

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

Present:

Cllr P Wales	Chairman
Cllr R Horne	Vice Chairman
Cllr J Korbey	Cllr R Wolstenholme
Cllr R Bowles	Cllr K Whittle
Cllr P Pearse	Cllr A Bartlett
Cllr P Hollins	
Cllr A Parker	New Forest District Councillor
Mrs H Lawrence	Parish Clerk

Three members of the public

Public Presentments:

A member of public gave their views and objection to road closures in Brookley Road, including the recent weekend applications for two events this summer.

24/60 Apologies for absence: Cllr J Wingham, Cllr M Harris, Cllr Keith Mans

24/61 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

Cllr Wales declared an interest in accounts for payment 24/69.

24/62 Minutes of the Meeting held 19th March 2024

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

24/63 County Councillor's Report - In the absence of Cllr Mans there was no report.

24/64 District Councillor's Report – Cllr Parker advised that he did not have anything relating to Brockenhurst to report. Cllr Parker advised that he will provide a written report for the Annual Parish Meeting which will be read out by Cllr Wales.

24/65 Update on Martin's Corner Footbridge

Cllr Wales explained that HCC have confirmed that the bagwork under the northern side of the bank would be part of the responsibility in taking over responsibility for the footbridge. A further response from Hampshire County Council is expected regarding options of how the Parish Council could take over the ownership of the bridge.

24/66 Reports and response to Consultations:

- i) Events Committee meetings held 20th March and 10th April

Cllr Wolstenholme gave an update on the meetings which included the arrangements for the 80th Anniversary of D Day event on the 1st June 2024.

ii) HALC Annual Conference held 20th March 2024

Cllrs Wales and Horne attended and found the day very informative.

Workshops attended included the Civility and Respect pledge, which the Personnel and Resources committee will consider. Other workshops included young people in Democracy, youth parliament, Community ownership and community resilience. Some information on how the Parish Council could seek help from a marketing company to find the best way to communicate with residents was reported.

iii) College Liaison meeting held 25th March 2024

Cllr Horne attended the meeting and discussed various items including the college inclusion in the current flood action plan. The College are keen to work together and hopefully avoid a clash for any future events.

iv) Planning committee meetings held 26th March 2024

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

v) NFDC Community Forum held 27th March 2024

Cllr Horne and the Clerk attended. The forum was well attended with over one hundred people. Presentations were given by New Forest District Council, Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency. The forum highlighted how Community Resilience Action Plans can be created and the many different types of emergencies this could include.

It was agreed that there is further work for the Parish Council to do to update its existing plan and how and when this can be considered will be discussed

vi) Hampshire County Council meeting regarding Village Signage Project held Monday 8th April 2024

Cllr Horne reported that he attended the site meeting that Cllr Harris arranged for the feasibility and process to site new Brockenhurst entry signage.

The preliminary ideas were that the two A337 sites were considered satisfactory. Burley Road only has a name sign which keeps being bent by the ponies and a replacement sign is to be considered. An entry sign for Rhinefield Road is to be considered. The Sway Road sign is not well placed and a new sign could also incorporate a traffic sign and be more visible. Beaulieu Road only has a traffic sign and a new welcome sign combined with it is to be considered.

Further work on this project will be undertaken by Cllr Harris and the Amenities and Infrastructure committee.

It was noted by councillors that there is a lack of some directional road signage in the surrounding area with some junctions not listing Brockenhurst. Cllr Horne reported that he was advised that Brockenhurst is not on the priority list for highways signage.

Councillors were asked to look for any missing road signage inside the parish boundary and send the information to the clerk.

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ACTION: Clerk to contact HCC regarding the priority road signage list
ACTION: Councillors to send the clerk any information regarding missing signage within the parish

24/67 Correspondence

A letter has been received from a resident expressing concern for the annual timing of when the Watersplash is opened and closed to allow water across the road. It was suggested that only having it open for four months would lower traffic congestion, when the water is deeper after heavy rainfall and this may also reduce damage to the road surface. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the timings would be left as Easter to October half term.

ACTION: Clerk to reply to the letter

24/68 To consider membership to the Rural Services Network

The service that the Rural Services Network were discussed and it was noted that during the one year trial that we have not used any of the information or any of their services. It was unanimously agreed that a membership would not be taken out but could be considered in the future, if required.

ACTION: Clerk to advise RSN

24/69 Accounts for payment: Proposed, seconded and agreed;-

Wessex Windows – Office window cleaning - £12.00
Viking Office – Stationery - £107.74
P&D Hannon – Office electric - £107.25
P Wales – Expenses - £50.76
H Lawrence – Reimburse poppy wreaths - £49.98
Premier Group Recycling Ltd – Shredding - £72.00
HALC – Subscription 24/25 - £893.00
NFDC – Bin emptying charges 24/25 - £1,470.00
Lyndhurst Landscaping – War memorial maintenance - £196.02
J Humphry – Payroll - £39.60
Brockenhurst Village Hall – Hall hire - £402.50
Lyndhurst Parish Council – fee for playground inspection course - £92.00
Edge IT Systems Ltd – Annual fee - £492.00
New Forest Big Band – Deposit for D Day event - £50.00
ICCM – Membership - £100.00

Payments Made

Mailchimp – Subscription - £12.49
SLCC – Clerks Manual - £52.30
Asda – Office kettle - £16.00
Balmer Lawn Hotel – Flooding meeting costs (from HCC grant monies) £136.00
P&D Hannon – Office rent - £625.00
BT – Office communications - £64.10
Mint Gardens Ltd – Lengthsman scheme for East Boldre - £924.00
Unity Bank – Bank charges - £31.55

24/70 To confirm the external auditor is BDO and there are no conflicts of interest with Brockenhurst Parish Council

It was confirmed that there is no conflict of interest between Brockenhurst Parish Council and BDO.

ACTION: RFO to arrange for the chairman to sign the relevant form

24/71 To consider the Greener Brockenhurst proposal (presentment at PC meeting 19th March 2024)

It was agreed that this proposal will be considered when councillors hold their annual strategy meeting in June, at which the four-year plan will be reviewed.

ACTION: Clerk to send a response to Greener Brockenhurst at a later date

24/72 To consider final arrangements for the Citizens Awards 2024

The plaques have been sourced and the letters to the winners and all those nominated are in hand.

24/73 Update on arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting 24.4.24

Confirmations have been received from all the invited speakers and the agenda will be issued this week.

24/74 Approval of the Parish Council Publication Scheme

It was unanimously agreed to approve the document and to set the rate charged for photocopying at 10p per sheet in black & white.

ACTION: Clerk to add to the website

24/75 Clerks & RFO report

The Southern Water event was attended at West Totton on the 21st March.

The next internal audit is on the 3rd June.

External Audit – We are within the 5% of councils selected to have an intermediate audit which will require the submission of additional information to BDO.

24/76 Items to note - to include items raised by members of the public

A letter detailing the presentment to be circulated to councillors once received.

Cllr Pearse requested items for the next News Sheet by next Wednesday.

Cllr Horne advised that Wessex Internet are holding another event at the Village Hall on the 19th April 10-4pm.

24/77 Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday 24th April 2024 Annual Parish Meeting at Brockenhurst Village Hall

Tuesday 21st May 2024 Annual Parish Council Meeting at Brockenhurst Village Hall

The meeting closed at 8.30pm