BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1059th Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings

Mr E Fry

Mr J Alison

Mrs E Richter

Mr S Carter

Mr T Kimber

Mr M Pickford

Mr S Dawes

Mr M Altham

Mrs V Pickford and Miss I Pickford were in attendance for item 6. The Clerk, Mr C Rothwell was also in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence. None.
2. To record Declarations of Interest. None
3. Chairman’s announcements. The Chairman sought approval to amend the order of the agenda and take the Friends of Broad Chalke Playground item first.
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 June 2023. Agreed
5. Matters Arising. None that are not on the agenda.
6. Friends of Broad Chalke Playground Report.

Cllr M Altham and Mrs V Pickford gave a presentation on progress to date including update on funding position; costs and design proposals from 2 manufacturers; the outcome of design competition with the Chalke Valley Play School and with Broad Chalke School.

The Council discussed various matters raised in particular the projected costs of the preferred proposal; funding applications; ongoing maintenance and public consultation.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Pickford and Cllr Altham and the Friends Team for their diligent and thorough approach to the replacement project and to their success to date in raising £45,000 towards the playground. It was agreed that planning of public consultation event be undertaken by the Friends with a provisional date of 11 October at 6.30pm, prior to the October Council meeting.

The Clerk advised that there were a number of matters he wished to discuss with the Friends, and he would arrange to do so separate from the Council meeting.

1. To receive report from Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar. Cllr Najjar briefed the Meeting on the Wiltshire Council Local Plan (as summary paper had been circulated with the agenda) and commented that the housing target was not now as high as previously thought required.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Najjar on his appointment again to Chairman of SWWAB.

There was discussion on a number of highways and related issues and the frustration of councillors in getting action from Wiltshire Council. Cllr Najjar explained there is a new contractor in place, and it has taken time to ‘bed-in’ but all should now be working, including Parish Steward arrangements.

Cllr Najjar agreed to receive email list (including photos and locations) of councillor concerns, and he would step in and escalate. The process agreed is that Councillors report these to the Clerk who will coordinate a response. Cllr Najjar also to send update of Parish Steward functions to the Clerk as the Council reported that in previous ‘job descriptions’ the extent of the work the Steward is allowed to undertake is very limited!

1. To receive update on SID Data recording and use. The Chairman reported to the meeting on a briefing he had attended with the OPCC representative for riad safety. Unfortunately, the Pandora unit we have (as do Bishopstone) does not record the data in the required format and so the OPCC is unable to use at this stage. Cllr Dawes wondered if the data could be reformatted in some way?
2. To receive update on C12 speed limits initiative and to consider joint application with Bishopstone Parish Council to LHFIG to undertake Traffic assessments/s.

The Clerk had circulated a summary report from meeting with representative from OPCC and with the Director of Highways, Samantha Howell and a proposed way forward to at least, in the medium term, seek to address the priority issues in Broad Chalke and Bishopstone. Report appended.

It was agreed to submit a joint application for Traffic Assessment with Bishopstone.

1. To receive information on Wiltshire Council’s Local Plan approach and to consider the Council’s position on the Broad Chalke Neighbourhood Plan.

Briefing note from Wiltshire Council appended to these Minutes. This had been circulated with the agenda. The Wiltshire Local Plan provides town and parish councils with a number of homes they should plan through Neighbourhood Plans. The Local Plan is to 2038. Broad Chalke has a requirement for 23 units during the Plan period 2020-2038. Taking into account the affordable and private housing applications awaiting approval, there is a residual of 12 units required to 2038. This is what needs to be considered in the updated Broad Chalke Neighbourhood Plan from 2026.

It is unclear at this early stage how much of a rewrite the current Plan will require and the Clerk to make enquiries with Wiltshire Council and to talk with Ashley Truluck. It was agreed that all members of the Council review the current Plan and bring thoughts to the next meeting. The Chairman also recommended a small Working Group be established to take this forward. To be discussed at the next meeting.

1. To consider Council Priorities and Annual Village meeting feedback.

A copy of the current Priorities was circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that the format of the schedule be amended to show ongoing ‘functions’ of the Council separate from the key Priorities. The priorities were agreed as:

Highways and footpaths; Neighbourhood Plan; Neighbourhood Watch; Speeding initiative; Playground replacement; Sustainability.

These to be reviewed and Councillor responsibilities allocated at the next meeting.

1. To receive a report on Council Assets.

The Clerk updated the Council on discussions with regard to the remaining Village Poor Patch. Further information is awaited from the Trustees, and this will be reported in due course.

1. To receive update on Low Lane Project.

The Clerk reported that all works by the main contractor have now been completed, including removal of the access road covering. The condition of this will be monitored. There is a balance of funds remaining to fund initial remedial maintenance and a couple of years establishment maintenance. An interpretation board is also to be funded. We are still awaiting Wiltshire Council to attend to the highway’s drainage.

1. To receive report on Neighbourhood Watch.

Cllr Kimber and the Clerk together with Tina Carling have now set up a Scheme for Broad Chalke. Information boards have been erected at strategic entry points into the village.

