

BROADHEMBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Broadhembury Parish Council following the AGM on Tuesday 17th May 2016 7.30p.m. at the Memorial Hall

Present: Cllrs. B. Nelson (Chairman), E. Bradshaw, V. Game, S. Howgill, A. McArdle, L. Roberts, K. Rowan, P.C. Vickery, P. Skinner (EDDC) K. Granger (Clerk), and approx. 9 members of the public

Agenda

1. Apologies: Cllrs. Chowles, Diviani (DCC) & Jones

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. 2016/17: Deferred to July meeting.

b. Defibrillators Broadhembury & Kerswell; grant obtained: Cllrs. Bradshaw reported she had obtained a grant for 2 defibrillators, 1 for Broadhembury to be attached outside the hall and 1 for Kerswell which it was hoped would go into our redundant telephone kiosk there. 3 quotes had been obtained, Cllrs. Bradshaw, McArdle and Roberts to scrutinise the quotations and report at the July meeting on the preferred supplier.

4. Public Discussion, Reports, D.C., E.D.D.C., Police

The Chair invited Mr. Steve Chipperfield to speak, Mr Chipperfield said he did not expect the draft Neighbourhood Plan to endorse the possible Grange Estate development for affordable and other homes as he and some other residents thought it disproportionate and ideally would like to see the Conservation area extended. He went on to summarise some of the points made in his letter (dealt with under correspondence). Cllr. Nelson replied that the draft plan would say that we have a need for affordable housing in the Parish as the Housing Need Surveys have shown but would not be supporting any particular application. This would be retained as an objective because it was supported by the evidence but we had no planning policy to enable it to happen. This was partly because we could not safely define "small" (as in the term: small scale housing) to safeguard against mass development, nor could we endorse any particular site as a result of survey data and a policy decision by the PC.

Philip Skinner (EDDC) Philip said District were now moving offices from Sidmouth to Honiton and Exmouth. EDDC Local Plan was now in force and thanked all for enabling him to serve them as District Councillor for the last 17 years.

Cllr. Diviani (DC): Paul Diviani had emailed his annual report in his absence.

Police: P.C. Vickery reported 12 crimes in the Parish over the last 12 months, 7 at Broadhembury, 3 at Dulford and 2 at Kerswell, they included assaults, burglaries and drink driving and urged all to contact the police if sighting anything or anyone acting suspiciously. The incident of crime was similar as in previous years so there was no cause for concern.

5. Correspondence:

a. Letter re Common land Luton: The Chairman said we had been copied in to a letter sent to the County Solicitor over alleged mis-use of common land at Luton and the Clerk received another letter this morning over the same issue. The Chairman said that since we had only just received these letters which referred to complex legal matters he thought it was in appropriate to respond at this stage without proper consideration. Deferred.

b. Letter re PC correspondence: Cllr. Nelson reported on a letter from the BVM and Mr Chipperfield saying he thought our meetings were not correctly publicised. Cllr. McArdle

replied he spent many hours putting all our meetings on our web-site with their dates also on facebook and twitter to enhance public awareness and the Clerk said all meetings were on our 4 notice boards a week beforehand, Cllr. Game said he frequently looked at the Luton notice board and meeting agendas were always published there. The Chairman acknowledged that the letter had raised important issues and a detailed response which would be sent which could be published by BVM if they wished.

6. Planning report: Cllr. Bradshaw (Chair) reported on 1 application since the last meeting at Hembercombe Cottage which we supported.

7. Possible lengthsmen, proposal: The Clerk said he had approached Mr. Eric Bird who had said he would be willing to take on this work on a part time basis and Cllr. Nelson asked the Clerk if Mr Bird needed funding for tools/ small machines, the Clerk said he would look into this. It was agreed that the PC had only £1500 per annum for this work. It was also agreed that £10 per hour was reasonable so this would give available time of 150 hours per year. All requests for work would be channelled through the Clerk.

