

## **Minutes of the Broadwoodwidge Parish Council meeting.**

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 7.00pm at Broadwoodwidge Community Hub**

**Those in attendance:** Cllr James (Chairman), Cllrs Perkin, Worden, Crocombe, Stratton, Wonnacott, Hawken, District Councillor Hackett, Clerk.

**Members of the public present: 3**

**5629. Apologies for absence:**

Cllr Nobbs, District Cllr Watson. County Cllr Morrish

**5630. Declaration of Interests**

The Chairman declared that interests be raised as they arise.

**5631. Public Open Question Time**

A member of the public wished to seek advice from Counsellors regarding a planning dispute. As the matter relates to a private driveway Councillors stated it was not something they could advise on.

**5632. Police Report**

The Clerk attended the first TEAMS meeting which was held by Holsworthy Police in November. The meeting was poorly attended with only 4 Parish's being represented. PC Frank Morgan said he hoped to be able to spend more time patrolling now that additional call handlers had been employed. The speed gun is currently being calibrated and PC Morgan plans to visit some hot spots across the area in the coming months. The next TEAMS meeting will be held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. The Clerk reported that the Police website for crime reports is showing up to September 2022 where sixteen incidents were noted in the Holsworthy district, one of which was in Broadwoodwidge and noted as criminal damage and arson.

**5633. County Councillor Report**

Received by email.

'Good evening, all. I'm sorry I'm not with you but I am in Taunton tonight ready for a full day of tests and scans from 7am tomorrow at Taunton hospital. My report this month starts on a sad note. Since being elected in May 2021 5 members from the 24 parish councils within my ward have passed away. Can I take this opportunity to once again thank you all for time, hard work and commitment that you give your community and ask for nothing in return.

This coming week DCC Highways will be in Holsworthy doing much needed road repairs. This week I chaired a meeting to discuss bus services between Bude and Exeter college. We have 37 young people from Holsworthy rural area who use this service regularly and we must fight to save this service.

Only 3 communications from your ward all of which were in relation to benefits and housing issues.

Merry Christmas'

Councillors asked the Clerk to send their well wishes.

#### **5634. District Councillor Report**

Councillor Hackett started by referring to the police briefing attended by the clerk, emphasising the importance of reporting crimes, he stated that there is a plan to open more front desks in Police stations. With regards to Torridge District Council; Cllr Ken James is working very hard despite the bleak year ahead due to financial restrictions, he advised the budget would be reviewed in February. Cllr Hackett advised that Torridge are currently working with North Devon on a 5-year development plan for housing. He was asked how much North Devon were contributing to this. Cllr Hackett did not wish to speculate and will find out and report back. He was also asked how much money Torridge have in reserve funds, Cllr Hackett did not know but will find out and report back. Cllr Hackett explained some of the extra costs that had been incurred which included Ukraine refugees, the duty of care to keeping people safe on the streets and pension pots having fallen on the stock market. Cllr Hackett reported that it would not be financially prudent for Torridge to use its reserve funds at this time and instead need more money coming in from Westminster. Cllr Hackett advised a third enforcement officer is now in place, there are a huge number of cases to deal with and they will prioritise the most important cases. District Cllr Watson joined the meeting for a short time via telephone during the discussions about planning and enforcement.

#### **5635. Council Meeting Minutes**

Minutes of the meeting held 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were previously circulated, no adjustments needed, proposed by Cllr Stratton, seconded by Cllr Worden, all agreed.

#### **5636. Matters Arising**

Cllr Nobbs sent details of a first aid course run by Joe Rice. Council agreed it was good value for money and the Clerk will add it to the January agenda to make a booking for February.

#### **5637. Planning**

**1/0956/2022/FUL** – Erection of storage shed for bales and machinery - Land At Grid Reference 241758 091306 - Councillors requested the Clerk arrange a site visit next week.

