

MINUTES of the meeting of Broad Town Parish Council held on Monday 13th February 2017 in Broad Town Village Hall, starting at 6.30pm

PRESENT : Cllrs Jason Bayliff, Simon Billis, Ray Bourton, Stuart Hinson (chairman), Donna Ponting, Veronica Stubbings. Mrs Deborah Bourne (Clerk)

Also Present : Ten members of the public.

Public Question Time There were no questions or statements made by the public.

Wiltshire Council Report W. Cllr Mollie Groom was absent.

019/17 Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllr Matt Nailon, who had work commitments.

020/17 Declarations of Interest Cllr Veronica Stubbings declared an interest in item 7a on the Agenda; she is a member of the Village Hall committee.

021/17 Minutes Cllr Simon Billis requested that the Resolution at 011/17 be changed to reflect that he had asked for copies of the survey.

RESOLVED to add "Cllr Billis requested copies of survey." as an additional sentence to resolution 011/17. This was hand written onto the minutes and initialled by the chairman.

It was Further RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting held Monday 9th January 2017, as amended, and to adopt the minutes of the extra ordinary meeting held on Monday 16th January 2017 as a true record of the meeting. Both sets of Minutes were duly signed by the chairman.

022/17 Planning Matters a. Decisions made by Wiltshire Council

16/11126/FUL – Land at Thornhill, Royal Wootton Bassett Change of use to Residential Development along with alterations and extension, including site clearance and removal of all Commercial storage activities. Decision : Approve with Conditions

The above decision was noted.

b. Applications for consideration by the Council There were no Planning Applications for consultation.

023/17 Highway Matters It was noted that the grips at Thornhill need cleaning, and the Broad Town sign at the entrance to the village has been damaged. These items should be reported through to Wiltshire Councils Parish Steward scheme for his attention.

Cllr Stubbings reported there had been no meeting of the Community Area Transport Group since her last update.

024/17 Establishment Matters a. Clerks Extra Hours At the last meeting it was noted (04/17) that the Clerk has been required to work additional hours due to the Freedom of Information requests received. To date these requests have meant approximately 25 hours of extra work. The Clerk requested payment for 10 of these hours, in recognition of her extra work.

RESOLVED to pay the Clerk the additional 10 hours as requested, at her current rate of pay.

b. Clerks Expenses RESOLVED to reimburse the Clerk for printer ink, and other stationery sundries. Receipts are available for all amounts.

c. Clerks Resignation The Clerk had previously handed a letter of resignation to the Chairman of the Council; with a leaving date of Tuesday 21st February 2017.

RESOLVED that a replacement must be found quickly, but it was more important to employ a professional with experience of the sector. To this end, an advert for the vacant position should be placed on the WALC website.

025/17 Finance RESOLVED to give donations of £150 (one hundred and fifty pounds) to the Broad Town Newsletter; and £450 (four hundred and fifty pounds) towards upkeep of the Village Hall.

026/17 Good Energy Fund a. Payments It was noted that the Clerk has received an e-mail from Good Energy, about the Rookwood Solar Farm Community Fund. The second year's income is due to be paid shortly; confirmation of the exact amount is awaited.

b. Applications Several Community Groups have requested application forms to apply for funding from the Good Energy Fund.

RESOLVED that a meeting should be called especially to consider grants from this fund. Forms should be sent to Community Groups and they should be invited to give a small presentation to Councillors at this meeting.

027/17 NEW-V Neighbourhood Plan There have been sustained criticisms and concerns expressed by a number of residents about the way in which consultations have been carried out and how the results have been interpreted; even though the CLPG and residents have been consulted at every step. These include the consultations run by Common Places and the more recent Housing Survey carried out by the Parish Council. Complaints have included: that information has been removed by persons unknown during the Common Places consultations; housing questionnaires removed from the collection box by residents; 'seed' words omitted; results wrongly interpreted.

Sufficient doubt has now been cast on the results of all consultations that it is possible the draft Plan would be rejected by the Independent Examiner even if it got through the informal consultation and referendum stages.

Discussions included, but not exclusively: ☐ Do the residents of Broad Town wish to have a Neighbourhood Plan, or would they be content with the Core Strategy only for their village? ☐ Members were concerned Clyffe Pypard would not be able to complete a Plan on its own; they are only a little way ahead of Broad Town. ☐ The Consultations would need to be repeated if the Broad Town Plan was to have any credibility. ☐ The possibility of Broad Town Parish Council instigating its own Neighbourhood Plan in the future. Under the current legislation it is Town or Parish Councils that are listed as the qualifying body.

RESOLVED that since there is no way for Broad Town to withdraw from the NEW-V process, and in view of the concerns expressed that the criticism of evidence could influence and tarnish the process, Broad Town Parish Council support Tockenham and Clyffe Pypard in their application to leave the NEW-V Group. This would give the parish of Broad Town longer to produce its own plan and resolve the current uncertainties.

Further RESOLVED, in accordance with the LGA 1972 s 101(1), to delegate authority to the Parish Clerk to release Tockenham and Clyffe Pypard from the NEW-V area in line with the authority

already given for the release of the parishes of Purton, Lyneham & Bradenstoke, Lydiard Millicent and Lydiard Tregoz.

028/17 Correspondence Received The following correspondence was noted by the Parish Council.

☐ Letter from Broad Town Community Led Planning Group (CLPG) in reply to letter sent from Parish Council dated 21st November 2016. ☐ Letter from Broad Town CLPG enclosing documentation originally distributed in October 2015. The documentation offers eight options for consideration for the delivery of Affordable Housing.

029/17 Village Newsletter RESOLVED that Cllr Billis would write the report of this months meeting for the Village Newsletter. The report should include the resignation of the Clerk and a reminder that issues needing the Parish Stewards attention should be reported to the Parish Council; this can be done at any time by e-mail, it does not have to wait until the monthly meetings.

030/17 Councillors Observations and Items for Next Meeting Members were asked individually if they had any observations:

☐ Cllr Billis had no observations to make ☐ Cllr Stubbings made a statement, saying she had been a Councillor for 20 years and it was with great sadness and anger she would be resigning from the Council with effect from 9.00am on Tuesday, 14 February. Her resignation letter is attached for information. ☐ Cllr Ray Bourton handed a letter of resignation to the Chairman, which the Clerk read out on his behalf. His resignation letter is attached for information. ☐ Cllr Donna Ponting handed a letter of resignation to the Chairman. The letter is attached for information. ☐ Cllr Jason Bayliff made a statement and handed his letter of resignation to the chairman. The letter is attached for information. ☐ The Chairman read out a statement he had received via e-mail before the meeting from Cllr Matt Nailon stating his wish to resign with fellow Councillors. ☐ Cllr Stuart Hinson read out a statement giving notice of his resignation from the Council with immediate affect. His statement is attached for information. Clerk advised:

With only one Councillor remaining it is not possible to form the quorum needed (3) for the Parish Council to act legally. The meeting must be abandoned and the Elections department notified.

Councils operate and get their powers within Statute. Statute also directs Councils how to behave; the LGA 1972 sch 12 para 12 & 45 states no business shall be transacted at a meeting of a Parish Council unless one third, or three whichever is the greatest, is present at the meeting.

In the event of there being too few Councillors for the Council to act legally the LGA 1972 s 91 allows the Principle Authority to appoint people, by order, to fill any or all of the vacant seats until such time as Councillors are elected and take up office. A copy of this order must be sent to the Secretary of State, Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 s 39(4) refers.

Meeting ended at 7.41pm

..... Chairman