

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF
BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL
ON TUESDAY 25TH APRIL 2023**

In attendance: Cllr Michael Harris (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr Ros Bowles (Vice Chairman), Cllr John Korbey, Cllr John Wingham, Cllr Michael Croker, Cllr Alan Bartlett, Cllr Russell Horne, Cllr Kevin Whittle, Cllr Pauline Mueller, Cllr Paul Pearse and Cllr P Wales.

Heather Lawrence (Parish Clerk), Tiffany Pritchard (RFO & Assistant Clerk) and 16 members of the public

1. Welcome and Apologies – Cllr Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllr Mans

2. Chairmans' Report

Cllr Harris gave an overview of the council and village during the last year. See Appendix one for the full report.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting held 26th April 2022 - None

4. Report by the District Councillors – Cllr Michael Harris & Cllr Maureen Holding

D Cllr Holding gave a report on various issues in Brockenhurst and reflected on her twenty-four years in which she has been a parish councillor and a District councillor. The chairman thanked her for her long service to the residents of Brockenhurst.

In view of the pre-election restrictions Cllr Harris gave a brief report of the Public Spaces Protection Order that will come into force on the 1st July 2023.

5. Report from Police Sergeant Brown

PS Brown gave an update on local policing including that PC Mark Roberts is the new police officer and will cover Brockenhurst along with PCSO Richard Williams. A beat surgery is held on the second Thursday of each month outside Streets.

6. Report of Nalder Trust Charity

Michael Croker, chairman of the Nalder Trust gave a review of the charity.

7. Report from Brockenhurst Village Trust

Sarah Neller gave a review of the Trust during the last twelve months.

8. Report from Brockenhurst Doctor's Surgery read out by Cllr Michael Harris

See appendix two.

9. Report from Friends of Lymington Hospital

Mike Hodges gave an interesting update on work carried out by the Friends of Lymington Hospital and how this benefits the hospital and its patients.

10. Consultation for the proposal by the Church to formally close their churchyard at St Nicholas Church

Cllr Horne read out a report, see appendix three.

11. Presentation about New Forest Campsites

Denis Dooley gave an interesting presentation on the New Forest Show and the recently acquired camp sites.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the expansion of the New Park campsite which were contrary to present thoughts due to the restrictions imposed on continuing to host the New Forest Show, the organisation's primary purpose.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would be included in any future consultation regarding Hollands Wood campsite.

12. Questions/comments from Members of the Public

A resident expressed their disappointment that the Parish Council Events Committee were not organising an event for the Coronation. This was acknowledged by the Chairman.

A resident raised concern regarding a planning matter, which the planning committee will be able to help with.

A question was raised regarding the Village Sign and the progress of the Brookley Road scheme. An update on both was given.

13. Chairman's Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending, all those who had made presentations and Ann and Keith Nolan for providing refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed:

Date:

Appendix one

Chairmans Report

Good evening to you all. Thank you for being here at this Annual Parish Meeting. This is your meeting as residents of Gods own Parish of Brockenhurst. It has been organised by the Parish Council, but it is your meeting. I will start this evening's proceedings by giving my first and indeed by last report as Chairman of the Parish Council.

I think that the last twelve months demonstrated that the extraordinary restrictions of the Covid years are very nearly all gone. We have been able to hold public social events once again. And so it was on the 4th June 2022 that we celebrated the late Queens Platinum Jubilee. A remarkable event in Brookley Road and throughout the village. My thanks to everyone who worked so hard for months in advance and on the day itself in order to make it such a success. In particular, thank you to all my colleagues on the Events Committee, Steve Wilks for organising a magnificent display of cars from each of the decades of the Queens reign and to Bronya for events at the football club and to Sarah for events at the Village Hall.

In December we were able to hold our traditional Christmas Fun Evening. It was a great success and again my thanks must go to everyone involved but in particular to New Forest Rotary for Santa's Grotto and to Brockenhurst Fire Crew for rescuing Santa from Tesco's roof once again. Could I also take this opportunity to thank the Fire Crew for their help throughout the year in putting up and taking down the flags and bunting in Brookley Road.

And in terms of events, no year would be complete without the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Races. Essentially it is an event for children from Brockenhurst Primary School, however, the races between teams from Brockenhurst businesses have become hotly contested. Thank you to the school PTA and Friends of Brockenhurst for making it all happen.

In March of this year, I was very proud to represent the Parish at a very small ceremony at the Commonwealth War Graves to remember the three Indians buried there. Then in September 2022 we all bowed our heads at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. For most of us she was the only monarch of this country that we had ever known. We opened our Book of Remembrance for everyone to be able to sign.

