

BROAD TOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Broad Town Parish Council held on Tuesday 30 May 2017

Councillors: Mrs J E Jordan - Chairman
S J Billis
Mrs S G Hartley – Vice Chairman
M A Holland
B Joyce
A R Pearce
C J Rendell

In Attendance: 35 members of the Broad Town Community

Officers: Mrs L A Roberts – Interim Parish Clerk



The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Jordan, extended a warm welcome to the community of Broad Town and thanked them for attending in such substantial numbers and added it was great to see so much interest in the meeting. Councillor Mrs Jordan explained that the Annual Parish meeting was the community's opportunity to raise issues and concerns with the Parish Council who would then consider anything raised at a formal meeting of the Parish Council.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2016 were signed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

3. YOUR NEW COUNCIL

The newly elected Parish Councillors then gave a brief introduction to their electors and community groups present.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Jordan reported that she had lived in Broad Town for 7 ½ years in Pye Lane, was married and had two children who had attended the village Pre-school. She was delighted to have been elected to the Council and was looking forward to working on the projects that had most support in the village.

Councillor Joyce stated that he had lived in Broad Town since 1993 and lived in Horns Lane, he had raised two children in the village who had attended the local school. He added that he thoroughly enjoyed living in village and was involved in various community groups and more recently the Community Led Planning Group (CLPC). Councillor Joyce also reported that he wanted to ensure value for money for the community from the limited funds available to the Parish Council.

Councillor Billis said he had lived in Broad Town for twelve years and raised two children. He went on to say that he had joined the Parish Council to make sure that all the good things that can be done will be done. In doing so it meant looking for opportunities for grant funding, especially for projects such as children's play areas, footpaths and road safety. He enjoyed being involved in trying to promote activities for everyone.

Councillor Pearce reported that he had lived in village for 17 years, in Pye Lane and that he had taken part in everything that he possibly could in the village, and as a Councillor he now wanted to put something back and help maintain Broad Town as a lovely village which is an enjoyable place to live.

Councillor Holland had been a village resident for 30 years, was married and lived in Marlborough House, he had raised 5 children in village and was involved in many organisations in the village.

Councillor Hartley advised that she had lived here for just over 6 years and had 2 sons and a husband. Councillor Hartley was a founder member of the Community Coffee mornings and was motivated to becoming a Councillor as she felt it was her time to step up and help the village and listen to what the community wants.

Councillor Rendell reported that he had lived in village for 47 years, that he had enjoyed every moment of his time in the village. He was married with two children and a retired accountant. He was looking forward to getting involved in village events and use his experience of village life on the council.

4. POLICE REPORT

There was no Police representative in attendance.

5. REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Councillor Mrs M Groom reported that since the elections the focus at Wiltshire Council was preparing councillors through training and induction sessions to equip them with the knowledge needed to carry out their roles as Unitary Councillors. Councillor Mrs Groom reported that the Community Area Transport Group was active and met regularly and the issue of speeding in the village was on the agenda.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public were invited to raise any issues they wanted to make the Parish Council aware of which would be considered carefully by the Parish Council.

Bob Clarke would welcome the continuation of the initiative of looking at improvements to the footpaths.

A question was raised by Louise Coward about reinstalling the bench in the play area as the park is being used more and it would be a welcome addition to enable parents to have somewhere to sit.

Nigel Crocker asked that improvements to Redhills play area are made and that any further improvements should be investigated to enable the play area to be developed further.

Rosie Law suggested that a cycle track would be useful for young people who are currently cycling on roads.

Annette Moore advised that a few months ago there was a discussion around dedicating a memorial of some kind in memory of Rosemary McLaren. Rosemary had lived in village for many years and had been very involved in village life, she had been a supportive member of the church and had a career in nursing and midwifery. Annette suggested that having a defibrillator for use by the village would be a very fitting tribute. Annette had researched providers and would pass this information onto the Parish Council. Annette advised that the

Community Heartbeat Trust would like to make a grant application to the Community Fund for the remainder of funding still left to raise.

