

Broadwell Parish Council

Minutes for Meeting held 13th January 2021

Present: Cllr Tony Leonard (TL) (Chairman) – Cllr Burtonwood (KB) (Vice-Chairman) - Cllr Neil (WN) – Cllr Ashton (EA) – Cllr Thorley (GT) – Cllr Brindley (NB)

Attendees: Debbie Braiden – Clerk, 5 Members of public

The Chairman started the meeting at 19:31

Reference	Details
210113/1	NB - Confirmation regarding permission was sought for the tarmacking of the drive at Cownham Farm. Cllr Beale believed it had met planning requirements. We were reminded that the road from Broadwell to Evenlode was due for closure on the 25/1/21 and it was noted that works being carried out near the bridge was the creation of a hardstanding to be used for a works hut and for works equipment ready for construction. There were no further questions.
210113/2	There were no apologies received.
210113/3	TL proposed; EA seconded, for Cllr Burtonwood to be elected Vice-chairman
210113/4	TL proposed; EA seconded, for the approval of the draft minutes for the meeting held 2 nd December 2020.
210113/5	There were no reports for the minutes dated 2 nd December 2020.
210113/6	NB expressed interest in his planning application 20/04282/FUL & was happy to take questions but would take leave during discussions.
210113/7	Report from County Councillor Lynden Stowe Cllr Stowe reported the number of vaccinations received that week were higher in Gloucestershire than other areas. North Cotswold's Moreton hospital were highly praised for doing a first class roll out. The supplies for vaccines were limited and the army were taking control of the logistics and distribution. Ash Trees – He confirmed that a total of approximately 30 thousand ash trees throughout the county were going to be felled. He stressed only trees that could cause a danger to highways were included hence the works along the Fosse. The County Council are encouraging replanting and replacement as quickly as possible with a supply of young trees (whips) being made available to local councils and land owners. It is noted applications need to be in by the 29 th January. Some of the replanting will be done by the County contractors along the highways and they hope part by other parties such as local councils & land owners. The County will supply the trees and shrubs requested. The County's aspiration was to replant 35 million trees through the county in the next ten years, working out to be about 50 trees per head in Gloucestershire. The County recommends more suitable varieties of trees and shrubs are replanted to replace the ash trees. Council Tax – The County's 'council tax proposal consultation', ends Friday 15 th with a 4.75% increase to be set. This is mainly due to the increase costs for Adult and Child social care where the numbers requiring care have risen since the Covid-19 infection began. Expenditure – COVID-19 grants were being fully funded by Central Government. The County were purposely refraining from some verge cutting to encourage bio-diverse areas through the County. They would continue to cut any verges deemed to be a hazard for traffic and visibility. Cllr Stowe encouraged the PC to identify further areas

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in the village to turn into **bio-diverse** patches, and inform the County Highways of where not to cut.

Cllr Stowe was pleased to inform the PC that the County Council will be **carbon neutral** this year. They have achieved this by using LED lighting throughout the County; and the construction and implementation of a new waste depot to deal with waste that would have gone to landfill. They have also purchased electric vans for their Highway inspectors who run up many miles. The County hope that the local councils will follow suit and we are encouraged to look at our carbon footprint.

Highways – Cllr Stowe requested an update of highway issues affecting the village. The PC agreed to send a quarterly report.

TL asked Cllr Stowe, what centres were issuing **vaccines**? Cllr Stowe confirmed Primary Care Trust were issuing and are based locally at Moreton, Stow & Chipping Campden, with individual surgeries making contact with patients who they deem eligible which at the moment was 75 years and above.

KB informed Cllr Stowe that she had received lots of comments in respect to the **ash tree** felling. Concerns were raised that the works carried out appeared unskilled and untidy with much wood left remaining in situ. There were concerns for the lack of communication for individual areas where works were going to be carried out. It was also believed that trees and shrubs that were not ash trees were also being indiscriminately removed for ease rather than danger and this is believed to be the case at the bottom of Broadwell Hill. Cllr Stowe reiterated that the County have only instructed for works to be done for ash trees that would at some stage be a danger to the highway. The County would not pay for more than this, as it was proving an expensive exercise in the first place. He apologised there had been no communication and would refer this back to the highway department; he also made comment that the Fosse was the first stage of the felling so therefore, a learning curve at this initial stage and would be noted. He offered to make a complaint to the contractors if proof was provided that indiscriminate trees were felled at the bottom of Broadwell Hill. He reiterated the contractors should be judging with a risk-based criterion: if no risk, no cut and felling. Cllr Beale explained there appeared to be random tree cutting and that it is worth noting that spores can spread 10 km and saplings can be affected which may explain the drastic cutting back in Broadwell. Concerns were raised regarding stumps being left and being dangerous.

