

BROADHEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Broadhembury Parish Council on Monday 14th September 2015 7.30p.m. at the Memorial Hall

Present: Councillors, B. Nelson (Chairman), Mrs. E. Bradshaw, P. Chowles, V. Game, Mrs. S. Howgill, Mrs. V. Jones, A. McArdle, L. Roberts, Mrs. K. Rowan, K. Granger (Clerk), the public correspondent and seven members of the public,

Agenda

1. Apologies: Cllr. Diviani (D.C.), Skinner (E.D.D.C.), and the Police.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting signed correct.

3. Matters Arising: (not dealt with elsewhere)

a. P.T.F. 2015/16: Project not decided yet, Clerk to ascertain whether a neighbouring parish was willing to join with a nominal contribution over grass cutting of Open Spaces/Churchyard.

b. Millennium Garden: Cllr. Game reported the Clerk and E. Bird Esq. had tidied up the Garden, laid membrane and covered area with bark, the small flower bed at the front to be maintained by the Gardening Club, the Clerk was asked to thank Mr. Eric Bird for his help.

c. Audit Return: Clerk reported the audit completed. The Chairman re-iterated the new procedures for financial approval and the Clerk was thanked for his work on the complex document.

4. Public Discussion, D. Allen Esq., B.M.X., Reports, Graham Long, D.C., E.D.D.C. & Police. Mr. Allen introduced himself and said he had come to establish what the Gundry family would like to do and how they would like to help the local community as they hoped. They have historically always done. Mr. Allen went on to say the proposed development should make the village more sustainable and enable “affordable” housing to be provided. He re-affirmed publically the intention of the family to make extra land available to enable the PC to extend the Memorial Hall car park. The Chairman reported he had asked for help from local residents in setting up a Community Land Trust.

Cllr. Nelson introduced Mr. Graham Long who had come to speak on super-fast broadband or the lack of it. Mr. Long said that Devon & Cornwall was the worst area in England over the issue through lack of will and understanding. People in rural areas should lobby M.P's and District and County Councillors as a £100m had been made available.

Rob Newman spoke for the B.M.X. saying the track had not been extended and a very successful regional event had just taken place there. Mrs. Alison Chapple (resident opposite the track) then spoke in support of the track, Cllr. Nelson replied saying this was happening on Common Land, but provided no ‘person with rights of common’ or local residents protested he saw no reason why the PC should intervene. However he was concerned about liability for death or injury and asked Mr. Newman to come back to our next meeting with a form of indemnity acceptable to the PC to cover liability to participants or spectators. He said the PC had no way of controlling the risk and consequently required this action.

Police: In their absence the Clerk reported 3 crimes in the parish, 1 dog bite, 1 burglary and 1 theft.

5. Correspondence: dealt with elsewhere

6. Planning Report: Cllr. Bradshaw reported a meeting to consider an application for development at Pitmans Farm, Dulford which we supported.

7 Transparency Code for small Authorities: The Chairman opened this item to which he had been alerted by a Councillor explaining that the Code placed certain responsibilities on small Local Authorities. In summary the Code required that smaller PC's should publish all items of expenditure over £100, end of year accounts, the annual governance statement, the internal audit report, a list of Councillors and their responsibilities, details of public land and minutes, agendas and formal meeting papers. Most of this requirement, he continued could be discharged by publication on the PC web site and 'fields' had already been created to enable the data to be populated. After discussion Cllr. Mrs. Bradshaw proposed and Cllr. McArdle seconded a motion that the PC adopt this requirement.

8. Neighbourhood Plan: The Chairman said our NPSG had had 9 meetings and our draft plan was now almost complete, we would need another public consultation and then it would go to a referendum after further scrutiny by EDDC. Other parishes in the Blackdown Hills are at various stages with their plans, Awliscombe, Payhembury and Plymtree were considering their options. It was in the interests of BPC for neighbouring Parishes to adopt the process. Cllr, Nelson went on to say as reported earlier he had approached various people to join him at an exploratory informal meeting to investigate how the creation of a CLT might assist the Parish. He would report at the next meeting

9. Marsh Green: This was now in the hands of the County Solicitor.

10. Expenditure Update: The RFO had produced a budget showing expected expenditure to March 2016.

11. Report Cllrs:

a. Cllr. Game reported he had spoken with Highways over Parish drainage issues and work from Colliton Cross to the village was scheduled for early November, Cllr. Game read out a detailed schedule of the works. Cllrs. Game and Nelson accompanied by Keith Bone Esq. had visited Kerswell during rain and looked at the flow of water coming into the hamlet and the flow when leaving, and would try to come up with an idea of alleviating the flood risk.

b. Cllr. Chowles reported he was setting up a playground committee for Broadhembury and their A.G.M. would be held on the 18th October. He confirmed that they had monies to undertake the work required. The Chairman inquired again about the plan to implement the ROSPA report on Kerswell play area and specifically charged Cllr. Mrs. Jones to report to the next meeting.

c. Cllrs. Jones and Bradshaw reported the Big Lottery were pleased with the new Memorial Hall and to all intents and purposes it was now signed off. The telephone and broadband to be installed on the 16th September.

d. Cllr. Roberts has arranged for remedial work on some of the footpaths and would put an article in the parish magazine saying anyone who comes across a broken stile etc. to please report the problem to him.

12. Villages Development Plan: The Chairman said the NPSG. thought we ought to write to EDDC with our disapproval over abolishment of our village and hamlet boundaries as it was thought we need some selective development, the Council endorsed the recommendation. Cllr. Nelson went on to say it was thought District were possibly going to invite land-owners to offer land for development once again under the SHLAA process.

13. A.O.B. (For information only): Our meeting calendar was rearranged to accommodate the hall trustees and we would now meet in the main hall on the 3rd Tuesday in the month, every other month, starting on the 17th November 2016.

The Knotweed on Luton common land appeared to be gradually dying and may only need a few more sprayings.

Cllr. Bradshaw asked for the Clerk to become a bank signatory for items up to £100 alongside one other signatory (a Councillor) to ease the workload, this was agreed.

Cllr. Howgill reported she had been monitoring the felling of trees from Home cover and Wilderness and had been in touch with District and the Forestry Commission and said it appeared to all be part of an official scheme but the F.C. would further investigate her query. The Chairman thanked her for her investigative work.

The meeting closed at 9.20p.m.