BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1063rd Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 8 November 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings

M Pickford

Mr E Fry

Mr J Alison

Mr T Kimber

Mr M Altham

PCSO Simon Ward, PCSO Jenny Moss and Wiltshire Councillor Nabil Najjar were in attendance.

The Clerk, Mr C Rothwell was also in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence. Mrs E Richter, Mr S Dawes.
2. To record Declarations of Interest. Cllr J Allison declared interest in item on Grounds Maintenance Review and Cllr T Hitchings on the planning application.
3. Chairman’s announcements. The Chairman introduced PCSO Ward and PCSO Moss. There followed a discussion on local policing and issues of crime in and around Broad Chalke with Council members expressing concern as to the number of incidents. PCSO Ward advised that public reporting is critical. 999 should be used for incidents in progress. 101 to report other crimes. Community messaging was also a good way to receive information. The Chairman would like to see support from the police on speeding initiatives in Broad Chalke, especially as we no longer have an operational Speed Watch Group, and police surgeries held in the Hub were also seen as important. Cllr Kimber to include an article in December Broadsheet.

The Chairman then welcomed Cllr Najjar who provided the meeting with an update on Wiltshire Council including:

* That the council is in a sound financial position
* Work is being undertaken to develop the 2024/25 budget.
* Wiltshire Local Plan. There followed a discussion on housing allocation in Broad Chalke to 2038 and some queries raised as to the number of units committed and how the 9 units yet to receive planning approval countered in the numbers. Cllr Najjar to seek confirmation from Planning Dept. The Chairman sought support from Cllr Najjar to push the CLT application so that the affordable homes could move forward.
* Area Board funding. Cllr Najjar to look at options for the Multi Use Games Area but felt that June 2024 may be a better time to submit application.
* C12 Speed assessment. The Clerk asked that pressure be put on Highways as no update provided on timing for this bearing in mind its some two months since LHFIG approval.

1. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 October 2023. Agreed.
2. Matters Arising. Neighbourhood Plan- this needs to be taken forward. Cllr Carter is lead Councillor. The Clerk confirmed that there is no current year funding and no information on grants at this stage for 2024/25. May be an area to consider Special Precept.
3. To receive report from Friends of Broad Chalke Playground.

Cllr Altham updated on position with design, preferred supplier, and grant funding. Work currently on going to provide information to the National Lottery Community Fund following submission of application. More work being done on inclusive play and access. Currently an issue with the Lease that the Clerk is working through with Andrew Jeans. This may prevent decisions being made by the Lottery until new Lease in place. Council will need to fund.

Council discussed issues around cash flow and VAT. There is an emerging plan to seek to structure this and avoid need for ‘bridging finance’.

1. Update on Speeding Initiatives in the village.

* C12 speed assessment. Awaiting information from WC.
* Wheelie Bin signs. The Clerk has ordered and these available for collection and distribution by councillors.
* SID Location. No update available from Cllr Carter. The Chairman to arrange with Cllr Fry repositioning on High Lane.
* Highways speeding notices. The Clerk reported on meeting with Fovant and the action taken by Wiltshire Council on removal of unauthorised signs. This is NOT a way forward for the Council.
* High Lane 30 mph. The Clerk reported that he has replaced the missing ‘30’.

1. Update on local Policing. Covered in Chairmans announcements.

Clerk is also in email correspondence about attendance of PCC and Chief Constable as discussed at the October meeting.

1. Broad Chalke Community Fund

The Clerk reported on his further meeting with Michael Roe as representative of the Trustees and the work he has taken forward with surveyor.

Awaiting information from Charities Commission of disposal of assets.

1. Councillor reports on Priorities

Cllr Fry reported on work undertaken by Parish Steward whom he meets with monthly.

1. Discussion on 2024/2025 budget and Precept.

There was detailed discussion on the draft budget and the need for Special Precept. A vote was taken and unanimous support for a 3% uplift in the general budget to a precept of £12,300 and for a Special Precept in light of the Council’s commitments to funding of the Playground; the C12 speed assessment and any subsequent Traffic Order amendments, and to the need to refresh the Neighbourhood Plan. A Special Precept of £10,000 was unanimously supported.

Broadsheet article to be written to explain the Council’s decision.

1. Grounds Maintenance Review

Cllr Allison declared a pecuniary interest.

The Clerk reported that he had received feedback from Cllr Fry on areas to be included in the specification.

The Clerk asked the Councillors if they wished to ‘test the market’ it now being 3 years since the works were awarded to Mr Allison. The Chairman felt that this could be looked at next year.

1. Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

The Clerk reported that all in hand.

1. To consider planning applications.

The Chairman declared a non-pecuniary interest. PL/2023/09222

The Council had no objections to this application as it had on the original.

1. To receive the Clerk’s update and Finance Report

Balance in the bank as of 8 November £18,158.84

VAT reclaim of c £3,500 yet to be made. Commitments not yet paid: £4,800 to Friends of Broad Chalke Play Area; £200 to Cricket Club.

The Clerk also sought approval for half year payment for Professional Services which was approved.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 9.07pm