8. Email process: The Chairman said he was uncomfortable having the same email address for Council correspondence and private use and thought the Chair/Vice Chair /Clerk should have a separate address for Council use. Ideally he thought all Parish Councillors should have a dedicated email account but the cost might be prohibitive. He was particularly concerned about the number of decisions being made by 'email agreement' and had asked Cllr. Chowles to reflect protocol for this in his redraft of Standing Orders, Cllrs. Skinner and McArdle would look into this and the cost.

9. Web-site utilization report: Cllr. McArdle said that there had been in excess of 10,000 views of our website, most had been from the UK but some were as far away as Mexico and Asia.

10. Fibre-To-Premises proposal, (FTP); Cllr. McArdle sought approval to join with 33 other Parishes to submit a bid response to a EC fund for FTP in the area. He explained that even BT 'superfast broadband', when it arrived depended for its final link on out-dated copper cabling and in future years would appear even slower than now. FTP was the only future-proof solution. The PC endorsed Cllr. McArdle and Cllr. Nelson to pursue discussions and submit the application. They wished them well.

11. Select Committee progress: A committee had been set up to look into acquiring land around and below the hall, Cllr. Nelson said that he was optimistic but reminded the PC that we would have to obtain planning permission and carry out substantial work to turn the land in to a car park. He asked for Parish Councillors to be patient.

12. Review of governance process: The Chair asked if switching to meetings every other month now that everyone was using emails was found to be satisfactory, Cllr. Chowles was looking in to this. He also invited Cllrs. to raise any other concerns they might have about the process of decision-making, Councillors present were of the opinion the present format was working well.

13. Audit and governance compliance: Councillors had received the Annual Return by email, Cllr. Bradshaw proposed it was accepted seconded by Cllr. Game. Cllr. Nelson proposed the Clerk/RFO now given the complexities in this time of acquiring grants and taking on much more as a Parish Council should seek assistance from our internal auditor with the return to a max of £130 per annum. This was seconded by Cllr. Bradshaw, all in favour.

14. Report on local flood risk management scheme: Cllr. Game reported the ditch inside Grange road had been re-instated by Richard Batten who would now clean out the roadside ditch from Luton lane towards Danes Mill, this would be paid for by our Parishes' Together Fund, Cllr. Game also said he had received a letter from St. Andrews Wood asking him to look into a similar scheme there, this may be possible from the same funding but he would report back.

Cllr. Game further reported that work to assess the best solution for Kerswell flooding was underway. Two public meetings had been held, and at the second, consultants had outlined the results of their studies. The next public meeting will consider options. The Chairman said he was disappointed by the turn-out at the second meeting and that the PC could only pursue this complex issue if more local people showed an interest.

15. Cllrs. reports: Cllr. Chowles, playground, Cllr. Roberts parish paths; In Cllr. Chowles absence the Chairman reported the playground committee had asked for financial help with the grass cutting/general maintenance of the area, it was proposed by Cllr. Nelson and seconded by Cllr. Bradshaw that the PC contribute up to £150 and complete the coverage of the bark themselves by asking the lengthsman to do the work. Secondly it was agreed that the PC would cut the grass around the swings/slides etc. throughout the year. The Chairman thanked the playground committee for their work and said if a long term plan for development of the play area was compiled then we could approach funders more successfully. Cllr. Roberts said he would contact Mr. Bird (P3 contractor) and ask him to look into a wooden post that has been removed on common land towards the top of Broad Road.

16 Report Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr. Nelson reported on the re-draft of the chapter 'A Balanced Community' and said the aim was to hold another public meeting possibly in September at the Priory, Kerswell to once again go through the plan section by section. He was not willing at this stage to commit to a date the draft would be circulated in the widest possible way.

17. Broadhembury CIO report: Cllr. Bradshaw said their AGM was to be held on Friday 20th May The Memorial Hall was proving to be very popular but they were looking for more trustees.

18. AOB; None and the meeting closed at 8.28p.m.

Now followed the Annual Parish Meeting.