KB confirmed stumps should be removed to prevent spores and regrowth.

GT – Could replanting be made to mitigate flooding risk? Was there anyone in the County who could advise the PC of where to plant to assist this type of problem? Cllr Stowe confirmed there is an Ecological Officer however they are very busy as they will be deployed to look at the replanting for County land in the first instance.

KB – expressed her concerns and asked if there were any plans for the replanting, as in effective and sympathetic tree planting?

Also, would the County have any follow up care for the whips otherwise they may not endure. Cllr Stowe confirmed the County are keen to work with land owners. TL put it to Cllr Stowe, that if the County had a plan for the felling, then the County should know what areas and how many trees are required for replanting?

Cllr Stowe acknowledged the comment made but reiterated that the County want community buy-in; the County were happy to supply and instruct and would like replanting led by community initiatives. He also reiterated that the replanting would not be ash trees and thought hedging that provided for wildlife would be a very good choice. The County would only be providing whips not mature trees due to costs and he confirmed a variety of trees replanted were more attractive looking into the future.

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EA – It all sounds good in principle, however whips planted in hedges need to be staked and protected otherwise they won't be seen and they will be cut by hedge cutters.

Report from District Councillor – Julian Beale

Cllr Beale confirmed CDC held a full council meeting and set its **budget** for the next financial year. Like the County he confirmed it was not a year to lower taxes and also endorsed the valiant efforts by Moreton Hospital in rolling out the vaccines. He confirmed that financial support continues to be provided to small businesses during lockdown regulations.

Leisure centres and the Museum in Cirencester which are currently contracted out are under review but no solution will be reached before end of March/April time.

He stated that elections may be postponed to allow time and process requirements due to lockdown. Cllr Stowe confirmed the ambition is to still hold elections in May however it is kept under review.

Cllr Beale confirmed points around Cirencester & Bledington suffered serious **flooding**. He confirmed his exchange of emails with Lawrence King (LK) regarding contracts with land owners for field works. EA confirmed Paul Teague, had not yet received a draft contract and she was still waiting for her draft contract from LK. EA didn't believe there was a plan for the water running downhill.

WN stated that aggregate washed from the fields and road margins was causing **blocked drains**. Cllr Beale confirmed he will go back to LK. TL stated the process for dealing with the flooding in the village started in 2008 and expressed frustration that the project was not progressing faster. A plan was promised ten years ago and neither of the landowners have received draft contracts. NB confirmed during the last downpour that the drains were surcharging down Broadwell Hill and that they needed to be jetted out more often. EA – (as reported in the last minutes) some of the drains have been jetted but Highways couldn't do them all because of lack of time. It's difficult because some of the drains are full of roots and Harry Roberts said they were hoping to return in December. TL requested that drains be kept as an ongoing subject under the PC village highway management. He also invited LK for a visit and discussions in an effort to push forward the flooding contracts.

Cllr Beale confirmed the **horse chestnut tree** near **Wheat Close** was due to have works carried out by the end of February and asked for the PC to keep him updated once the works had been completed.

He reported there was still no confirmation from Dave Grinter, at Bromford Housing in respect to the old garage area. Cllr Beale will contact him again to discuss resurfacing and effective lighting for the area.

Part of the land owned by CDC could be made into parking, Cllr Beale and the clerk will follow this up with CDC estates.

Cllr Beale confirmed **planning approval** was granted for the Old Quarry to increase to two storeys with a new office block inside entrance gates.

The old **derelict barn at the Smithy** was reported to have mostly collapsed with only the outer walls and the room at the end, that was the forge, still standing. The Planning department was informed due to the building being grade 2 listed. It was agreed TL would make contact with the owner. Cllr Beale requested photographs to forward to Sophia Price at CDC Planning. NB added that the owner has a legal obligation being a listed building.

Cllr Beale confirmed he had no further comments for planning applications.