**1/0942/2022/FUL** – Installation of 12 x ground mounted solar panels on a 13m x 1.7m concrete pad. - Coombeshead Barn, Virginstow - Councillors would like to understand why there is a need for the concrete base. The Council support the installation of solar panels but at the present time object to the concrete base on environmental grounds as it would seem unnecessary.

**1/0952/2022/FUL** – Change of use of land to domestic, erection of summerhouse and placement of oil tank, Bridge House, Ashwater - Councillors object to this application on the grounds that there is no clear indication of a suitable drainage system.

#### **5638. Accounts due for payment**

Clerks Wages £335.40

Clerks Expenses £149.50 Wooden Remembrance Crosses

Clerks Expenses £18.47 – Remembrance Flag

Accounts proposed by Cllr Hawken and seconded by Cllr Wonnacott, all agreed.

**5639. Footpath maintenance**

The Footpath Liaison Officer advised she cannot help directly as Broadwoodwidge is not part of the P3 Scheme. The Clerk had a voicemail from the area warden seeking details of the owner of the land on which the Rexton footpath is situated to seek permission to change the type of gate. Councillors advised the Clerk who will contact the warden. The Clerk had not received a response to the concerns raised with the County Councillor. The missing sign on the Neathwood footpath has been replaced. The broken gate on the Downicarey footpath has not been repaired. The Clerk will follow this up again.

**5640. Torridge response to planning concerns raised**

Councillors raised the concerns and the response with the District Councillor present at the meeting. The Clerk will forward the correspondence for review.

**5641. Grant request for Citizens Advice Torridge**

Councillors discussed the request and would like further details to gain a better understanding of the benefits to Parishioners. The Clerk will obtain details and add the item to the January agenda.

**5642. Grant request for The Plough Arts Centre**

Councillors discussed the request and felt that given the distance from the Parish and the significant support they have already secured they would not offer financial support at this time.

**5643. Grant request for North Devon Records Office**

Councillors discussed the request and the additional information received and agreed not to offer financial support at this time. The Clerk will seek clarification from DALC regarding how Parish Council records should be kept.

**5644. King Charles Coronation**

Members of the public joined the conversation and proposed a craft fair and games on the Sunday. Cllr James proposed a sub-committee was set up to put a plan together to present at Council's January meeting, the members of the public agreed to move forward with this.

**5645. To Receive Correspondence**

Holsworthy Rural Transport have sent a letter to Council thanking them for the kind donation towards its organisation.

A poster had been sent in for circulation seeking volunteers for the Marie Curie helpline. The Clerk will pin these on the noticeboards.

Three notices were received from Airband Community Internet Ltd notifying of the installation of 10.5m poles.

DALC sent details of an upcoming autumn briefing with Cllr John Hart. The Clerk will send the invitation to all Councillors.

Forestry England sent an update regarding the works within Witherdon Woods and the closure times. The Clerk will put this on the website.

Two members of the public have expressed a wish to join the Parish Council. Councillors agreed the 2 vacancies should be advertised again to ensure all Parishioners are aware of them and given the opportunity to put their name forward. Following this procedure will be followed to co-opt two new members onto the Council. The Clerk will advertise on the website, noticeboard and FaceBook.

#### **5646. Parish Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported that the left-hand side of the Village noticeboard was stuck, and the Grinacombe Moor noticeboard was nearly unusable. Councillors agreed to inspect the Grinacombe Moor site next week with a view to installing the new board.

#### **5647. Any other Business**

Cllr Perkin shared details of the upcoming Christmas nativity that will be held at Upcott Barton on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm and a Church service and carols that will be held on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm.

The Chairman advised that the drain was blocked at the bottom of the Village, and he would look at it.

Cllr Crocombe reported that the AA sign at Ivyhouse for Roadford Lodges was still in place despite being advised that it would be removed once the construction had finished. The Clerk will follow this up.

Cllr Worden has a large map of Broadwoodwidge dated around 1800 from Lakeside. The Chairman proposed it was mounted and hung on the wall in the hub. Councillors agreed it should be kept due to its historical interest.

#### **5648. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7pm.

#### **5649. Close**

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm.