

# Draft Minutes for the BROADWELL PARISH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7 p.m. Broadwell Village Hall

**Present:**

**Members of the parish council, Tony Leonard Chairman, Nigel Brindley, William O'Neill, Anna Wodzianski, Rebecca Ross, and Debbie Braiden, Clerk to Broadwell Parish Council**

**Members of the Public – 4 (one from the village hall committee and one from the local charities)**

**2305/1** At 7.05 pm, the Chairman opened the public meeting by welcoming and thanking everyone for their time in attending. He stressed how important it is for the public to be involved with the business of their village. 2 members of public were present at the start of the meeting with two more joining during the meeting.

**2305/2** Apologies were received from Cllr Ashton and District Councillor David Cunningham with Cllr Brindley apologising for his having to leave at 8 p.m.

**2305/3** The minutes of the last Parish Assembly Meeting held on 12th May 2022 were **resolved** as a true record with the Chairman duly signing.

**2305/4** No annual report was received from both the County Councillor or the District Councillor. The District Councillor, David Cunningham stated there was not much to report as Cotswold District Council business had been slow due to the elections having taking place earlier in the month. There was no correspondence received from the County Councillor, Lynden Stow.

**2305/5** Chairman of the parish council's report – Tony gave a brief report saying it had been a busy but very interesting year. He started by thanking all the people that give up their time for benefit of the village. To mention a few of them, the fete committee who work hard to construct a great village get together, those who organised the coronation celebrations, those who decorated the church with beautiful flowers, all the volunteers who regularly mow the green for us to enjoy the space, and the local charities' trustees. He also thanked the PC members gifting their time and different skills, each one of them make it a pleasurable experience working for the parish council. Thank you to anyone else that has not been mentioned, that work at making this a great place to live.

Here are some items we have dealt with over the past year; we have had some movement on the flood plan and hopes held high that this is still moving forward. We have received lots of planning with nothing too contentious and we try to be sensible in representing the views of the village. It will be very interesting to see how the, The Stow Development Plan, plays through, for which we receive regular updates from Cllr Cunningham. If all is straightforward, it could be passed quickly, we also note the alternative St. George's

## Broadwell Parish Council

---

planning application for affordable housing has been submitted, but we are not sure if or how this will affect the overall plan.

Tony stated there are good things ahead, the fete will be held soon and the parish council has had some real progress made with Highways, thanks to Nigel's hard work and persistence. It has been noted that Kennel Lane still has water running from a spring, with Thames Water having been in attendance but are still working on it. Nigel confirmed new gullies seems to be improving the situation but it is still springing up in a garden.

### **2305/6. Compost site**

Kate – Is there a specific group, who will provide space and maintain as we don't want a dumping ground. William expressed his enthusiasm to at least explore the idea if a village composting site was viable. He confirmed CDC is encouraging PCs to adopt a composting scheme and to save the charge for green bins collection and there was also potential to make money from the compost material. He acknowledged there was a long list of reasons against, but with a climate crisis and the green bins going to Swindon, it would help save numerous trips back and forth. William felt we should investigate it and wanted to raise it on the agenda. William thought the village had the space, e.g., Kennel Lane if the allotment trustees allow it.

The Chairman confirmed he could see lots of difficulties to overcome, but if there was village interest we should investigate. Nigel asked what is the demand in the village for the composting site and if villagers would use it or the end product. He continued; it would be far from self-funded and from reading the document, we have to use storage with a roof, a shredder, a mulcher, water and power supplies, four processing bins 3 foot deep and therefore, the CDC funding of 2k, does not appear to be a big enough contribution.

Nigel asked, do we need to spend the difference as a council and again, how much support is in the village for it, we should ask the village before making any decisions. Nigel continued that his preference would be for the village hall as a central site, as the allotments are at one end of the village. He confirmed these points should be addressed first. The Chairman confirmed Nigel's statement as a fair assessment. William confirmed we may be offered some of the items listed above but we should ask the village if they would like the service.

Kate stated that if we took the number of the public turning up for this meeting as a reference and a basis for a show of interest, it appears to be not much. Nigel asked, can we set up a survey monkey to establish any interest in running it. TL to be realistic I would like to engage with the public. PC to run a survey.

**2305/7** – Paul addressed the Chairman, members and public, and gave a report of the financial status for both village charities. The poor plot allotment charity for the allotments and field, on 1/2/22 this had an opening balance of £1,468.48, with income received during the year for renting of the field £400, and allotment rents of £40, giving a final closing total of £1908.48 at 31/01/23. He confirmed no discretionary Christmas gifts were given out this year. The land (field) was rented out for hay, with 3 allotment holders paying rent. Broadwell charity for public purposes & the parish church had £429.50 as an opening balance, this is supported by the charity's investment fund, which receives a quarterly dividend and added a total of £788.23 to the fund. No monies were allocated during this period, therefore, giving a closing balance of £1217.73. Total investment value of the fund is currently £26,921.85. The trustees are happy to talk about the reserves being held at a later date. Paul was pleased to announce as trustees, we will make a dispersal of funds for the following, £900 to the parish council and £300 to the church, a 75% & 25% split, in line

## Broadwell Parish Council

---

with the terms of the charity. The Chairman thanked Paul for the funds and confirmed they will be used for the village, however, is it better needed by the church? William confirmed the church is short on funding with various maintenance issues to be dealt with. Paul confirmed it is set out in the charities mission statement, that is the way the charity disperses their money. The Chairman asked why didn't you give out the Christmas gifts this year. Paul stated it is more assistance for winter fuel, example coal use to be handed out but nowadays it is a money allowance. Some people in the village did not want to receive charity and Covid coming along stopped the process naturally.

