had been submitted for Phase 1 of the project. £5000 had been applied for; matched funding will be required.

A local play equipment supplier from Dinton had been to the site and provided some costings.

There had also been discussion of safety surfacing with the overwhelming view from parents that grass would be best. A full risk assessment will need to be undertaken and the process by which decision reached on appropriate surfacing to be recorded.

The Clerk advised that Council Financial Regulations and Procurement procedures will need to be adopted in the tendering process. We cannot just go to one supplier as need to demonstrate value for money.

Cllr Altham also reported that improved gate access and some ground treatment where muddy should also be included.

Could the old equipment be sold when replaced?

1. To receive update on BT Digital Switch Over.

Cllr Altham briefed the meeting on his investigations. A paper is appended to these Minutes.

1. To consider Planning Applications

PL/2023/00558. Trees at Cressview. No objections

Cllr Najjar briefed the meeting on the Wiltshire Council Call-In process.

1. To consider speed awareness signs

Cllr Najjar updated on his frustrations with lack of progress on the Valley speeding initiative, this largely due to changes in Portfolio holder and officers.

The Clerk asked the meeting if wheelie bin speed signs might be worth looking into. Approx cost £100 for 100. Further investigations to be made.

1. To receive Clerks Update

Bank Balance: £15,275.29

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.45pm

**DIGITAL VOICE**

**WHY IS THIS HAPPENING AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?**

Everyone in the village with a land-line telephone connection will soon be moving to Digital Voice (DV). Some properties and businesses have already received a communication from BT about this. Others will be contacted by their telephone provider in due course.

There is much confusion on this subject - mainly because the Government, Openreach, BT and others have done a woeful job of explaining what is going on, but also because in part of the  village it coincides with our Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme (RGVS) to bring in ultrafast  broadband through the Bishopstone Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) Project.

Up to now our land-line telephone services have been provided through copper wires which link our homes to the telephone exchange, which also provides the power for this service.  When the digital revolution came along broadband internet services made use of the same network of cables. These are now overloaded, incapable of supporting ultrafast services, are prone to break-down and are expensive to maintain. Consequently, the national network of copper cables is gradually being replaced with fibre-optic cabling, which is cheaper and much  more efficient at transmitting digital data.

In Bishopstone the eastern part of the village already has full fibre availability, and the remainder will have with the completion of the FTTP Project. Openreach have announced that the old copper wire based (analogue) phone service will be switched off in 2025 - though whether this deadline will be met is open to question. Digital Voice technology, also known as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), is the replacement and is being progressively rolled out across the country following pilots in two areas, one of which was Salisbury. DV gives users access to much clearer speech, call-blocking, call diversion eg. to your mobile if you are out, Alexa and voice calling.

For those who already have digital broadband services the switch to DV should be relatively straightforward. **Your existing phone should work**. It merely has to be unplugged from the old wall socket and then plugged in to a port (marked in green but often covered with a label) on the back of your broadband router. A diagram showing this is on the village website (www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk). Full guidance is at **bt.com/digital voice**. It is just possible that very old phones won’t work, in which case you can opt for a free replacement from BT as part of the switch over.

However, the switch over is not so straightforward if you don’t have an existing internet service. Service providers say that they can make special arrangements for those without any broadband service and for those with telecare or burglar alarms that rely on telephone connections. You should speak to BT on 0330 1234 150 (or to your provider if that is a different company).

Because the power for broadband routers comes from your own domestic supply, some are concerned that it will stop working if there is a power cut. This means that it will not be possible to make land line phone calls, including to the emergency services if needed. The advice from BT is to use a mobile phone instead. Mobile reception in the village is good but is heavily dependent on the mast on the hill opposite The Croft. This mast is itself dependent on power from the grid but does have an eight-hour battery back-up. It is considered that this is adequate to cover any power outage that might occur. If you continue to be concerned, it is possible to keep your router, and therefore Digital Voice, working with a home battery back-up pack. These are available to purchase, though they may be available free of charge to the particularly vulnerable – again check with BT.