James Harvey-Samuel asked about what the Parish Council does and what it would be willing to do. He went on to say that there are expectations about what a council can do and what power it has. The Interim Clerk responded that a parish council has many powers and few duties. That it should listen to community aspirations and work together to achieve them. A Parish Council has the power to raise a precept, which is the tax levied on residents to pay for services but that it was always better for a Parish Council to work with its community and explain what services might cost through the precept.

It was explained that a communications policy is within the remit and scope of the Parish Council and under the new Transparency Code it is essential that the Parish Council is open, honest and transparent in all its business.

Huw Ponting suggested that an up-to-date list of what interest/community groups there were in the village would be very useful and give villagers an understanding of what goes on.

7. UPDATES FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan – New-V

Lorraine Billis – secretary of CLPG explained that the CPLG had been set up to provide community representation from Broad Town in relation to the neighbourhood plan. The group would liaise/report to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group who would prepare the Neighbourhood Plan. The CPLG had maintained communication with the village, through the website to keep villagers up to date and to ensure that meetings were open to the public to attend. Of the three villages, still in the New V, neighbourhood plan two wished to depart and to do so each village had to give authorisation. This in effect means that Broad Town would be left as the only village in the designated area and at this stage no one knows exactly what that will mean for Broad Town and that expert/high level advice on current legal status within the area designation is necessary so that the correct decision can be made in the best interests of Broad town. CLPG had now suspended meetings and was awaiting the outcome of this decision if it is agreed that Broad Town should continue with a Neighbourhood Plan or not.

7.2 Speeding in the Village – Report from Judy Conybeare

Judy reported that the issue of speeding in the village had generated a lot of discussion. Judy advised that when parish plan took place in excess of 300 comments about speeding had been received and that there was much concern expressed about the speed of traffic through the village. Several metro counts had taken place which demonstrated the dangerously high number of cars driving too quickly. To mitigate this, white gates, roundels, Road Review, white lines along the verge had been installed but

other measures might include the use of flashing Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). Judy reported that a Community Speed Watch initiative had been taken up in 2011 to 2013 and attempts to re-raise a team had been made in 2016 but this was a big ask for villagers to undertake in all weathers as was the abuse which was often shown towards them. Build outs have been considered but due to Highways concerns were not an option and so this could not be adopted. The latest CATG proposal was to offer Broad Town a fourth metrocount. Broad Town have implemented every project recommended by Wiltshire Council to no avail leaving the only remaining option of engineering work to be investigated.

The issue over speeding is still live with Wiltshire Council, issue number 4567 and it will be kept on the CATG agenda. Judy reported that the issue of speeding traffic had been running since as far back as 1971. From the feedback received from the Community Speed Watch Team only 1% of speeding offenders are Village residents.

There has been a very slow response and suggestions have not been taken up or have not worked. Comments from the Parish Plan suggest villagers would like to see SIDS installed as a gentle reminder to people who sometimes accidentally break the speed limit. Perhaps a fresh approach is needed to establish whether there is anything else which could be explored.

Judy suggested that there needs to be representation from the Parish Council on the CATG. Judy further explained that all this was not indicative of the arduous work which had been put in and felt that the Parish Council should thank former Parish Councillor Veronica Stubbings for all her hard work in relation to this issue.

Suggestions coming forward were to look at alternatives to Speed watch. Making one person responsible for reporting offenders to the police, to keep a record of activity and to contact haulage companies where their drivers are exceeding the speed limit.

This was thought to be an excellent idea and could work if someone concentrated on these reports. It was further suggested that vehicle registrations were taken and if a pattern emerges, ie the same vehicles are speeding regularly that action could be taken.

It was also reported that there is a problem with cyclists speeding down the hill.

7.3 Community Coffee Morning Group

Margaret Manley advised that the Community Coffee Morning group met on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday morning of each month. It was started so that something could be held mid-week and allowed villagers to drop in for a coffee, cake and a chat. When it began in February 2016, it was very successful and well-supported and continues to be so with at least 30 villagers attending each time. It was never the intention to use it to raise funds but the group have successfully raised £1000 for church roof project, £200 for Macmillan Cancer and £55, which sponsored half a goat for the people in Nepal following the earthquake. It was reported that children are encouraged. At Easter and Christmas time children were welcome and made Easter Bunny baskets and take part in Christmas related crafts. Margaret offered her grateful thanks to supporters, especially those who make cakes

and she also thanked the village hall committee for allowing free use of the Hall. Margaret advised that an application would be made to the Good Energy Community Fund to apply for grant funding to cover the hire costs of the hall. Margaret finished by giving a warm welcome to all councillors to attend one of the coffee mornings.

