

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 16th JANUARY 2024 AT BROCKENHURST
VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr P Wales	Chairman
Cllr R Horne	Vice Chairman
Cllr J Wingham	Cllr J Korbey
Cllr P Hollins	Cllr R Wolstenholme
Cllr P Pearse	Cllr A Bartlett
Cllr K Whittle	
Cllr K Mans	Hampshire County Councillor from 7.40pm
Cllr A Parker	New Forest District Councillor from 7.05pm
Mrs H Lawrence	Parish Clerk
Mrs C Jowett	Assistant Clerk
Four members of the public	

Public Presentments:

Concerns were raised for the muddy state of the pavement at the bottom of The Rise and request for action to reinstate the verges and tidy up the pavement was made. There is a need to find a way for stop vehicles from being able to drive over the verges and it was noted that it had been previously identified that dragons teeth cannot be installed due to underground services.

Concerns were also raised for the erosion of the cobble stonework around the Watersplash area.

An update on Brockenhurst Speedwatch group was given which now has twenty-six volunteers. A request was made for the equipment to be made available to the group as soon as possible.

A request was raised regarding the current situation with the Parish Councils Village Sign planning application.

24/01 Apologies for absence: Cllr M Harris, Cllr R Bowles

24/02 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

Cllrs Bartlett, Horne and Korbey declared an interest in accounts for payment 24/11. Cllr Pearse declared an interest in item 24/19.

24/03 Minutes of the Meeting held 21st November 2023

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

24/04 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Mans reported that the HCC Future Services consultation is open until 31st March. HCC have an app called OurHants App, available free from app stores. This makes accessing services including booking the tip and reporting pot holes a quicker process.

The budget for the next two years is due to be set later this month.

It was noted that the roads are in a poor condition with lots of potholes and that the recent heavy rain and flooding has not helped. Budgeting and spending was explained. Actions are also required by other organisations including Forestry England and the Environment Agency.

Councillors explained about the ongoing drainage problems in Brockenhurst and despite multiple attempts we still need work to be carried out on the problem areas. A possible suggestion was to invite the head of highways to our Annual Parish Meeting.

Councillors raised concerns regarding the quality of road repairs and how contractors appointed to carry out the work are monitored.

24/05 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Parker advised that he had been contacted by several residents regarding the recent flooding in Brockenhurst.

24/06 Reports and response to Consultations:

- i) Events Committee meeting held 22nd November

Cllr Pearse gave an update on the Christmas Fun evening and plans for Pancake Races and the potential event for the 80th Anniversary of D Day on the 1st June 2024.

A comment was raised regarding the success of the recent tractor drive in The Forest and whether there could be any links with the Parish Council.

- ii) Planning committee meetings held 28th November & 19th December

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

- iii) College liaison meeting held 29th November

Cllrs Wales, Horne and Wingham attended, unfortunately the principal was unavailable but the Chair of student union attended for the first time.

The Waters Green bus shelter was discussed and the college are happy to make a contribution to the upkeep as it is mainly used by students.

A request was made for the main gate to be open due to problem accessing the site via North Road.

Options for the college fields to be used for future community events were discussed.

iv) Community Rail Partnership meeting held on 6th December

The Parish Council was excluded from the last meeting as we have been advised we are no longer stakeholders. Communication with the CRP and the Parish Council chairman to clarify the situation has provided unsuccessful and the proposal was made to submit a complaint to The Community Rail Network. The proposal was seconded and agreed with one abstention by Cllr Wingham.

ACTION: Chairman/clerk to submit complaint

v) Hampshire Resilience Forum held on 9th January

Cllrs Wales and Horne attended this forum which was well supported. The forum was focused on community resilience rather than Emergency Planning with emphasis on empowerment.

vi) Brockenhurst Independent Street Art held 12th January

Cllr Wales attended and advised that the concept is to transform dull and mundane street furniture into Street Art. NFDC have some funding from the Arts Council available to support a thriving community driven arts scene. The majority of councillors agreed that they were happy to support the concept but would want more details.

24/07 Update on flooding actions in Brockenhurst

It was agreed that the weather pattern due to Climate change is causing intense floods which has led to the severe problems in Brockenhurst. The Flood Action Group were kept very busy trying to help in the extreme conditions. There is a need for all of the authorities to work together to help everyone cope with the additional water. Cllr Mans agreed to support dialogue between Forestry England, Natural England, the Verderers and the NFNPA.

ACTION: Cllr Wales to contact B FAG

24/08 Verges – problem areas

The following areas are of concern:-

The Rise – as per public presentments. Cllr Mans has requested that further information is sent to him.

