

**BROOME PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Broome Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 7.00pm, Broome Village Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs. A Allen (AA) (Chair), M Billingham (MB), L Hill (LH), S Riding (SR) and M Whitehouse (MW).

**Also present were:** The Clerk Mrs B J Drew (BD) District Councillor Mr R M Drew (RMD), PC Jamie Guest (JG), PCSO Becky Ruston (BR) and PCSO Nikki Thomas (NT).

**1. Apologies:** Don Billington, County / District Cllr. M J Hart, District Cllr. Mr I Hardiman.

**2. Declarations of Interest and dispensations:**

No declarations of interests were declared.

AA asked the Clerk to send the link to forms on the WFDC website so all Councillors can check they are up to date.

**Public Question time:** None

**3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024:** These were duly approved and were signed by the Chair as a true record.

**4. Police Report/Policing Priorities:**

Written Report previously circulated.

188\_I\_03062024 A report of Suspicious Circumstances when at 03:20hrs on 3rd June 2024 a drone was seen flying low around a rural property on Redhall Farm Road, it is believed the drone was looking closely at items and vehicles on site.

225\_I\_16062024 At approximately 13.50hrs on Sunday 16th June two males were seen in the rear garden of a property along Belbroughton Road. The males had scaled a fence belonging to another neighbour. On being sighted, they ran off across a farmer's field and got into a waiting white transit van. The males were wearing black hoodies.

We recently released a press report following the theft of breeding Ewe's in Chaddesley Corbett due to concerns they may enter the food chain; it is important the wider community are aware of the risks surrounding this incident. Please see below for the press release.

'We're urging people to report suspicious sales of meat following the theft of three sheep in Chaddesley Corbett over the bank holiday weekend.

It's feared that the sheep may have been stolen to be illegally butchered for meat. The animals were on medication which would make their meat unfit for human consumption.

PCSO Kate Easthope said: "We're concerned that if the meat from these sheep has entered the food chain it could cause serious health issues for those who consume it.

"As always, for your safety we would only advise buying and consuming meat from reputable sources.

"As well as being unsafe for consumers, illegal butchery is a serious offence which can cause unnecessary suffering to the animal. Rural crimes like this also have serious emotional and financial impact on our farming communities.

"We've launched an investigation into this incident, and I would ask, as always, that people contact us if they think someone is selling illegal meat." '

Your CURRENT priorities are Speeding and Burglaries, please discuss if you would like these to remain the same or new priorities set and let us know.

AA commented on reports of attempted carjacking recently with female drivers in valuable cars in the neighbouring villages of Clent and Belbroughton. She enquired if there is anything else going on locally with Broome's bordering villages. NT advised it is not easy to access what has been reported in other areas, especially if reported online. NT/JG urged the Parish Council to sign up to Neighbourhood Matters and then they can select areas in other parishes.

JG advised that the carjacking is still a live investigation, there has been a report and enquiries are on-going. One of the vehicles has been seized and a person arrested. He advised that it is extremely rare to have an offence of this nature.

LH queried how your report a crime or suspicious activity. BD advised it is on the website and there is a poster in the Village Hall Noticeboard with names and numbers. JG advised to report on 101 or 999 or directly to the team's inbox.

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

#### **5. District Councillor's Report:**

District Councillors Report previously circulated and appended to minutes.

Cllr Drew advised that fly tipping and a blocked drain on the A450 highlighted by the Lengthsman has been reported.

AA enquired what the main issues local residents are concerned about and RD advised Hackman's Gate speeding and overgrown vegetation.

#### **6. County Councillor's Report:**

County Councillor Report previously circulated and appended to minutes.

AA commented on the Yieldingtree sign which she is taking up with Highways directly.

#### **7. Planning Report:**

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

Applications;

21/0190/Ful – Lowood, Belbroughton Road, Hackman's Gate

24/0365/HOU – Dove Leys, Worcester Road

24/0366/CLP – For Information Only – Dove Leys, Worcester Road

24/0369/HOU – Gloucester House, 9 Manor Gardens, Hackman's Gate

24/0374/PNH – For Information Only – Broadfield, Belbroughton Road, Hackman's Gate

24/0508/HOU – Playford, Belbroughton Road, Hackman's Gate

Decisions;

24/0190/FUL – Lowood, Belbroughton Road, Hackman's Gate – Refused 06-08-24

24/0366/CLP – Dove Leys, Worcester Road – Approved 12-07-24

24/0369/HOU – Gloucester House, Manor Garden's, Hackman's Gate – Refused 31-07-24

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

## **8. Financial Report:**

a) To update the PC on the financial position.

BD reported balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024;

Treasurers Account - £757.30

BB Instant Online Savings - £14,719.32

b) To approve schedule of payments – Unanimously Approved

### **Already Paid;**

Meadowfields Ground Maintenance Ltd – Lengthsman June 24      £179.40

Meadowfields Ground Maintenance Ltd – Lengthsman July 24      £285.60

### **For Approval;**

Mrs B J Drew – Expenses 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024      £48.95

Meadowfields Ground Maintenance Ltd – Lengthsman August 24      £234.60

c) To agree two additional signatories for online banking.

Unanimously agreed AA and LH be added as signatories. Both to provide required information to the Clerk in order to complete the mandate change request.

It was agreed only MB could authorise the transfer of funds between accounts.

## **9. To agree appointment of Internal Auditor.**

Clerk advised contact had been made with Ruth Mullett who is on the CALC recommended list of Internal Auditor's. She is an experienced Clerk, works for Worcestershire CALC. She had provided a letter of engagement detailing scope of work, roles and responsibilities and fees and charges. It was unanimously agreed to instruct Ruth Mullett as Internal Auditor and complete and return signed agreement of terms 24/25.

## **10. To discuss correspondence from St.Peter's Church.**

AA reported that the Parish Council has previously given a grant to the Church until CALC advised that it was not legal to do this. St. Peters Church have contacted the Parish Council requesting a grant due to the spiralling costs of mowing the churchyard. They also sent a copy of their accounts where although their unrestricted funds look healthy, they have repairs to the roof and guttering this year which will use most of these and their restricted funds are depleted. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to give a grant of £500 subject to the Clerk confirming with CALC that it is now legal to do this.

## **11. Date of Next Meetings.**

4th December 2024

29<sup>th</sup> January 2025

7<sup>th</sup> May 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

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

Date.....