7.4 Bumps and Beyond

There was no one in attendance to give a report.

7.5 Big Gig

James Harvey Samuel advised that he was the Treasurer of the Big Gig event which had taken place 9 Times since 2006. The bank balance stood at £4000 and following the 9 events the group had been able to donate £15000 to various villagers and local causes.

The event would take place this year on Saturday 9 September and they would commence advertising throughout July and August. So far 12 bands were on the line-up including a Madness Tribute Band who would be the main act. The fixed costs of £6000 to put on the event requires a lot of effort from the 8 committee members, but James reported they were grateful to the many people in the village who contribute to it. There is a lock-up which stores their old equipment consisting of an inflatable stage and chairs. James reported that the shed needs repairing/replacing as does some of the equipment. James advised that some village organisations can and do make use of the tent for free and that and private individuals pay to hire.

He suggested the importance of getting it right is down to marketing and drawing in favours from the villagers and if the event were reliant on just the village attending it would not be viable which is why the marketing is so important to draw in people from outside the village. He asked that the community tell as many people about the event and if anyone owned business or knew of a business who would be interested in sponsoring the event to get in touch.

7.6 Village Hall Group – Report from Nigel Crocker, Chairman of Village Hall and Lettings

Nigel advised that his report covers the period from January 2016 to December 2016. He was pleased to say the hall had had a successful year with income from lettings which whilst being at the same level as the previous year the expenses had been less so a surplus of £2000.00 had been made. He reported however that in July they had lost a long term booking the Christian Ministry, due to the hall now being too small for their needs. He reported that some small improvements had been carried out to the Ladies and Gents toilets, new storage heaters had been installed, new electricity sockets in hall and kitchen, new strip lights, a replacement refrigerator and that a complete PAT test had been carried out. Nigel advised that a new electricity supplier had been sourced and they were giving a better rate. A Health & Safety risk assessment had dealt with issues raised and log book created which would be used to monitor and make improvements. The commemorative plates depicting historic scenes of the village, which had been donated were now displayed in a fitting frame on the back wall of the hall.

Nigel informed that at the AGM all members had agreed to stand again. They also agreed to keep the hire rates at the current level but had added a minimum charge of £10 for first hour and to continue to offer free use to the Community Coffee mornings.

7.7 Christ Church – Report of Ray Manley, Church Warden.

Ray advised on all church activities. Ray updated everyone on the Church roof.

Urgent repairs are required to the roof on the north side of the building at an approximate cost of £28,000. They had received two grants totalling £13,000 with a further £13,000 from fundraising activities, the balance of £2,000 will come from church funds which had been set aside for general repairs. He was therefore pleased and grateful to the community that he could report the repairs would be carried out in the very near future.

Ray reported that two new church wardens been appointed and advised that the Priest in charge also has responsibility for 4 churches and in the coming year will take responsibility for two more and therefore two more wardens were required to assist the Priest with duties.

In addition, Ray reported that monthly work mornings take place to tidy up the church yard, they produce a monthly newsletter and, oh yes, we have weekly Church services! Ray welcomed any comments from the village on church activities, good and bad.

He concluded his report with a thank you to the parish Council for their support to Broad Town Church over the past year and hoped that the good working relationship would continue for the benefit of the community.

7.8 Women's Institute – report by Kate Horton

Kate reported that 30 ladies meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. They have many guest speakers, for example last month they had a Dog Trainer to the RAF (drugs explosives). Their summer meetings usually involve a visit somewhere and this year one was planned to a garden in Allington, near Chippenham. There would also be a summer walk followed by a meal out. The WI get involved in many village activities, including last year the Queen's Birthday Celebrations and the Big Gig. Kate concluded her report by saying they are always looking for new members who would be most welcome.

7.9 Broad Town Pre-School

There was no one in attendance.