Waters Green – the yellow lines have been repainted, but vehicles continue to park along the road which has caused damage to the verges. It was noted that the parking signage is missing but the wooden blocks are still in the ground. This has been chased with HCC this week.

Grigg Lane – a wide track has been worn by pedestrians between Chestnut Road to Homeforde House. This is mainly because there is no pavement on that side of the road. Query whether signage would encourage people to walk on the other side of the road.

ACTION: Clerk to send information to Cllr Mans

24/09 Citizens Award 2024 update on arrangements

The poster and entry form are ready to be circulated and displayed.
The closing date for nominations is the 29th February 2024.

24/10 Correspondence – the following items were noted.

HALC	NFNPA Parish Representative Elections SW Quadrant
NFDC	Brockenhurst public toilet block
HCC	Brookley Road Scheme – it was agreed that we should pursue HCC for the scheme dates and/or ask for attendance at the February Parish Council meeting.
Wessex Internet	Community Meeting 24.1.24

24/11 Accounts for payment: Proposed, seconded and agreed;-

Corbins Florist	Harding fund	£19.70
Streets Ironmongers	Supplies	£8.92
Ross Boyle Electrical	Dismantle Christmas lights	£2,520.00
Russell Horne	reimburse Christmas lights parts	£48.29
New Forest IT	IT services	£75.00
Russell Horne	Mileage	£23.40
John Korbey	Mileage	£54.00
Mint Gardens	Lengthsman Scheme BPC	£291.00

Payments Made

Payments made since November were noted with no queries.

24/12 Precept Requirement for 2024/25

It was confirmed that £135,281 has been requested from NFDC.

24/13 Debrief of Christmas lighting

Cllr Horne was thanked for all his hard working in preparing, maintaining and co-ordinating the Christmas lights and trees.

Cllr Horne thanked all the volunteers who helped, especially with the Christmas trees.

For next Christmas there is likely to be some changes to help with being able to turn off the Christmas lights externally.

24/14 Clerks & RFO report

The clerk@ email account has now moved from HCC to the new provider and the RFO and Assistant Clerk both have gov.uk email addresses.

The collection plate on the Brookley Rd postbox has been changed to show the later collection time.

Further liaison with NPA planning regarding the Village Sign application will take place once the new officer has been assigned.

24/15 Update on Four Year Plan

It was noted that the additional opening of the office by councillors has been successful so far with over twenty nine people helped. Cllr Wales will circulate other related data. Further work is required on the plan.

ACTION: Cllr Wales to circulate data

24/16 Local Council Awards Scheme

It was unanimously agreed to support the participation in the scheme, starting with the Foundation level with a registration fee of £50 + VAT and a £80 + VAT accreditation fee payable once awarded.

ACTION: Clerk to complete registration

24/17 Update on LCWIP

Cllr Pearce gave an update on the various cycling and walking groups in the New Forest including LCWIP, NPA Cycle Working Group, Lymington Transition Cycle Group and a local project for walking and cycling routes.

Cllr Pearce explained that Lymington Transition Group would like to convert a 400 meter section of available verge between the road and fence on the A337 to a cycle path. The section is located from Sandy Down to Setley Road and Lymington Transition Group would like the Parish Councils support. This was agreed with a majority vote, Cllrs Horne and Whittle abstained.

ACTION: Cllr Pearce to liaise with the LTG

24/18 Items to note - to include items raised by members of the public

Cllr Wales explained the situation with the purchasing and insuring of the Speedwatch equipment and why this has caused a delay in the team being operational. Various options were discussed and further work is needed.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

24/19 Churchyard Closure and future actions

NFDC informed the Parish Council of new terms which they would apply to the transfer of maintenance of St Nicholas Churchyard from Brockenhurst Parochial Church Council now that the Churchyard has been formally closed. Two new options proposed by NFDC were discussed. It was noted that the Diocese have written to NFDC questioning some of the conditions detailed by NFDC.

After discussion, the Parish Council resolved to decline the formal request dated 24 October 2023 from Brockenhurst Parochial Church Council to take over the maintenance responsibility for St Nicholas Churchyard under the terms of the Local Government Act 1972, section 215 and inform New Forest District Council and Brockenhurst Parochial Church Council of this decision before 24 January 2024.

It was understood that under the Local Government Act section 215, the responsibility for the Churchyard maintenance will fall to NFDC.

It was agreed that due to a deadline to respond to the closure notice an additional Parish Council meeting will be held next Tuesday 23rd January to approve these minutes.

Councillors agreed that they are happy to have a shorter time than usual to approve the draft minutes.

24/20 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 23rd January 2024 6.30pm at Brockenhurst Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.53pm

Signed:

Date: 23rd January 2024