BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1062nd Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 11 October 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mr M Pickford (Chairman)

Mr E Fry

Mr J Alison

Mrs E Richter

Mr S Carter

Mr T Kimber

Mr M Altham

Mrs L Wiltshire, Mr A Wiltshire, Mr J Brooks, Mr R Sheppard, Mr A Truluck, Mr C Littlemore, Mrs H Bell were in attendance.

The Clerk, Mr C Rothwell was also in attendance.

1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr T Hitchings, Cllr S Dawes, Wiltshire Council Nabil Najjar.
2. To record Declarations of Interest. Cllr J Allison declared interest in item 13 on Grounds Maintenance Review.
3. Chairman’s announcements. The Chairman sought approval to amend the order of the agenda and take items 6, 7, 8 9 and 10 first. The Council supported this.
4. To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2023. Agreed. The Minutes of 9 August 2023 were also signed.
5. Matters Arising. None that are not on the agenda.
6. To receive report from Planning Sub Committee on response to Planning Inspectorate- Land Adjacent to Knapp Farmhouse.

The Clerk advised the meeting on the background, the reasons for holding a subcommittee and the advice sort from Mr C Littlemore as the Council’s advisor. The subcommittee report had been circulated together with the Proof of Evidence.

Mr Littlemore briefed the Council on the Proof of Evidence that had been presented to the subcommittee and that the document had been further strengthened from the objection to the original applications previously reported to the Council in connection with vision splays and loss of hedgerow. Mr Littlemore advised the Council that the Proof of Evidence provided conclusive dismissal of the planning applications and appeal and had been constructed in defence of any ‘tilted balance’ that might be considered by the Planning Inspectorate.

Ashley Truluck spoke to the Council as Neighbourhood Plan Lead, fully supporting the Proof of Evidence and summarising that the application was contrary to the adopted Neighbourhood Plan and should be refused on this basis.

The Chairman invited any comments from members of the public present. Mrs Wiltshire advised the Council that they supported the Proof of Evidence and had discussed this with Mr Littlemore.

The Chairman then asked for a vote on approving the Planning subcommittees report and the Proof of Evidence. The Council voted unanimously to support the report and object to the planning application and appeal on the fundamental basis that they are contrary to the Council’s adopted Neighbourhood Plan.

1. Discussion on Neighbourhood Plan refresh

The Clerk set out the current position with the Broad Chalke Neighbourhood Plan (NP) that runs to 2026, adopted in July 2021, and the relationship to Wiltshire Council’s (WC) Local Plan review currently taking place. The Clerk drew attention to the Local Plan consultation and agreed to circulate information from WC on consultation events and the link to Neighbourhood Plan resources produced by them.

The Clerk had reported to the August Council meeting that his initial research indicated that the Council would not be eligible for funding from the Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme for 2023-2024. The NP had cost c £20,000 to produce, mainly consisting of professional advisor costs.

Ashley Truluck briefed the Council on his initial investigations with WC and with the consultants used for the NP. Indications are that WC expect to have draft Local Plan available for examination in March 2024. There would then be a 24-month period for consultation and finalisation.

Ashley advised that, following his discussions with Place Studio Consultants (the Consultants) the view is that the NP has to be written in tandem with the timescales of the WC’s Local Plan (LP) but in the likelihood of delays to the WC process, the Broad Chalke NP would continue to be the adopted Plan until the senior plan (the Local Plan) had been concluded. This is because the review of the NP will need to take account of any LP changes. Ashley commented that WC expect just a realignment of the NP, taking into account any new Government or WC policies and advised caution with any new ideas or ambition from Broad Chalke as this would require detailed consultation and increased costs!

Ashley had discussed with the Consultants and thought that the Council could qualify for £10,000 of funding this year from the Locality Funding Programme. The Clerk to investigate again as this was not his understanding from an initial review of this support programme.

Ashley suggested that, if the approach is a simple refresh, it should be in three stages:

1. Establish a Neighbourhood plan Review Team to review WC’s LP and to veto any plans for major development in the village f appropriate/necessarey. Timescale by 22 November 2023.
2. Produce scoping document for the revised NP. Timescale by March 2024.
3. In 2024/25 apply for funding if available; appoint Place Studio Consultants to work with the Neighbourhood Plan Team and to consider the amendments and updates to realign the NP to the LP and/or any significant changes that may be considered as part of any ‘new ambitions’. Revised Plan then to be submitted to WC for confirmation.

Ashley also identified risks that he foresaw:

1. Over ambition by the community that would then warrant greater rigour in the process towards a ‘realigned’ NP.
2. No funding available
3. The WC Plan process introducing significant change and/or delayed.

*FOOTNOTE 1. Labour leaders’ speech to the Labour Party conference this week indicated radicle change to the approach to housing development should labour be elected at a General Election!*

*FOOTNOTE 2: Any appointment of paid advisors would need to be done in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Procedures.*

A proposal was made that Cllr Carter be the Council’s lead on Neighbourhood Planning and a NP Team of Cllr Carter, Ashley Truluck and the Parish Clerk be established.

*FOOTNOTE: This proposal will need to be considered alongside agreeing Budget and any Special Precept and grant to cover consultant’s costs and Clerks time.*

1. To consider SID location and speeding issues on South Street. Mr Brooks spoke to the Council of ‘near misses’ outside his property on South Street due to speeding vehicles. The Chairman advised the meeting of past attempts to amend speed limits and the Clerk updated on the position as regards the C12 and the Speed Assessment.