7.10 White Horse Group – Report by Bob Clarke

Bob began by stating that the White Horse was a signature of the village and Wiltshire and Broad Town's was one of 11 across the county. They have recently completed cleaning (scouring) the white horse. Bob advised that the initiative had not been published due to insurance implications. They can only accommodate 10 working at any one time and they

do need to know who will be there for insurance reasons. He explained that insurance costs are prohibitive. He went on to explain that to apply lime to the White Horse had cost £288 plus VAT and they were left with a balance of £24.00 so there are some issues to overcome with funding.

It was suggested that the issue over insurance costs might be resolved through Community First, based in Devizes. Alternatively, the Parish Council could check their cover which could be approached for a quote.

Another suggestion was to approach the Area Board and or the Community fund for grant funding. Bob also advised that the display boards also need refurbishing.

7.11 Social Club

Trevor Hillier was not in attendance to give a report.

7.12 Broad Town Archaeology – Report by Bob Clarke

Archaeologists and historians have been investigating in and around Broad Town for over 20 years.

Bob reported that it would be good to encourage more students to do field work which almost always involved the community. Some historical photographic records had revealed 60's and 80's pictures which demonstrate how the village has developed.

In 2014 whilst digging in a garden just inside the parish, three stones were found in a line which led onto a full dig revealing a full medieval Saxon chapel. Bob reported that a neighbouring parish, Clyffe Pypard had begun on a new project the Bincknoll castle And they were seeking funding for that. The group is entirely community driven and for anyone on Facebook, the Broad Town Archaeology page gives dates of when things are happening. Bob invited people to come and give a hand. He reported that geo physics had not found anything but they had dug at Preachers Corner with limited success. He reported that many from the village had dug at Bincknoll castle. He reported of an evening to be arranged through the church for people to come and learn about their environment through guided parish walks etc.

7.13 Clean for the Queen Group – Report by Rosie Law

Rosie Law reported that in March/April last year there was a community wish to commemorate the Queen's 60th anniversary since ascension to the throne and so a few events were organised, including a village weekend of celebrations at which 270 people attended, litter picks were organised, a fancy-dress competition, scarecrow competitions, a dance. These took place over a few months with all events being free to attend or participate in. It was funded through the Community Fund. Everyone involved enjoyed the events with money raised going towards the planting of some blue, white and red flowers. The WI served teas, the Church hosted the scarecrow competition. It was suggested that when the right opportunity arose other events might be organised. One element which they would like to take forward would be to organise a biannual litter pick to keep the village clean.

7.14 Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinators – Report by Andy Law

Andy reported that co-ordinators were at various locations across the village and that any intelligence was reported to the Police. He further added that the take up for replacement coordinators had been slow and as people left the village numbers had declined. Articles were regularly placed in the Broad Town news. Andy explained the change in Policing which had recently changed from Neighbourhood Policing to Community Policing meaning that Police resources had become centralised and therefore the relationship between the Police and Neighbourhood Watch had changed. Andy suggested that the liaison group who report to the Police Community Tasking Group should have a Parish Council representative on it.

7.15 Community Fund – Report by Councillor S Billis

Councillor Billis explained that the funds for the Good Energy Community fund come from the production of electricity at Rock Wood Solar Farm at Goldborough, the funds are for use by the community of Broad Town.

Good Energy offer community funds as one way of sharing the benefits of renewable energy with local people living close to its wind and solar farms.

To qualify for funding, preference will be given to applicants based within Broad Town although applications from organisations based elsewhere will also be considered providing they demonstrate significant benefit to the community of Broad Town. Not for profit organisations who can be considered are:

- Registered Charities
- Voluntary Groups
- Community Groups
- Clubs
- School/pre-school parent associations

Individuals may apply but only with relation to a specific project with a community focus. Broad Town Parish Council and Good Energy are keen that projects which receive funding build upon the community's existing social, economic or environmental sustainability.

Full details of the criteria and application forms are available from the Interim Parish Clerk. Email: strebo1504@outlook.com, Mobile No: 07794056594

The Parish Council make decisions on all funding applications, twice yearly, meeting dates will be published in plenty of time.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Jordan thanked the community for attending in such a substantial number and for contributing to a very positive meeting, adding that there was a lot for the Parish Council to consider going forward.

The meeting closed at 20.05pm.

