

BROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Broome Parish Council held on Wednesday 31st January 2024, 7.00pm, Broome Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs. A Allen (AA) (Chair), D Billington (DB) (Vice Chair), M Billingham (MB), S Breeden (SB), S Riding (SR) and M Whitehouse (MW).

Also present were: The Clerk Mrs B J Drew (BD), District Councillor Mr R M Drew (RMD) and Lengthsman Mr W Waldron (BW).

1. Apologies: County / District Cllr. M J Hart, District Cllr. Mr I Hardiman, and West Mercia Police.

2. Declarations of Interest and dispensations:

DB and SB in village hall as members of the committee.

Public Question time: None

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 6th December 2023: These were duly approved and were signed by the Chair as a true record.

4. To discuss Parish Council Vacancy:

The Clerk advised that since no election has been called the Parish Council can fill the vacancy by co-option. Clerk to put notice on Noticeboard, Website, Magazine and WhatsApp group. This will be on the agenda at meeting 8th May 2024.

5. Police Report/Policing Priorities:

Written Report previously circulated – Nothing to report locally however there is an increase in burglaries across Wyre Forest

Police Priorities to remain – Speeding, Burglaries, Increased Police Patrol.

6. District Councillor's Report:

District Councillors Report previously circulated and appended to minutes.

RD has now secured no littering / fly tipping signs for the Parish and needs precise locations for Wyre Forest District Council to put them up. AA/SB will provide these.

RD will liaise with DB regarding collection of VAS data and production of reports.

7. County Councillor's Report:

County Councillor Report previously circulated and appended to minutes.

WW reported that drainage issues have still not been attended to. WW/RD looked at every drain in the Parish and sent a comprehensive report to Worcestershire County Council. RD will ask MH to chase action on this.

AA asked all Councillors to consider ideas for £500 funding available from MH. Clerk advised that Rushock PC are doing a birdbox/bug hotel project for all children in the Parish.

DB commented on the Boundary Commission consultation which is covered under agenda item 11.

8. Lengthsman Report:

WW advised that he will be retiring from his job as Parish Lengthsman from 31st March 2024.

9. Planning Report:

The Planning Spreadsheet had been previously circulated. Clerk reported on Planning since last meeting:

Applications;

23/0832/FUL – Lowood, Belbroughton Road – Demolition of bungalow and replacement with dormer bungalow and associated works.

Decisions;

23/0712/CLP – Lawful development certificate for a proposed single storey side extension Gora Villa, Broome Lane,

23/0742/PNH – Larger Home Extension Prior Approval Given – Construction of a single storey rear extension Gora Villa, Broome Lane,

23/0787/TCA – Fell Cypressus Conifer approved at Applecroft, Church Road, Broome,

23/0788/HOU – Refusal – Construction of a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension at Dove Leys, Worcester Road.

Clerk advised of an email received from Sam, Wyre Forest Planning Enforcement Officer advising there are no current enforcement matters in the Parish at the moment.

After discussion it was agreed the Planning Sub Committee to be MB, DB, AA, SR.

10. Financial Report:

- a) To agree Budget for 2024/2025

The draft Budget had been previously circulated. DB explained all figures contained therein.

It was proposed AA, seconded MB and unanimously agreed to adopt the budget as presented.

- b) To agree Precept for 2024/2025

DB suggested an increase in precept of 10% which will show on the bill as 2.1% increase due to an increase of 16 in the Tax Base base figure supplied by Wyre Forest District Council for 2024-2025. This would result in a Precept of £6,930.00, £31.08 per Band D property 2024-2025.

This was proposed SB, seconded SR and unanimously agreed.

- c) To update the PC on the financial position, consideration of the financial spreadsheet and bank Statements.

Clerk advised that VAT repayment of £935.90 has been made so the balance as at 26th January is £13,737.30. Payments to Lengthsman, Parish Council Websites, Clerk and Worcestershire CALC totalling £1,008.46 are yet to be paid leaving a balance of £12,728.84.

The Clerk advised that a monthly sim needed for the phone being used for the VAS data has been bought costing £10.00 per month. It was agreed this is paid by Standing Order.

MB advised that a Deposit Account has now been opened. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to keep £1500 in the current account and transfer the balance to the deposit account. Following payment of the four outstanding invoices DB/MB will do a test transfer between the two accounts.

- d) To authorise expenditure.

Already Paid;

Mrs B J Drew – Microsoft Office

£16.00

Worcestershire CALC Chairman’s Training	£36.00
Mr W Waldron – Lengthsman December 23	£102.00
For Approval;	
Worcestershire CALC Councillor’s Training	£36.00
Mrs B J Drew – Tesco Pay as You Go Sim (VAS Data)	£10.00
Parish Council Websites	£758.46
Lengthsman – January 2024	£204.00

11. To discuss the Local Government Boundary Commission proposals for new electoral arrangements for Worcestershire.

Clerk had circulated Boundary Commission consultation document. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to support the proposal for the Chaddesley Division in the Wyre Forest area which keeps all the 5 parishes (including Broome) within the division together with the Spennells Estate but adds the new Lea Castle development. Clerk to respond to consultation before 18th March 2024.

12. To update on new Parish Council website.

Clerk/AA advised the new website is now live. It was agreed that it needs advertising. Clerk to produce a flyer for distribution by Councillors to all properties in the Parish. Clerk to put a notice in Broadcast magazine.

SB suggested the addition of more pictures and a link to Village Hall events. AA requested that Councillors be minded of constraints on administration time when sending any changes/additions to the Clerk.

13. To discuss and agree Biodiversity Policy.

Clerk had circulated Worcestershire CALC draft policy. Councillors felt this was quite lengthy and a lot of the headings did not apply to Broome. Clerk/AA agreed to circulate a simpler policy for agreement.

14. To discuss latest traffic data from additional VAS located at Hackman’s Gate and agree future collection of data.

RD is providing the Parish Council with an android phone to take VAS data readings. It was agreed DB would do this on a frequent basis.

AA queried data collection on the other VAS sign and WW advised it only records the number of hits which averages 100 per day.

MB suggested in future the signs could be swapped, this was agreed but not yet as reducing Hackman’s Gate speeding is the priority.

15. Date of Next Meetings.

- 8th May 2024
- 4th September 2024
- 4th December 2024

Meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Signed..... Amanda J Allen (Chair)

Date.....