Take up has been disappointing. Further Broadsheet items will be written to seek to encourage more members.

1. To receive update on Chalke Valley Fete and Show. Saturday 19 August,

The Clerk reported that plans are progressing, and posters were circulated for councillors to display.

1. To consider planning applications.

None.

1. To receive Clerks Update

Bank Balance: £18,812.93. This includes funds of £4,800 earmarked to friends of Broad Chalke Playground and the balance of funds for Low Lane Footpath.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 9.03pm

Appendices

**Broad Chalke and Bishopstone Parish councils**

**SPEED LIMITS ALONG THE C12 (BROAD CHALKE ROAD)**

1. Councillors will recall that Wiltshire Cllr Nabil Najjar has previously undertaken to focus on the issue of speeding along the C12. As part of that he arranged a meeting between Mike Ash (Clerk, Bishopstone), myself and Samantha Howell (Director Highways and Transport, Wiltshire Council) and John Derryman (Strategic Planning and Performance Officer Wiltshire PCC). That meeting took place on 20th June.

2. The key issues raised were:

* The large number of different speed limits along the road causing confusion, with  some very abrupt transitions (eg 60mph to 20mph in Broad Chalke);
* Whether a limit as high as 60 mph is appropriate anywhere along this road.
* Specific proposals for change in accordance with each councils’ priorities
* Any other measures that might be taken to improve road safety.

3. Wiltshire Council will, in due course, be considering the whole C12 corridor to identify improvements that could be made to highway safety. However, it was agreed that, in the interim, it might be possible to consider implementing a few specific changes.

The top priority for Broad  Chalke is the entrance to the village from the east, where the speed limit goes  from 60 mph to 20 mph in one jump.  Implementing a “step down” limit of 30mph, probably from the Newtown junction.

For Bishopstone the priority is a reduction in the speed limit on the section of the road past the Recreation Field and the pub from 40mph to 30mph.

4. The issue for decision at this meeting is therefore whether to submit a Highway Improvement Request Form (HIRF) to change the speed limits to 30mph.

**Process**

5. The process for putting forward highway proposals is to prepare a HIRF for consideration at the Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group (part of SWWAB).  The next meeting of the LHFIG will be in September. That group will need to determine whether they support funding a formal speed limit assessment. All speed limit assessments are undertaken by Wiltshire Council’s consultants Atkins and cost a flat £2,900 with the costs being split 75% to the LHFIG and 25% to the PC. So the parish councils would have to pay £725 for a speed limit assessment.

6. If the LHFIG support undertaking an assessment, then Atkins would be commissioned to undertake it and produce a report outlining their recommendations. This is then passed to the PC to determine whether they support the recommendations made.  Assuming that a reduction in a speed limit is recommended and supported by the PC then a cost estimate is produced and put before the LHFIG to obtain the necessary funding.

7. As a very general guide the cost of introducing a speed limit change on the ground would be between £6,000-£12,000 depending on the amount of signing and lining changes that are required. These figures include the legal costs involved. The costs would again be split 75%/25% (though SWWAB is looking at increasing the percentage PC contribution). So, the Council’s contribution could be £1500 - £3000. It is hoped that the change proposed would be towards the lower end of this cost range. This cost could be met from the Council’s reserves initially and  a ‘special precept’ raised in 2024/25 to cover the costs.

8. As regards timetable, we believe that, subject to the receipt of the Highways Improvement Request Form in time for the September LHFIG meeting and the group supporting the request, that the speed limit assessment would be completed this financial year with any changes on the ground during the next financial year. That timetable means that the cost of implementing any change can also, if necessary, be taken into account in precept setting for next year.

**Combined Assessment**

9. As regards the cost of a speed limit assessment (para 5 above), we understand that it would be possible for Bishopstone and Broad Chalke Parish Councils to submit a single HIRF covering both proposals (i.e a single covering form and two annexes). This would halve the cost to each of the councils (£362.50 each). This option is also being considered by Bishopstone at its Council meeting this week.

**Consideration**

10. We know that Cllr Najjar supports highway safety improvements on the C12 and he is now Chair of SWWAB. The Director of Highways, Sam Howell, clearly understood the concerns at the meeting on 20th June, though without any commitment. However, on consulting the Highway Engineer who is responsible for the LHFIG, his reaction was to reiterate the Circular 01/13 criteria and say that it is unlikely that any change would be  approved as regards the Bishopstone priority.

For Broad Chalke he considered that it unlikely that a speed assessment would recommend the introduction of a 30 mph speed limit on the approach to the 20 mph speed limit because the frontage density criteria will not be met to allow the approach to be defined as a village. However, a speed assessment may recommend the introduction of a lower speed limit on the approach to the 20 mph speed limit to help reduce the speed of vehicles arriving at it.

The recommendation of Mike Ash and myself is that a request for a traffic assessment be submitted.

**Issues for decision**

11. The issues for decision at this meeting are:

(i) do you wish to submit a HIRF, as outlined above?

(ii) do you agree (subject also to the agreement of Bishopstone PC) to a combined submission?

M R Ash

Bishopstone Parish Council

C Rothwell

Broad Chalke Parish Council