Paul handed over the two cheques one to the parish council and one to William for the church. The Chairman duly signed the charities' reconciliation forms and to confirm receipt of the money.

William asked if the parish council were able to plant trees on the rented land. Paul confirmed he was happy but the other trustees would need to also approve. Paul indicated there was part of the land suitable for tree planting. He went on to explain that there was a peculiar shaped boundary that could be straightened with a copse. William asked how big is the field? Paul replied not quite 8 acres with allotments taken off.

**2305/8.** The Chairman opened up the floor to the public. One member of public was confused by the website and timings of the meeting. POST NOTE: the clerk has since investigated and the timings are correct on the website for both meetings.

Kate raised the Stow Development Plan, she asked for clarity for what stage it was at. We all know the public consultation has taken place but when will we find out the results? She was concerned that the process needs to be carefully monitored to ensure we know and do as much as possible. She wanted to ensure that we can challenge when we can and that we have a voice and we continue to talk to the Stow town's people. The Chairman addressed her issues confirming that there will be some back and forth during the process and that the other application for St George's Field is not supported by the Town Council plan.

The Chairman will pass on the update details from the District Councillor. Nigel stated the plan has not been accepted yet, and they have to publish the results of the consultation. It was noted that it has been submitted to CDC for approval. All agreed that we need to write and support the other site. KB are they following the process if they haven't published the consultation and the second vote in Stow. If they haven't followed process we need to strongly challenge. The Chairman confirmed the first run has been done, with the second submitting to CDC for close examination, as per Joseph Walker's email for details. The Chairman confirmed we believe the application at St George's Field is targeting the need for the plan. The clerk will write to Alan White, asking when do they expect the milestones to be met as we are clearly interested in the outcome.

We encourage all to write regarding the St George's Field planning application. One letter to Alan, one to planning. Nigel will draft for the Oddington Road site. Clerk to write to Alan informally re process and dates.

Paul – Flooding has been experienced at the Vicarage throughout the winter months. He thought it was aggravated following works by GIGACLEAR when they installed the cables. Can we go back to GIGACLEAR or higher authority, it never used to flood like it did this winter following the cable installation. The ditch

## Broadwell Parish Council

---

that was there is now full of silt and mud, we can dig it out but should we deal with the cause. It needs to be looked at in the summer when the water isn't covering the road. The Chairman asked do you think it's appropriate to write to GIGACLEAR? All agreed to write to GIGACLEAR with the details, and include the missing bin.

Member of the public asked, does anyone know why we can't connect after having the cables laid, I have been in contact, there is nothing on record. Rebecca mentioned the village hall and their promise for its connection. The clerk confirmed that Colin had investigated and although cables are laid the area is not connected yet.

Paul asked the Chairman if the **damage** to the wall and bar by the Ford, was the PC's responsibility. Nigel confirmed a quote has been obtained for the wall. Nigel will chase up highways to ask why the barrier has not been repaired. Rebecca confirmed that there had been no police report number so we can't claim on the insurance.

Rebecca reported for the **fete committee** – Accounts are healthy standing at £2460, which has built up over the last two years. The quiz night and auction topped the account up to £3900. £150 was spent on coronation drinks for Donnington and Broadwell. The fete committee will now start drawing money to pay for the fete with a £3750 starting pot. We can then decide what we do with the funds after the fete.

Paul – RE the **speed bumps**, it's a no through road. Rebecca thought people only start building up speed from her drive to the bend, so perhaps 20 is plenty is required. The Chairman stated there are a lot of down sides to speed bumps and enquired as to how much the signs would be. Nigel - I don't think the signage will work, maybe a dangerous bend sign but will they be effective. Children and horses' sign or is the parent and child sign still there. William confirmed we did talk about planting at the entrance to the village. It was noted there are four fast points in the village, Rebecca asked again, can we try the signs. Anna mentioned as people use the village as a cut through something is needed. A member of public stated, I don't feel it's obvious that they will meet a double bend and it is a village. The Chairman asked for this to be added as an item for next agenda.

Janina confirmed lack of attendance at the **village hall AGM**, only one person turned up, and we advertise the meeting. I feel I would like to leave due to no support, if there more people it would be a different matter. I have been doing it 12 years now. Rebecca, I don't understand why people don't come forward to help. Anna asked, is it worth putting on the village email, publishing the plight of the future for the village hall and the need for more support. Chairman, can we consider running the two together, we are at full capacity as a parish council. It was noted that always the same people turn up to the meetings. Janina, if we had more people, we could share the tasks especially the weekly inspections for the hall. Chairman, maybe we can have a crisis meeting with the village. William, I think it reflects society in many ways, it is happening throughout the country not just Broadwell. Chairman, if you were contemplating leaving, please give us a chance to see if we can support you and the committee. Rebecca, at the end of the fete we will need to decide how will we spend the money, and I am looking to do something good for the village, but we want people to be involved in how it is spent and motivated. Everyone wondered if there is a division in the village.

**2305/9** - The Chairman confirmed, I still think a village plan would help. We will add an agenda update, to recruit volunteers, groups working together, arrange a village meeting to cover all topics after the fete. He thanked everyone for attending and duly closed the meeting.

**2305/10** – The meeting was closed 7.55 pm.