

Minutes of the Broadwoodwidge Parish Council meeting,

Wednesday 28th July 2021, 7pm at Broadwoodwidge Community Hub

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

Members of the public present: 4

5368. Apologies for absence:

Cllrs Nobbs, Perkin, PCSO Mark James

5369. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman declared that interests be raised as they arise.

5370. Public Open Question Time

Members of the public had attended the meeting in order to apologise for any offence or upset caused when recent spraying of the pathway to the Churchyard entrance with Roundup Weedkiller was done. They stressed that no malice was intended. The Chairman responded with a statement on behalf of the whole Council which read:

On the 26th of July the Parish Clerk received an email from Deborah Vinnicombe with a complaint regarding the spraying of weed killer on a public right of way next to Church Terrace. On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman, Cllr Dean James contacted the environment protection officer at Torridge District Council to get advice on the course of action we should take. He was informed that the officer had also been contacted by Deborah Vinnicombe about this matter, and he had written to the person who had used the spray to inform them that only licenced persons should use weed killers in areas of public access. They were also informed that injury to persons or animals or contamination of a water course could result in legal action being taken. This letter having been sent; the Parish Council need not take any further action. The Parish Council would like to make all residents of the parish aware that only licensed persons should undertake any spraying in areas of public access.

5371. Police Report

An update from PCSO Mark James had been previously circulated and noted criminal damage to a sign within the Parish. As no Cllr is aware of what this was the Clerk will ask for confirmation.

5372. County Councillor Report

Cllr Morrish reported that he had received 23 emails from Parishioners, almost all of which were relating to potholes and poor road conditions. He confirmed that there had been some success in the local area for example from Tower Hill to Upcott Cross and he will always try to support these matters as much as possible. Cllr Morrish expressed that he predicts some substantial changes over the next 12 months with regards to communications and property within Council and Government. Cllr Morrish wished to let Council know that if they are looking to undertake any projects that will benefit the community, he would gladly support this and provide a grant to assist with costs where possible. Cllr Morrish commented that he is enjoying the role so far.

Chairman Dean James asked Cllr Morrish whether there were any expected changes for the Devon County Farms Estate. Cllr Morrish confirmed that there was no intention to sell any farms within the next 5 years. There is however potential to merge 2 or 3 farms together to make it more viable. Cllr James responded to say that if there are no small farms available this leaves no entry for new farmers to start up. Cllr Morrish will raise this point of concern when the subject next arises.

Cllr Worden asked Cllr Morrish when a decision would be received for the grant scheme available via North Devon Plus for business Expansion. Cllr Morrish will find out and report back.

5373. District Councillor Report

Cllr Watson said that Torridge are struggling to find suitable safe venues to hold face to face meetings and the number of people having to self-isolate following a track and trace alert has been causing disruption. With regards to investment planning taken place over the last 12 months Torridge must look seriously at the potential returns as well as looking at ethical options.

Cllr Worden asked Cllr Watson if there was any point in Parish Council's commenting on planning applications as they never appear to be considered. Cllr Watson assured Council members that it was important to continue to consider and comment on planning applications as their response are considered by Torridge planning department.

5374. Members of the public left the meeting at 7.35pm

5375. Council Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the meetings held 15th June 2021 were previously circulated, no adjustments needed, proposed by Cllr Stratten and seconded by Cllr Hawken, carried nem.com

5376. Matters Arising

An update from Grant McGill Planning Enforcement Officer had been received today in relation to a number of planning concerns raised previously by the Parish Council. All the areas of concern were subject to further action. Cllr Watson will follow up on some matters.

The Church service with cream teas was cancelled due to the continued social distancing restrictions. The Church plan to hold a flower festival on the 4th September.

5377. Planning

1/0846/2021/AGMB - Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house and associated building operations under Class Q - Barn at Nethercott, Broadwoodwidge - **Council have some concerns that the building may not be suitable for development, however if it meets all criteria of a Class Q application then it seems fair that it would be granted permission. Council would like to express concern that there may be an overdevelopment of one site 'Nethercott' as this is the 4th application to be submitted for the immediate area within the last few months.**

1/0845/2021/AGMB - Prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to 1 no. dwelling house and associated building operations under Class Q - Barn At Nethercott, Broadwoodwidge - **Council have no objection to the application if it meets all criteria of a Class Q application. Council would like to express concern that there may be an overdevelopment of one site 'Nethercott' as this is the 3rd application to be submitted for the immediate area within the last few months.**

1/0678/2021/FUL - Construction of an agricultural building over a slurry pit - Land at Upcott Cross Farm, St Giles On the Heath - **Council have no objection to this application.**

5378. Natwest Online Banking Form

Council members are required to make a decision on who will have use of the online banking and members are required to sign the application form. The decision was made for the Clerk to have use of the system with all actions needing to be signed off by Cllr James and/or Cllr Nobbs.

5378. Poor Road Conditions

The response received from Vicki Braddon to concerns raised regarding poor road conditions was discussed. County Cllr Morrish suggested we write a reply to Vicki Braddon and the County Council member for highway Cllr Stuart Hughes, asking Cllr Hughes to attend a Council meeting to see the roads and discuss concerns in person. The Clerk will copy Cllr Morrish and Cllr Watson into the correspondence. The Clerk will write a response to thank Vicki Braddon for her explanation and to further express concern over which roads get repaired. Council members would like to push to have more say over which roads are prioritised.

5379. County Cllr Morrish left the meeting.

5380. New Parish Council Website

Council agreed to the new website going live. Some minor changes and updates of information will be required as an ongoing thing. The Clerk will request separate log in details for each of the community groups that which to upload information/minutes.

5381. Use for redundant telephone boxes

The Clerk had obtained a quote for the restoration and shelving of the telephone box at Ivyhouse Cross to create a community book share. All Councillors agreed to the quotation of £678.90 from Parker Maintenance Services and the Clerk will instruct the contractor to proceed. Several other contractors had been approached but none had come forward with a quotation. The Clerk will ask Cllr Morrish for a grant towards the costs.

5382. Distribution of letter to parishioners notifying of the community defibrillator/Signage for directions to defib

Cllr Hawken will look at the instructions for using the defibrillator to ensure they are clear and correct and this will then be distributed to residents and placed on the new website. A sign will be placed on the Village noticeboard notifying residents of the defibrillator's location. Further signage will be required once positions agreed.

5383. Queens Jubilee Celebration

Councillors agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

5384. Accounts due for payment.

Clerks Wages - £264.16

Clerk Expenses (Stamps Purchased) - £21.52

Dan Genders (Grass Cutting) - £576.00

DALC (Clerks Essentials 3) - £36.00

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

5385. To Receive Correspondence

The Clerk had obtained information regarding joining the Parish Paths Partnership scheme (P3). Council members agreed this would be a good way to ensure upkeep of the fences/gates on our public footpaths. The Clerk will ask Ros Davies the liaison officer to attend the next Council meeting.

5386. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

5387. Clerk's Report

The Clerk confirmed she had now completed all 3 of the DALC Clerks Essentials Courses.

5388. Exchange of Information

Another complaint has been received about access from the Village via the road leading to Neathwood. The chairman will visit the site once again.

5389. Next meeting to be held in the Hub on Tuesday 7th September at 7pm

5390. Close

The meeting was closed at 8:40pm.