BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1037th Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at Broad Chalke Village Hall

Wednesday 9 June 2021 at 7.00pm

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings (Chairman)

Mr M Pickford (Vice Chairman)

Mr S Carter

Mr E Fry

Mr T Cave-Gibbs

Mr C Sylvan

Mrs E Richter

Mr S Dawes

Mr A Truluck was in attendance for the item on the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk, Mr C Rothwell was in attendance.

Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar was in attendance.

The Chairman introduced Mr Phil Jones who had requested to address the Council on the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Introduction by the Chairman** covering meeting protocol and arrangements for enabling councillors and members of the public to speak.

Members of the public are reminded that the Council cannot make any decisions on matters that do not appear on the agenda. If members of the public have questions about matters not on the agenda, they are requested to contact the Clerk outside of the meeting.

1. **To receive apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Mr J Allison.
2. **To record declarations of interest from Members regarding items on the Agenda.**

Mr Fry declared a pecuniary interest in the item on the Penlan Planning Application and a non-pecuniary interest in the item on the Chalke Valley Sports Centre.

1. **Chairman’s Announcements**.
* The Chairman asked the Council to introduce themselves for the benefit of Councillor Najjar and then invited Councillor Najjar to say a few words to the Meeting. NN thanked the Council for the opportunity of addressing the meeting and to introduce himself as the new councillor for Fovant and Chalke Valley, elected following Jose’s retirement. With 16 parishes to cover its quite a large patch but NN said that it was a privilege to have been elected and that anything that he could do to help the village and Parish Council he would do his utmost to assist.

Councillor Najjar mentioned that Wiltshire Council now has a new Leader, Councillor Richard Clew and that there have been changes in Wiltshire Council priorities. He also mentioned that he was the lead on Arts, Heritage, and Culture and that he had already had the opportunity of meeting with some of the Committee from the Chalke Valley Sports Centre. NN stated that he wished to be an open and accessible councillor and looked forward to working with the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Najjar for taking time out to attend the meeting and that he was welcome at any time.

* The Chairman then asked Mr Phil Jones to address the Council on his concerns with regard to the Community Land Trust proposals for housing on Knighton Road. Mr Jones was concerned that it did not appear from the Neighbourhood Plan Flyer distributed with the Broadsheet, that the concerns that he had vocalised at previous meetings and in meeting Mr Richter had been taken into account in the proposals set out in the NP. He stated that he recognised the value of the NP and supported the vast majority of it but that the housing proposals would blight his home. Mr Jones recognised that his concerns were not strictly planning considerations but they were ‘human’ ones and he felt that the proposals for the affordable housing had not taken into account the concerns he had raised previously.

The Chairman advised Mr Jones that the Neighbourhood Plan and the Community Land Trust proposals are two separate matters. The housing proposals are aspirational and have not yet entered any formal planning stage but are included in the NP as it is important to reflect the village position on need for housing and that this has come about through the 5 years of consultation.

Mr Truluck also advised that it should be noted that the proposals have been amended following village feedback and that Mr Jones’ concerns had definitely been listened to and fed into the architects discussions on revised proposal drawings. He also stated that the NP process had come about by a desire by the Parish Council and the village to have some control on what development does take place in Broad Chalke. Without the NP the village is open to widespread development, a position that Wiltshire Councillor Najjar also emphasised…a Neighbourhood Plan is the only way to defend national housing development!

An offer of further dialogue with Mr Jones was made by Mr Truluck on behalf of the Council and this to be followed up.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jones for bringing his concerns to the Meeting; assured him that these had and were being listened to and heard, but that also the Council has a responsibility to the whole village to take account of the widest possible views.

1. **Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.**

With the approval of the Meeting the Chairman brought forward this item to continue the discussion following Mr Jones leaving the meeting.

The Referendum takes place on Thursday 1 July 2021 between 0700 and 2200 hours in the village hall. It is a vitally important event that will dictate the future of the village and what say the village has in planning that future. A YES vote at the Referendum secures the NP as the blue-print which the Planning Authority must take into account in future development planning. A NO vote opens the village to far greater development pressure and little or no say by the village in what this looks like.

There should be no doubt that this is a watershed moment for the whole village and whole village support is needed to vote YES for the Plan.

The Meeting discussed various ways of raising the profile to encourage a turn out on 1 July including:

* Early delivery of the Broadsheet with the front cover changed to emphasise the importance of the NP and voting ‘yes’ (AT)
* Road signage on the run up to the 1 July reminding people to vote (TH)
* Extra leaflets in places of village gatherings (TH/AT)
* Door to door on Knighton Road (Dan Richter)
* Social media and websites (SD and Clerk)
* Information to Community Groups (AT/Clerk)
* Council members to spread the word (All)

The Chairman asked the Meeting for its support at the two village drop-in sessions on 22 and 29 June at 7.00pm.

