BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1050th Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings (Chairman)

Mr M Pickford (Vice Chairman)

Mr T Cave Gibbs

Mrs E Richter

Mr S Carter

Mr Martin Altham

The Clerk, Mr C Rothwell, was in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr Dawes, Cllr Sylvan, Cllr Fry, Ashley Truluck, Mr Phil Jones
2. To record Declarations of Interest. None
3. Chairman’s announcements. The Chairman advised that, due to work commitments Cllr Sylvan had decided to step down from the Council.
4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the August 2022 meeting were accepted as a true record. There had been no Meeting in September as a mark of respect following the death of the Queen.

1. Matters arising.

The Clerk advised that he has chased up Scottish and Southern Electric for the £1000 Emergency Plan equipment grant and was expecting transfer into account in coming days.

The Clerk also advised that, following a look at the rebuild costs for the Chalke Valley Sports Centre for the Council’s insurance renewal, and information kindly supplied by Damon Johns at architects Space Design Solutions Limited, using a price per meter at the lower end of market rates of £1750/m2, a rebuild valuation would be £446,250. The Clerk is awaiting response back from insurance brokers on revised premium rates.

1. Report from Wiltshire Councillor Najjar. No report.
2. To receive report on access issues in the village.

The Clerk advised that Phil Jones was unable to attend the meeting so the item would be deferred to November. There was some discussion as to the cost benefit of any works to improve access through drop curbs. The Clerk had discussed grant support with Wiltshire Council through the LHFIG and they do provide funding should a scheme be submitted and approved.

1. To receive update on Low Lane Project

The Chairman and Clerk briefed the Meeting on the current position. It had been difficult to get any information on the position with grant application from AONB and a decision had been awaited for some 4 months. An email had been received this evening from the Project Officer and this suggested that, whilst the scheme was to be commended it did not fulfil the requirements of the AONB funding scheme and could not be supported.

The Council expressed significant disappointment in this outcome and particularly the lack of communication over recent weeks from the AONB and that this had put the project back several weeks, indeed it now being most unlikely to proceed this financial year which may also put at risk the funding from Wiltshire Council.

The Clerk advised that the project could be taken back to the LHFIG as they are able to approve funding up to 75% and they had already approved 50% plus a 20% contingency. There was significant debate as to the strategy going forward and it was agreed that the project be resubmitted to the November LHFIG for an increase in funding support. At the same time the Chairman to contact Mr Wilkins at Disc World Foundation about general support to community projects in the village, this being one.

1. To receive Councillors reports on Priorities

Cllr Richter sought support to explore with the Hub a recycling initiative and this was fully supported by the Council.

The Chairman to report on Rights of Way update at item 13.

1. To discuss approach to playground replacement.

The Clerk reminded the Council on costed options received from Wicksteed Leisure and Playdale with differing range and number of play units and costs ranging from £21,000 to £49,000.

The Council has agreed this project should be a priority but there is not the available finance currently to progress. The Council had heard at the June meeting that grants to parish councils from Wiltshire Council are likely to be much reduced in the future, funding being switched to community groups instead. The Clerk had put some information out in the Broadsheet about establishing a Friends of Broad Chalke Playground to look into fundraising. No response had been received.

It was agreed that the Clerk explore with the Chalke Valley Sports Centre Committee an option for them to make application and also to see if talking with groups such as Teddy Bears might raise level of interest to form a Playground group. The meeting also discussed raising a ‘Special Precept’ to secure funds towards the playground and this to be explored through the Budget setting process.

1. To consider village maintenance requirements

The Clerk had sent note around to councillors as to any maintenance issues that might need to be considered in setting next years budget. Cllr Fry had identified painting of the wooden rails at Longbridge.

1. To update on War Memorial ground works

The Clerk advised that moss treatment, scarification and aeration had all been completed. General view is that the lawn is already looking much improved. The Council thanked Cllr Pickford for dealing with disposal of arisings.

1. To discuss continuing concerns with Footpath No. 43.

The Chairman reported on his meeting with householders and the position of Wiltshire Council following Alex Howson also meeting householder.

It had been agreed that the householders keep a 1.2m gap for pedestrian access, and this was acceptable to the ROW officer. The Chairman considered that, if this was maintained then it is the best compromise and the matter should be closed, unless there are further complaints.

1. To discuss Queens Head pub and patrons parking.

In the absence of Cllr Dawes who had raised this matter the meeting discussed the general parking in this area and whist far from ideal, that cars park on the bend actually slows vehicles down. The police have also commented previously that they would not get involved as no offence is being committed.

1. To consider Planning applications

- PL/2022/07534. No objection

- PL/2022/07761. No objection

- PL/2022/07760 No objection

- PL/2022/07641 No objection

1. To receive Finance update

The Clerk reported on balance in the bank on 30 September of £18,112.37 having received the second tranche of the Precept. There have been some expenditure items since this balance.

Budget 2023/2024. The Clerk had circulated an initial draft for Council consideration and councillors are asked to consider this fully for the November meeting. There was discussion on the raising of a Special Precept and the view was that this should be explored but recognising these are times of financial hardship for some.

1. To plan Remembrance Sunday

This is Sunday 13 November 2022. Cllrs Pickford, Carter and Richter volunteered to assist the Clerk in traffic management. The Chairman will be reading the Roll Call and the service will be led by Kate Woolvern. The Clerk is awaiting response from Ed Gairdner as to the Last Post.

Other Matters

Cllr Richter asked if there was any funding for ‘hardship’ in the village to help families that might be struggling as a consequence of current fuel and mortgage costs. The Chairman advised of the Broad Chalke Community Fund. The Clerk to check with Sue Fry if they are doing any promotion to raise awareness.

The Clerk briefed the meeting of his discussions with the police on Crime Prevention initiatives and on establishing Neighbourhood Watch and the possibility of holding a public event to promote.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.40pm