During the last year the Parish Council made grants to:
Brockenhurst Parochial Church Council
Brockenhurst Village Hall Indoor Bowls Club
Brockenhurst Village Trust
Royal British Legion Brockenhurst Branch
Victim Support
Citizens Advice New Forest

Looking forward to the next 12 months there are a number of matters that have been put in hand by the Parish Council. The Brockenhurst Citizens Award is now in the hands of the Parish Council. This will be relaunching in the first half of the coming year.

The HCC Active Travel Scheme will finally be able to deliver improvements to Brookley Road. An effective village square should be completed in the Autumn of 2023. This will deliver improvements to walking, cycling and a small improvement to car parking provision all in Brookley Road.

Perhaps the greatest significance this year was the successful conclusion of the decades long campaign by Vicky Wales to have a 20mph speed limit outside Brockenhurst Primary School.

And finally, I would like to thank all my fellow Parish Councillors for everything that they do to make Brockenhurst a better place on behalf of all the residents. In particular I must say thank you to two councillors who are stepping down this year. To Pauline Mueller who has been so active in respect of the Active Travel Scheme and the strangely abbreviated LCWIP. Thank you, Pauline. And to Michael Croker who has magnificently chaired the Nalder Trust, which provides much needed housing in Brockenhurst to people who are unable to afford their own home. Thank you, Michael.

Thank you to the Parish Council team that make all this happen, Ray Ridout, Tiffany Pritchard and of course to Heather Lawrence.

Appendix Two

Report from Nina Hammond Practice Manager
New Forest Central Medical Group Brockenhurst

Staff Updates:

Dr Elisabeth Royston joined the Practice as a partner in October 2022
Dr Matthew Davies is still away from the practice on long term sickness.
Nurse Linda Johnson will be joining the team as of the 17th April.

The practice also have the followed attached staff to the practice:

Physiotherapist – Anna Harris
Care Navigator – Vicky Clarke
Home Visiting Team (Paramedics) – Samantha Kimber & Christopher Vaughan
Pharmacy Team - Lauren Nickel & Rebecca Dallman

Appointments:

As of the 1st April we are modifying our appointment system, to re- introduce a move back to face to face consultation appointments, this is to make booking more equitable appointments to all of our patient population. Please therefore bear with us over the coming months whilst our staff re-adjust our appointment template and telephone messaging services. Patients will still be able to also request a telephone appointment for problems that are appropriate for this service.

Please Help Us to Help You Campaign within the surgery: Please look out for our posters both in the surgery and on our website.

Appendix three

Proposal to formally close St Nicholas' Churchyard, Brockenhurst, Hampshire

Notice has been given that it is the intention of the Secretary of State for Justice, acting on an application by the incumbent and churchwardens, to apply to the Privy Council for an Order requiring the discontinuance of burials in the above churchyard.

The Incumbent and churchwardens have submitted a formal application to discontinue burials in their churchyard at St Nicholas'. Once a churchyard is closed, responsibility for maintenance falls on the parochial church council (PCC) but the PCC may at any time serve a written request on the local Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the churchyard. The Parish Council can pass on the maintenance responsibility to the District Council and if it decides to do so then the District Council must take over the maintenance.

The advantages of handing on responsibility to the District Council include

1. The Parish Council has no management responsibility for the upkeep of the churchyard;
 2. The Parish Council does not have to use its own financial resources for maintenance;
- and
3. The Parish Council does not have to employ staff or contractors to carry out maintenance work.

The disadvantages are

1. The District Council may treat this expense of maintenance of the churchyard as chargeable only on the council tax payers of the parish;
2. The cost of maintenance by the District Council may be higher than that which the Parish Council would incur;
3. The standards and policies of the District Council in relation to the upkeep of the churchyard may not be to the liking of the Parish Council or to local inhabitants.

There is no statutory guidance on the appropriate standard to which a closed churchyard should be maintained.

Responsibility for the churchyard does not include responsibility for the church or include an obligation to undertake improvements nor prevent the incumbent and the PCC, as owners, from exercising their powers over the churchyard by allowing the interment of cremated remains.

The churchyard has, in practice, essentially been closed for burials since the Parish Council became a burial authority in 1955 providing a burial ground of their own adjacent to that of the Church. This avoided residents who wished to be buried, having to find space in another parish. The Parish Council plans to continue to provide burial facilities using its existing staff and this does not change any burial

arrangements anyone may wish to make or have made, for example Exclusive Right of Burial, interments and memorials.

Councillors have no objection to the application but if you have any questions then please raise them this evening or send them to The Clerk clerk@brockenhurst.gov.uk within the next 10 days.