

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 18th JULY 2023 AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr R Horne	Vice Chairman
Cllr A Bartlett	Cllr J Wingham
Cllr J Korbey	Cllr K Whittle
Cllr M Harris	Cllr R Wolstenholme
Cllr K Mans	Hampshire County Councillor (until 7.15pm)
Cllr A Parker	New Forest District Councillor
Carolyn Griffiths	Advertiser & Times
Mrs H Lawrence	Parish Clerk
Six members of the public	

Public Presentments:

Concerns for the volume of traffic in Brockenhurst during the New Forest Show was raised, especially the increase in the already busy Sway Road. It was queried if the Parish Council has considered any traffic control for the show days. It was also queried whether any consideration had been given to promoting the village during the show time.

Concerns for the post box late collection services in the village was raised. The Sway Road post box now says that collections are at 9am only and that the late collection is in Sway. There is no mention of what late collection is available at the Post Office in Brookley Road.

Support for item 23/127 was given but the Parish Council would need to consider that work would also be needed on the second part of the bridleway.

23/118 Apologies for absence: Cllr P Pearse, Cllr P Wales, Cllr P Hollins, Cllr R Bowles

23/119 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Bartlett declared an interest in accounts for payment 23/129

Cllr Harris declared an interest in the New Forest Show 23/133

23/120 Minutes of the Meeting held 20th June 2023

These were proposed, seconded and signed as a correct record.

23/121 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Mans reported that HCC have £173,000,000 to spend on improving facilities for elderly residential care. With HCC not selling off many properties there will be a small rise in the capacity of individuals to be cared for. There are plans to look for a site to build a new care home dedicated to those requiring more specialist treatment.

It was noted that the public consultation on the HCC budget is due to end.

Cllr Bartlett raised concerns for the outstanding highways work in Brockenhurst. Cllr Mans requested that the details are emailed to him for him to raise at a meeting on Thursday.

Cllr Mans was thanked for his help with arrangements for the LCWIP meeting.

23/122 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Parker raised the ongoing concerns for the train station pedestrian gate, Cllr Wingham provided an update.

Cllr Parker commented that he attended the LCWIP online meeting.

Cllr Bartlett raised concerns for the future refurbishment plans for the toilet block in the car and requested that at least a deep clean should take place immediately due to the poor state of the facilities. Cllr Parker will pursue this with NFDC.

23/123 Reports and response to Consultations:

- i) Planning committee meetings held 27th June 2023

Cllr Korbey gave an update on the last planning meeting and ongoing issues.

- ii) College Liaison meeting held 28th June 2023

Cllrs Wingham and Horne reported that the meeting with the new principal Helen Odhams went well. The college continue to be keen to work with the Parish Council and the local community.

- iii) P&R committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023

A report of the meeting was given by Cllr Horne and the following items were recommended for approval: -

- a) The recommendation to approve a grant for £100 for Victim Support
- b) The recommendation for a quote to be obtained from the usual specialist contractor Ross Boyle for the erection and dismantling of the Christmas lights.
- c) The recommendation that all future employees are offered the option to join the Hampshire Group Pension Scheme.
- d) The recommendation to advertise for a part-time assistant clerk, starting salary at SCP 9.

All items were unanimously approved.

- iv) SW Quadrant meeting held on Tuesday 11th July 2023

The meeting was attended by several councillors. The meeting included updates from Forestry England, information regarding LCWIP, how to regulate second homes and plans for sixty-day camp sites.

- v) LCWIP meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023

The online meeting was attended by Cllrs Horne and Pearse.

Cllr Horne advised that the study had been divided into two parts. Utilities (Routes for accessing workplaces, schools etc and leisure activities). Up to now, nearly all the work had been on paper studies for the utility section with little on the leisure section. Eight paper studies had been produced to date with six more in process. Implementation of any of these paper studies would require full proposals with funding sources from say community levies, S106 funds etc. Consultation on the proposed studies is expected around October/November 2023. On questioning it was confirmed that the Verderers are not part of the LCWIP working group.

23/124 Brookley Road Scheme: No confirmed update has been received from HCC.

23/125 St Nicholas Churchyard closure arrangements

Cllr Horne explained that St Nicholas Churches proposal to close St Nicholas Churchyard was announced at the Parish Councils Annual Parish meeting with residents and any comments were requested. No objections or comments were received. The closure notice is now progressing through the legal process and is expected to be issued to St Nicholas Church on 26 July 2023. The Church have informed us that they intend to ask the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the churchyard within three months of its closure (the statutory period). The Parish Council has the right to decline and then the District Council would be obliged to take over the maintenance.

