

Minutes of the Annual Broadwoodwidge Parish meeting

Thursday 20th May 2021, 7pm at Broadwoodwidge Community Hub

Those in attendance: Cllr James (Chairman), Cllrs Perkin, Worden, Stratton, Hawken, Wonnacott, County Cllr Morrish, Clerk.

Members of the public present: 0

5316. Apologies for absence

Cllrs Nobbs, Crocombe, PCSO Mark James

5317. Welcome

Councillor James, Chairman of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the newly elected County Councillor James Morrish.

5318. County Councillor Introduction

County Councillor James Morrish introduced himself to the Council members and confirmed his objectives as County Councillor. His main aim is to listen to Parish Councils, treat them all the same regardless of size and location, he will do his utmost to attend as many Parish meetings as possible. Cllr Morrish will focus on the road conditions and use his voice and position to raise any matters reported. The clerk will send details of the major road issues within the Parish.

5319. Minutes of the Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 29th May 2019 were previously circulated, no adjustments needed, proposed by Cllr Perkin, seconded by Cllr Wonnacott, carried nem.com

5320. Chairman's Report

Dear fellow members of Broadwoodwidge parish Council and residents of the parish, here is my report of the past year of this Council.

Can I first say that it is good to be able to meet in person tonight after having to meet for most of the past twelve months on zoom.

Over the past year we have made every effort to support the parish where needed during the Covid 19 pandemic. Some residents initially needed help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and arranging supermarket deliveries. These needs were met for as long as was required. The council has also helped by giving grants to the Hub and both parish graveyard funds to help keep things going whilst money could not be raised with fundraising events. Going forward if any groups would like to start up in the parish to help people get together the council might be able to help out with small grants. Please apply for grants by getting a form from our Clerk.

We have continued the usual work of the council over the past year. Trying to get repair work done to our roads that have certainly deteriorated over the past eighteen months, continues to be a frustration. We have discussed and commented on more than 20 planning applications in the past 12 months. Decisions made by Torridge planners still sometimes baffle us and the incredibly slow speed at which planning breaches are dealt with and resolved can only serve to encourage those who would not seek planning where it is needed.

At the end of August our Clerk of several years, Rachel Stratton decided that she wished to resign due to pressures of work. She was thanked for her work for the Council and Council members showed their appreciation with a gift and flowers.

Having advertised the post, we were pleased to have a number of good applicants for the job and after interviewing three we offered Kayleigh the Job. We have been very pleased with the way Kayleigh has settled into the role and she has taken the first part of three DALC training sessions to give more understanding of the job.

At the end of last year, the parish website committee expressed a wish for the Council to take it over the running of the website. It was necessary for the council to make sure that the website conformed to all the public access regulations, so quotes were obtained from companies to set up a new site. The quote from Mihi Digital was chosen and the work is in process to get everything swapped over to the new site.

After much discussion over the past year a Defibrillator was finally purchased in March and fixed on the wall outside the village Hub. We thank District Cllrs Watson and Hackett for grants of £500 each towards this. We now need to make everyone aware that it is there, and we will organize a training session later in the year.

We also thank Cllr Watson for attending most of our meetings and representing our interests at Torrridge.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Cllrs for their continued service to the council over the past year and their support to me as chairman. Contrary to what some might think there is no pay or allowance for being a parish Cllr, it can be a thankless task much of the time, but we all do it as we feel that it is important that rural parishes try to get their voices heard in what can seem like evermore towncentric District and County Councils.

There are two vacant seats on the Parish Council and if anyone wishes to enquire as to what is involved, please speak to a Council member, or contact the clerk.

Over the coming year we will push our new County Cllr James Morrish and our existing District Cllrs even harder to make sure the parish of Broadwoodwidger is represented in every way.

Dean James

5321. Close

The meeting closed at 19.23pm.