1. **To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 May 2021 as a true and accurate record**. Agreed
2. **Matters Arising from the May 2021 Minutes**.
* **Microsoft Teams.** The Clerk advised that this will now be the main communications resource and document file for the Council rather than circulation by email. Chris Sylvan to link up with Justin Allison to complete the Councils access via Teams. The discussion then touched upon use of the technology at meetings and being able to share and discuss files and plans using projector screen. The Clerk and Mr Dawes to progress.
1. **War Memorial and grounds maintenance**
* **Treatment of Moss.** Mr Allison had raised this as the war memorial lawn is significantly invaded by moss. With no additional budget and with ongoing monitoring of the Lime Trees (see next item) it was felt that it would not be a prudent investment at this stage.
* **Lime Trees.** Whilst Wiltshire Council’s Tree Officer had inspected and reported that the Council should consider replacement, the Council was concerned as to likely cost and impact of felling all trees, grinding out the roots and replanting. The Clerk flagged that there may be insurance implications should there be any injury from falling limbs now we have Tree Officer recommendation. The Meeting resolved to instigate a formal monitoring of the tress and that, in addition to the Council’s grounds man keeping a close check on condition each maintenance visit, the Council would have a formal inspection prior to each monthly meeting and continue to keep under review.
1. **Parish Council Communications.**

**Website**: The position has moved on since this was first raised midway through last year. The Council now has a Social Media presence through Facebook and Twitter and has a Lead Councillor in Mr Dawes to work with the Clerk on communication messages and information to our community.

Rather than build a new website the Meeting resolved to retain the existing website meaning no additional costs on rebuild or hosting; to continue to increase the Council’s profile through Social Media and to simplify the current website so that it becomes the ‘space’ where public information is accessed (e.g. Minutes and accounts).

**Email Signatures:** Mr Dawes had circulated some examples and the disclaimer suggested. The Clerk emphasised that emails that councillors send need to be on behalf of the Council and not as a private individual so a ‘Corporate’ format is required. A preferred set up was agreed and that no telephone numbers would be included. Mr Dawes to refine the example and recirculate. This then to be embedded into individual councillor emails.

1. **To receive reports from Councillors on Priority areas.**

The Clerk reviewed the Priorities set at the Annual Council Meeting and the Meeting agreed the following refinements: Mr Dawes to take website lead and Mr Fry to be added to the War Memorial priority area with Mr Allison pending ongoing monitoring.

The Clerk briefed the meeting that the Agenda will include an item on Priority area updates so that councillors can report every couple of months on progress and actions.

1. **To update on position with Speed Indicator.**

The Chairman briefed the meeting on the discussions with Mr Butler from the Queens Head and the proposals to replace the SID.

Following a review of the options, the Meeting resolved to progress with the purchase of a new SID and power unit total costs £2705 + VAT for the sole use of Broad Chalke; to advise Bishopstone PC of this decision; to resolve any issues with the shared asset; and to investigate other partner contributions additional to The Queens Head from Chalke Valley History Festival, The Hub and the Gurston Hill Climb.

The Parish Council to retain ownership and to coordinate installation.

1. **To receive Finance Report from the Clerk**

Balance at Lloyds Bank £17,642.04

Payments since last meeting: Village Hall S137 grant £150; Clifford Fry for internal audit £200; Groundsman £249.18.

Receipts: VAT refund for 2020/2021 £1169.29

1. **To receive report on Chalke Valley Sports Centre**

The paper from CVSC ‘Getting our Community Active Again’ setting out a number of projects and grant applications to bring new activities and opportunities to the village and the Chalke Valley had been circulated with the Agenda. The Council as Lease holder is being consulted on the projects and to agree to accept grants in order to maximise the funding through VAT exemption.

It will be important t maintain expenditure beneath the de-minimus level for external assessment.

1. **To receive report on highways and drainage.**

Mr Fry reported that the new schedule for Parish Steward had been received and that he has arranged to meet with him. The schedule of works that the stewards are instructed to assist with is limited which is frustrating as there is much that could be achieved. Mr Fry to discuss painting the rails on the Causeway bridge.

The Clerk also advised on email received from David Button at Wiltshire Council in connection with the ongoing drainage and blocked lets at Longbridge. A works instruction has been raised for the vactor tanker gang that have root cutting equipment to attend, but they only visit the district once each quarter so there will still be a wait. Mr Button also mentioned that he thought it unlikely that a new let would be agreed by the Environment Agency into the sensitive river system.

We need to keep monitoring the position once the root clearance has taken place.

1. **To receive any Planning applications.**
* Manor Farm Barns PL/2021 05682 & 04282: No objections.
* 2 Stoke Farthing Courtyard: PL/2021/04347; Discussion on scale and positioning in terms of visibility. No objection with the proviso that a condition be applied that it should not be sold as a separate home.
* Maud’s Cottage PL/2021/04065: This application generated significant discussion bearing in mind the application to replace old single storey garage with a much larger two storey garage, gym and studio in this prominent location and that it is not connected with the main residence. There was concern that this changes significantly what is there and the proposals look more like a new residential property. The Meeting agreed to object to this application.
* Penlan PL/2021/04547: No objection.
* Tank Cottage, Tank Lane. No objection.

**14. Date of Next Meeting.** 14 July 2021

The Meeting closed at 9.02pm