

**(DRAFT) Minutes of the Broadwoodwidge Parish Council meeting,**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 7pm via Zoom**

**Those in attendance:** Cllr James (Chairman), Cllrs Perkin, Wonnacott, Worden, Crocombe, Nobbs, County Cllr Parsons, District Cllr Watson, Clerk.

**Members of the public present: 0**

**5256. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Stratton, Cllr Hawken

**5257. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairman declared that interests be raised as they arise.

**5258. Public Open Questions (Standing orders suspended during this session)**

No questions

**5259. Police Report**

No update had been received. The Chairman commented that at the recent meeting with PCSO Mark James he advised that he would do what was possible to patrol the area more frequently.

**5260. County Councillors Report**

Cllr Parsons followed on from the above commenting that the Police force is very thin on the ground at the moment in many areas, however PCSO Mark James returns from annual leave tomorrow. He stressed that there is a lot of pressure on everyone at the moment. Cllr Parsons announced that with regret he will be stepping down from his position at the next election in four months' time, he thanked everyone for their support over the years. The Chairman thanked Cllr Parsons in return on behalf of the Council. With regards to how businesses are managing at the current stage of the pandemic Cllr Parsons advised that the Torridge district is doing as well as anywhere and as well as can be expected. In general, residents are respecting what has to be done and following guidelines, but he expressed that we must still remain vigilant as coronavirus cases are rising. Cllr Parsons advised that as expected we will see an increase in Council Tax this year which is likely to be around 4.99%.

**5261. District Councillors Report**

Cllr Watson has received information regarding grants that are now available following the most recent lockdown. He will send this over to the Clerk by email to be circulated wider. Overall Torridge are coping well with one of the lowest rates of covid-19 although the cases are rising. Cllr Watson will send regular updates to the Clerk to keep us up to date on the local situation in respect of COVID-19. Cllr Watson is in the process of setting up a Rural Advisory Meeting/Group which will concentrate solely on the rural areas.

**5262. Council Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were previously circulated, the incorrect date was shown on the copy sent to Cllrs, Clerk to correct.

**5263. Matters Arising**

Neither the Hub Committee nor the Church Council have written to Mr Hilton regarding the access issue. The chairman said that it would be up to both groups to discuss the width of access they deem necessary. The Hub will be used as a polling station in May and emergency vehicle access to the church gate would be needed.

**5264. Planning**

**1/1145/2020/FUL** – Cllr Perkin declared an interest and abstained from discussions. Council members do not wish to comment on the application.

**1/1195/2020/FUL**– Council majority voted to support this application. Send an email of support.

**5265. 2021/2022 Precept Application**

After reviewing the annual budget Council members agreed to request an increase of £100 to cover the inflation, totalling £10950. Proposed Cllr Worden seconded Cllr Wonnacott.

**5266. Council Website**

Cllr Worden declared an interest and abstained from discussions. We have received a full quotation from Mark Worden for a new website and have had indications from one or two alternative companies. The Clerk will confirm these quotes and put together a comparison spreadsheet for Counsellors to discuss at the next meeting.

**5267. Natwest Bank Correspondence Details Amendments**

The bank requires a current signatory to either call or visit branch in order to confirm our instructions to change the correspondence address on the bank account. The Clerk will ask Cllr Nobbs to action this as soon as possible.

**5268. Grinacombe Moor Graveyard Grant Request**

The Graveyard Committee have asked for a grant to help with maintenance costs, Council members discussed this, Cllr Worden proposed a £200 grant, Cllr Perkin seconded, carried nem.com.

**5269. Accounts for payment.**

Clerks wages £264.16

Grinacombe Moor Graveyard Grant £200

Accounts proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Crocombe. Carried nem.com.

**5270. To Receive Correspondence**

The Royal British Legion have sent an email of thanks to the Council for the recent donation made towards The Poppy Appeal.

**5271. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman wanted to ensure all residents are aware that Council is here to help if anyone is struggling, particularly during the pandemic. The Chairman asked that the Clerk ensure a notice is placed on the boards with contact details.

**5272. Clerks Report**

The Clerk has gathered some information and costs for purchasing community defibrillators, potentially for the Village Hub and two phone boxes. Cllr Hawken had expressed concerns over the security risk of unlocked cases which had been suggested for ease of use in a panic situation. The Clerk will obtain further information and grant details and the matter will be discussed again at the next meeting.

**5273. Exchange of Information**

Cllr Wonnacott asked whether Devon County Council would be filling up the grit boxes, or whether Council should purchase some. Cllr Watson suggested the Clerk contact Highways to request delivery to Cllr Wonnacott's address for onward distribution.

Cllr Crocombe raised concerns over the state of the road from Beckett Cross to Ashmill. There are also concerns over the Kellacott area and from Camp Cross to Emsworthy. The Clerk will report this to the Highways copying in Cllr Parsons. Clerk to ask what criteria is used when deciding which roads to prioritise.

**5274. The meeting closed at 20:20pm.**