Ashley Truluck felt that the Council should place appropriate notices on the highway and put pressure on Wiltshire Council to ensure all signage is clear- there are signs on High Lane that are obscured by vegetation and/or missing the 30mph numbering. He also encouraged the Council to attend LHFIG as this is where funding is allocated. The Clerk advised that he was in regular contact with the secretary of LHFIG and attendance is made when appropriate. Funding has recently been secured for the C12 speeding assessment in partnership with Bishopstone PC.

Cllr Carter informed the meeting of signage that was being used in Fovant.

It was noted that Broad Chalke no longer has a Speed Watch group.

Following discussion on possible measures the following was agreed:

1. The Clerk to investigate temporary roadside signage as used now by Fovant PC.
2. Cllr Carter to liaise with Mr Sheppard and Cllr Hitchings as to siting the SID on Mr Sheppard’s land on a trial basis.
3. The Clerk to purchase some wheelie bin stick-on speed warning signs.
4. Cllr Fry to liaise with the Parish Steward on cutting back overgrown vegetation and speed limit signs.
5. Discussion on Neighbourhood Watch and Crime in the village

Mr Brooks briefed the Council on the break-ins at his property and the measures taken so far including CCTV, alarms, and bollards. Mr Brooks is keen to see what might be planned with the Parish Council in looking at a way forward that benefits the village and reduces the incidence of crime. The Chairman commented about the introduction of Neighbourhood Watch by the Parish Council, but that take-up had been disappointing.

The Clerk briefed the meeting on his liaison with the Neighbourhood Policing Team and the frustration that the PCSO that had been covering the village for the last couple of years had moved on and not been replaced.

Mr Brooks advised that his discussions with the police had identified they were struggling to get any info on vehicles and perpetrators and that they had advised that it is cross boundary criminals but that they didn’t liaise with Dorset police! The byway from Howgare Road to South Street was seen as a particular issue and there was discussion as to installation of barrier similar to the one installed on Church Bottom.

It was agreed that:

1. The Clerk to approach the Chief Constable and the PCC about attendance at a future meeting to receive questions from the Council and public.
2. The Clerk to approach the Neighbourhood Policing Team again for an update on resourcing police in the village and more regular attendance, say quarterly, at PC meeting.
3. Mr Brooks to contact Angus Mann as to installation of barrier.
4. Further awareness raising of NHW.
5. To receive update on C12 Speed limits initiative

The Clerk advised that, following agreement of LHFIG to funding a speed assessment, we are awaiting on Wiltshire Council to produce the Brief to their consultants. This is being done in conjunction with Bishopstone PC. It should be noted there is a £365 commitment on the Council’s budget for its contribution to the assessment.

1. Councillor Priorities

The Clerk had circulated update Version 3. Cllr Carter agreed to be named as Council Lead on Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk asked for progress on the other Priorities and in any areas of Functional responsibility that councillors were lead contact for.

1. 2024/2025 Precept

The Clerk had circulated initial 2024/25 Budget template for Council review. It was agreed this to be further considered by Cllr Carter and the Clerk and for end of year projections to be assessed to better inform the budget for next meeting. A Special Precept was discussed again. Cllr Altham reported that, if the grant applications are successful then it would not be required for the Playground but would be good to keep as a ‘live’ budget proposal. The work on Neighbourhood Plan may also need special budget provision.

1. Grounds Maintenance Review

The Clerk advised the Council that it is now three years since the start of the current arrangements, and it is appropriate to review service requirements to ensure that value for money is being delivered. It also provides an opportunity to review the specification. Cllr Allison had declared an interest in this item but was invited by the Chairman to comment.

Cllr Allison advised the Council that it had been a difficult year with both personal circumstances and the unpredictable weather impacting on the work, but that he was confident that things were now more on an even keel and he was committed to continuing and was enjoying the work. Cllr Allison also stated that he was more than happy to continue with no increase in unit costs.

It was agreed that the Clerk would review the Specification and consider any amendments.

1. Remembrance Sunday arrangements

The Clerk raised the matter of wreath laying and that it had been raised with him that a senior member of the Armed Forces should be approached to do this alongside the Chairman of the Council. Cllr Kimber to raise with James Senior in the first instance.

Cllr sRichter and Pickford agreed to assist with the traffic management.

The Clerk had been in contact with Ed Gairdner about sounding The Last Post.

1. To Receive update from the Friends of Broad Chalke Playground.

Cllr Altham briefed the meeting on progress, funds received, now being £50,000, and grant applications made. Discussions were taking place with three companies in compliance with Standing Orders following the publication of Expressions of Interest Notice.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Altham and the Friends for their extraordinary efforts in moving the project to this stage.

1. To consider Planning applications

No objections were made to applications Sunnyside PL/2023/08302 or to the Causeway PL/2023/08189.

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

Balance in the bank at 5 October 2023 £21,394.99.

The Clerk sought approval for the placing of order for replacement of artificial cricket wicket on behalf of Broad Chalke Cricket Club and receipt of grant funds to cover the cost. The Council unanimously supported this.

The Clerk expressed disappointment on the lack of support and communication from WALC on the issue of Poor Patch. Correspondence from early August remained unanswered despite a number of follow ups. The Council agreed to review its position on membership and funding in the budget preparation for 2024/2025.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.57pm