BROAD CHALKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the 1049th Meeting of the

Broad Chalke Parish Council

held at the Village Hall, Broad Chalke on

Wednesday 10 August 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mr T Hitchings (Chairman)

Mr M Pickford (Vice Chairman)

Mr E Fry

Mrs E Richter

Mr S Carter

Mr Martin Altham and the Clerk, Mr C Rothwell, were in attendance. Ashley Truluck attended for the item on Low Lane.

1. To receive apologies for absence. Cllr Dawes
2. To record Declarations of Interest. Mr Altham declared interest in planning application PL/2022/05619.
3. Chairman’s announcements. None
4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the June 2022 Annual Council meeting were accepted as a true record. There had been no Meeting in July due to holidays and illness.

1. Matters arising. There were none.
2. Report from Wiltshire Councillor Najjar. There was no update this month. Pick up next meeting on Valley speeding initiative.
3. To receive report on access issues in the village.

The Clerk reported on an initial survey that had been carried out by Phil and Ali Jones at the request of the Clerk and following Cllr Najjar’s briefing about grant availability at the June meeting and timing of submissions. The survey identified, through photographs that had been circulated to the Council Members, difficult access areas on pavements and where drop kerbs might be considered on existing infrastructure.

There was debate as to the approach the Council might take. It is clearly not withing the Council’s financial gift to provide pavements along all roads, indeed this would change the rural nature of Broad Chalke and is not desirable, but the Council has acted where issues have been identified (The Causeway Project and the intended improvement’s to Low Lane) to affect improvements and safety measures to improve access. The maintenance of overhanging shrubs and the installation of lowered kerbs in key locations is something that the Council can seek support for from Wiltshire Council. It was agreed that Phi and Ali be invited to the next meeting and the survey be reviewed in more detail with a view to submitting a bid to the LHFIG if proposals are practicable.

Cllr Fry also to approach the parish steward about overhanging and blocking vegetation on footpaths.

1. To receive update on Low Lane Project

The Chairman briefed the Meeting on the current position with regard to funding. 50% of the funds (on current pricing) has been awarded by the Wiltshire Council LHFIG subject to the balance being secured from the Council or other parties.

A decision from the AONB is still awaited on revised grant application but, unfortunately the Clerk had not been able to get any update or contact with the AONB despite several attempts. The Chairman and Ashley Truluck had met to review the position as some of the funding initially considered was not available to the Project. A strategy has been agreed involving approaches to the Hub Chairman, the landowner, and the Pratchett Foundation. An application could also be considered to the National Lottery Communities Fund, but the Council agreed that this approach would likely achieve better success if it was submitted for the playground project.

In discussing footpaths, Footpath Number 42 was again raised, and concern expressed about the blockage by homeowners by closed gate and parked cars and that there had seemingly been no follow up action by Wiltshire Council Footpath’s Officer. The Clerk was instructed to take firmer action to secure inspection and report back by Wiltshire Council.

1. To receive Councillors reports on Priorities

Cllr Richter updated on email sent to the organisations in the village that attended the AGM inviting them to submit information about Volunteering positions and that the Council would hold a register of such, promoting through its social media.

In the absence of Cllr Dawes, the Clerk updated on contact Cllr Dawes has had with the Crime Prevention Team at Wiltshire Police and making available Smart Water Technology to victims of crime. Cllr Dawes to update at next meeting.

1. To receive update on Playground company proposals and to consider strategy to move forward.

In the absence of Cllr Cave-Gibbs the Clerk briefed the Council on costed options received from Wicksteed Leisure. Two options with differing range and number of play units had been quoted 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 and so a strategy over the next 18 months needs to be established. 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. It is felt that a Friends of Broad Chalke Playground (or similar independent group) needs to be established that can pursue funding with better likelihood of success. The profile and need for this to be significantly raised to encourage local interest and support. Notices in Broadsheet; information at the Playground; engagement with the school and Playgroup to be followed through.

The Council also debated raising a special Precept for Projects of this nature to assist in raising matched funding. Difficult though this is in the current financial turmoil, an increase of say £20 per household in the precept could raise c £6,000. This to be addressed when setting the budget later this year.

1. To consider War Memorial ground works

Cllr Carter had secured a quotation for works to the lawn that he had received from local contractor. It was agreed that this be taken forward. Cllr Carter and the Clerk to arrange to meet the Contractor and to discuss with the groundsman.

In light of the contractor having access to the controlled chemicals and commercial machinery, it was felt this would be the most effective way of tacking the mater in order then to make the groundsman’s regular maintenance of the area easier.

1. To advise of submission of SSE Grant application

The Clerk briefed the Council on application to SSE for £1000 for Emergency Plan equipment.

1. To review co-option of Parish Councillor.

Martin Altham had expressed interest in joining the Council and his co-option was unanimously supported. The Clerk to set in process the admin arrangements.

1. To consider Planning applications

- PL/2022/0.5305. Kings Old Rectory. Tree works. The response date for this application had fallen between meetings

- PL/2022/05142. Yew Tree Cottage. This had been consulted on via email.

-PL/2022/05619. Hoedic House. Tree works. No Objections

1. To receive Finance update

The Clerk reported on balance in the bank at £12,873.90. The second tranche of precept payment would be due in October.

The Clerk also reported on the Professional Services hours committed to date at within the allocated 20 hours/month.

Cllr Carter and the Clerk had reviewed the insurance renewal notice for the Council. Questions had been raised with the broker and responses received satisfactory. The one area of concern is the buildings sum insured for the Sports Centre at £299,528. It was agreed that the Clerk investigate current rebuild value.

1. To receive update on Queens Platinum Jubilee Valley Fete and Show

The Chairman wished to formally record the Council’s thanks to the Fete Committee and in particular to Sara Moss and the Clerk for their work in putting the event together. It had been warmly received by the village and the wider community with many positive comments about how good it was to see it restarted at the Sports Centre.

The Clerk commented that it had been a lot of work and one thought the Committee were going to look at is whether the event could be rotated alternative years with Bishopstone. The Clerk was also reconciling the finances from the Fete and would be communicating this through social media once the final tally is known.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.26pm