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	<p>Planning application for trees at Blundells, 21/00110/TCNR – There were no specific comments made, but it was noted that reduction in overall tree cover throughout the village could ultimately increase flood risk.</p> <p>Verge at Millbrook Ley – working party still to be created and owners encouraged to cut back overgrowth of shrubs from their gardens.</p> <p>Note: Cllr Beale and Stowe left the meeting at 20:50 hrs</p>
210113/8	<p>Highways issues were generally covered in Cllr Stowe & Cllr Beale’s reports above. GT – to lead with speeding issues.</p> <p>KB will lead the environmental biodiversity and the item will be relisted in March.</p>
210113/9.1	<p>Planning application 20/04282/FUL Clematis Cottage – installation of new gates to driveway entrance – Cllr Brindley left the room. All unanimously agreed no comments to be made. NB re-joined the meeting.</p>
210113/10	<p>GT reported she had investigated the cost for various speeding options available. £55 plus vat for 20 speed advisory signs, she will need permission from Highways to erect. The vehicle activated, electric ‘light up’ signs, were £2000 plus vat with the solar option at £2675. Village gateways being the most expensive option at £4000 to £5000 as the village has four main roads leading in to the village, plus the signage of ‘Broadwell’. It is noted Glasdon will provide but not fit the signs.</p> <p>NB mentioned rumble strips and also the correspondence received from Dr Morrish inviting PCs to join their initiative for speeding. TL confirmed that investigating this option does not commit the Parish Council so agreed to go forward with enquiries. GT will approach Lower Swell to seek advice and any village with 20 is plenty scheme. Clerk to ask local clerks if they have the system.</p>
210113/11	<p>GT – Verges and the Green, “cut less and cut later”. She believed that Wyck Rissington follow this to allow biodiversity in the village. She reported that an otter had been spotted on Watery Lane by the stream. KB confirmed that, as we do our own mowing, it is in our power to leave chosen verges and to gain the views of the residents. Members discussed various areas where verges could be left to grow. It was agreed that the football pitch should remain and, as the Green was widely used, only the perimeter verges could be potentially left to grow. EA pointed out that these perimeter verges will then need to be strimmed, as the mower would not be able to cope with the long grass and that we would need to arrange someone to do that. Most agreed the area around the bus shelter could be left to grow more naturally.</p> <p>Proposed areas – The top of Watery lane, pub verges around overflow car park at front, by the Old Bakery. Various questions, what do we want to do, would these satisfy everyone, how would we maintain these areas, how to keep them? KB confirmed they cannot just be left but will need management and she was again happy to lead on this.</p> <p>Working party to be added to March agenda.</p> <p>TL asked the clerk to create a Highways spreadsheet to carry forward all reported issues to enable the PC to monitor. Members to report issues to the clerk to update the spread.</p> <p>WN confirmed he had repaired the ‘Wheat Close’, signage. He reported that obtaining quotes for notice boards was proving difficult and the maple tree is expected to be delivered soon for the green. It was noted there are no red oaks available so a maple was chosen as a replacement.</p>
210113/12	<p>This item, establishing a volunteer programme for ‘village working parties’, for the care of common parts of the village and assist neighbours by doing small jobs and projects will be moved to the March agenda.</p>

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210113/13	This item, re- how to circulate important information around the village, will be moved to the next agenda
210113/14	Discussions having already taken place in the County and District Councillor's report it was agreed for WN who volunteered to lead and complete the form. TL proposed; GT seconded.
210113/15	NB and clerk to lead on website update and compliance. They will follow up on the quotes received. To investigate & instigate the best option. It was unanimously agreed for a budget of £850 for initial works and transfer, plus £200 for setup fees.
210113/16	It was resolved to adopt the new version of the LGA Model Councillor Code and guide. TL proposed with all members agreeing.
210113/17	The budget for 2021/22 was set and unanimously approved. See below
210113/18	All members unanimously resolved not to raise the precept from last year's £6,349 due to the current financial effects of Covid-19. It was noted the precept would be less than the budget set of £10,141, however the Parish Council are confident in its ability to cover the deficit from carried-forward reserves.
210113/19	All recommendations were accepted and approved unanimously . The clerk to implement recommendations and add the current financial year audit engagement to the next agenda.
210113/20	All members unanimously approved the schedule of payments to be made. It was noted that the purchase of a tree by Cllr Neil was cancelled therefore payment is now not required.
210113/21	Items have been covered in the above.
210113/22	EA wanted to mention Paul Teague feels the flooding issue should be dealt with from the bottom of the hill working upwards. Both WN & EA confirmed speaking to Paul about the roof to the forge and the preservation order. TL - Add litter pick & flooding to the next agenda.
210113/23	The next meeting was agreed to be Wednesday 3 rd February 2021
	With there being no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 22:22 hrs

BUDGET SET FOR 2021/2022

Broadwell PC Financial Year	Budget 21/22
A. Revenue Account	
Receipts - General	
Precept	6,349
local tax support	
Interest on Investments	
VAT	
Donations/Grants Received	
Rent	
Miscellaneous	
Total Receipts - General	6,349

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Payments - General	
Clerk Salary	2,534
office Expenses	35
Insurances	450
Annual Audit	160
donations	-
Mower repairs & Fuel	500
Subscriptions	110
Training	120
Maintenance	1,500
IT / Web Site	1,200
HRMC tax payment	
ROSPA	82
Village Hall rent	150
Miscellaneous	300
Newsletter	-
New Swings play park	3,000
Total Payments - General	10,141

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Minutes approved: _____

Chairman signature _____ Date _____

Draft for consideration