Cllr Horne explained that as the next scheduled Parish Council meeting is not due to be held until September that a decision should be made at this meeting that the Parish Council will decline to take over the maintenance and that the parish clerk is delegated to issue the notice declining to take over the maintenance providing the formal closure notice in accordance with the Church proposal of closure. The need for this delegation is to allow sufficient time for the district council to prepare for the takeover within the three-month period. Both were unanimously approved.

The Parish Council will also due to meet with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to discuss this matter.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with NFDC and St Nicholas Church

23/126 Southwestern Railway ticket office consultation

Cllr Wingham gave an overview of the current situation at Brockenhurst Train station and the impact that the ticket office closure would have.

It was agreed that a letter would be written to Department for Transport and a copy sent to our local MP. The situation to be reviewed in October.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Wingham

23/127 Proposed improvement of the bridleway from Church Lane to Roydon Woods

Cllr Wales circulated report was discussed and Cllr Horne gave an overview of the findings. Cllr Bartlett queried why this route had been chosen as the first option and why councillors were not involved in this decision.

It was agreed by a majority vote with one abstention that the proposal to contact HCC Rights of Way and concentrates on the Church Lane/Roydon Woods bridleway first.

It was noted that the ownership of the second part of the bridleway would need to be investigated. All findings to be reported back before any further steps are taken.

ACTION: Clerk/Cllr Wales to contact HCC Rights of Way

23/128 Correspondence

- i) NFDC Renovation plans for toilet block in NFDC Car Park – See 23/122
- ii) Boldre PC Councillors invite to informal meeting – noted
- iii) Brookley Road and recent incident

A local business owner has raised concerns for pedestrian and traffic safety in Brookley Road having recently witnessed an incident involving a cycling and a reversing vehicle. It was agreed that this incident should be noted by the Village Centre Strategy group. Cllr Harris suggested that a site visit with Hampshire County Council should be arranged to look at various issues in the village including traffic signage.

- iv) Wessex Internet Broadband in the New Forest

Cllr Horne explained that he had made enquiries with Hampshire County Council regarding the handover of the project to Wessex Internet and the arrangements are not clear. It was agreed that Wessex Internet should be invited to the September PC meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to liaise with Cllr Parker and NFDC regarding the toilets

ACTION: Clerk to contact Boldre PC

ACTION: Clerk to contact Wessex Internet.

23/129 Accounts for payment: Proposed, seconded and agreed.

Accounts for Payment

Streets Ironmongers	supplies	£20.70
Gates Engineering	fuel	£7.24
Vision ICT Ltd	website hosting & support	£290.26
SPG Machinery	equipment repairs and parts	£195.16
Brockenhurst Village Hall	Hall hire	£94.00
BHIB local council	insurance	£1,531.27
BHIB	Cyber Insurance	£370.25
Lyndhurst Landscapes	War Memorial	£833.40
Wessex Windows	June window cleaning	£12.00

Payments Made

P&D Hannon	office rent	£625.00
BT	phone & broadband	£64.10
Microsoft	Subscription	£79.99
Mailchimp	Subscription	£12.28

23/130 Confirmation of arrangements for existing and future staff pensions

Further to the P&R meeting held on 4th July 2023 it was unanimously agreed that as all existing staff have accepted the Hampshire Group Pension Scheme and that all NEST pensions are to be closed.

All future staff to be offered the Hampshire Group Pension Scheme.

ACTION: RFO to make arrangements to close the NEST Pensions for all employees

23/131 To agree a budget for the Christmas Fun Evening 1st December 2023

A £2000 budget was unanimously agreed.

23/132 Clerks & RFO report

CWGC are planning two events at St Nicholas on the 16.8.23 and 9.9.23.

The next police surgery is on the 20th July in the car park in Brockenhurst from 11.30am, this is a permanent change of venue.

The next police bike marking event is on the 24th July outside Cycle Experience. A request has been made for a future event to be held in a central location.

The basket swing at the playground has been broken/vandalised and will be removed along with the item that is due to be replaced soon. Date of installation to be confirmed.

Concerns were raised that a disposable BBQ was used at the playground.

Forestry England have been contacted for an update on the repairs of the footbridge over the Lymington River and regarding a broken handrail on the footbridge by the school.

Village Sign is ongoing with a response from the planning office due.

A councillor's rota for the trial opening of the office on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays 11-1pm August and September will be circulated.

23/133 Items to note - to include items raised by members of the public:

It was noted that the Parish Council does not have any involvement in traffic management in the village during the New Forest Show.

The clerk mentioned that an early suggestion has been made by a neighbouring parish to have a shared Parish Council stand at the next NF Show. It was thought this could be a good idea although a lot more consideration would need to be given to the possible arrangements.

It was agreed that further investigations should be made regarding the village postal collections and what late options are available.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate village late postal collections

23/134 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 19th September 7.00pm at Brockenhurst Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.35pm