

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BROCKENHURST PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON TUESDAY 18th JUNE 2024 AT BROCKENHURST VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

Cllr P Wales	Chairman
Cllr R Horne	Vice Chairman
Cllr A Bartlett	Cllr M Harris (until 9pm)
Cllr R Bowles	Cllr J Korbey
Cllr J Wingham	Cllr R Wolstenholme
Cllr P Hollins	Cllr K Whittle
Cllr A Parker	New Forest District Council (until 9pm)
Cllr K Mans	Hampshire County Council (until 7.55pm)
Mrs H Lawrence	Parish Clerk
Two members of the public	

Public Presentments:-

At the request of a member of the public a one minute silence was observed for the late Mike Matthews, who's funeral was held today.

24/101 Apologies for absence: Cllr P Pearse

24/102 Declarations of Interest/Requests for Dispensation

Cllrs Bartlett declared an interest in accounts for payment 24/114.

Cllr Harris declared an interest in 24/108 New Forest Campsites

24/103 Minutes of the Meeting held 21st May 2024

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

24/104 County Councillor's Report

Cllr Mans reported that decisions on financial matters are being pushed into the Autumn, due to the General Election. Cllr Mans devolved budget is open until the end of February 2025.

Councillors expressed concerns for the four-way lights are in place on the junction with Sway Road and Brookley Road. Cllr Mans noted the concerns and will feed it back to the Highways department. It was later noted that the works were for SSE works.

24/105 District Councillor's Report

Cllr Parker gave an update on the NFDC toilet block in the Brookley Road car park. Councillors also expressed their concerns for the state of the toilets and the length of time it has taken for the problems to be rectified and the unacceptable unhygienic state that the men's toilets were left in.

An update on problems and concerns for the cutting of verges was discussed. It was noted that May was "Let it Bee" and that normal cutting should resume. There are various sites in the parish that are of concern, which Cllr Parker noted.

An update on the Greening Campaign was given and further details are available on their website greening-campaign.org

24/106 Update on Martin's Corner Footbridge

Cllr Wales gave an update on the ongoing discussions with Hampshire County Council. Cllr Wales explained that under the Localism Act 2011 that it might be possible to adopt the bridge and nominating that the bridge is placed on a list of assets of Community Value. Registration is via NFDC and would mean that we would be advised if an owner came forward and wishes to sell the bridge.

As Councillors previously agreed, we do not want to set a precedent by the actions we take regarding this bridge, although we understand from HCC that this situation is unique to this bridge.

If successful, after some repair work by HCC, the Parish Council would then take over the maintenance of the bridge. It was noted that insurance and public liability would need to be checked with our insurance company.

It was unanimously agreed that the proposal to pursue listing the bridge as an asset of Community Value with then a view to taking over the maintenance of the bridge from HCC, after they have carried out some agreed work is done. Insurance and public liability requirements are to be checked with our insurance company.

ACTION: Clerk to check with the insurance company

ACTION: Clerk to submit NFDC application

24/107 Update on Flooding Actions in Brockenhurst

Following Peter Hebard's presentment at the Verderers Court, the Deputy Surveyor is planning a meeting with the Environment Agency and Natural England to discuss Brockenhurst flooding and natural flood management.

The Wessex Rivers Trust have completed their report on the Weirs catchment. This does not include various constraints but has been criticised in the press for attacking Forest land at the expense of individual properties and the village.

Proposed and agreed that "the report goes out for independent technical review before adoption, to ensure that the stakeholders are getting the best environmental plans, practice and value for money for the future of the New Forest. This should involve organisations with experience of delivering large scale river and wetland restorations and who are independent of the national and local bodies involved in the New Forest HLS and FWRF group.

Cllr Mans praised Peter's work but Cllr Horne pointed out that Natural England had refused to meet. Cllrs agreed this was outrageous and that a letter to our MP raising this issue after the general election, with support from Cllr Mans, would be appropriate

ACTION: Clerk to ask Deputy Surveyor whether the meetings have taken place and if not provide a timeline.

ACTION: Feedback to WRT by 26th July.

ACTION: Clerk to write to MP after 5th July.

24/108 Reports and response to Consultations:.

- i) Planning Committee held 28th May 2024

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

ii) Review of D Day event held 1st June 2024

Cllr Wolstenholme thanked all those involved in this successful commemorative event both in Brookley Road and at the Football Club. Thanks to Steve Wilkes for providing the vintage vehicle display in Brookley Road and to Bronya for running the Football Club.

iii) Review of D Day service at War Memorial 6th June 2024

Cllr Wales attended the short service conducted by the vicar and Brockenhurst RBL.

iv) College Liaison meeting held 13th June 2024

Cllrs Horne and Wingham attended.

Brockfest was well attended by approximately 4500 people.

The College were pleased to hear that the Village Sign application has now been approved by the NFNPA and hope the student who created the design will be able to attend any future ceremony.

It was noted that any litter problems are under control and the college is working with the local policing team regarding any shoplifting issues. There is a hope to increase the police presence at the start of term.

Bus operations continue to be under review and the college continues to reduce the numbers by students using buses by increased use of the rail network.

Students may be able to work with the community on projects, subject to their curriculum.

v) Consultative Panel 6th June 2024

Cllr Korbey gave an update on the meeting, which was attended by thirty members.

Items including an update from the NPA planning department on the need for a partial review of the planning system, a review of the dark skies policy and NPA are still waiting for details of national policies. Concerns for wild birds with the commercialisation of Hollands Wood campsite but noted the campsite is good for the local economy. Tall trees walk upgraded with Defra funding The Verderers require a revision of the Agricultural Environmental Support Scheme.

Councillors agreed that it would be useful to have an update from New Forest Campsites. It was noted that at the presentation at the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council would be included in any future consultations regarding Hollands Wood Campsite. It was agreed to invite Denis Dooley to our September Parish Council meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to invite Denis Dooley to the September Parish Council meeting

24/109 Correspondence

i) Mill Lane parking

The ongoing parking problems in Mill Lane were discussed. It was noted that the increase could be due to people parking and going to the train station. Concern was raised for vehicles that are blocking the pavement.

ii) **Brockenhurst village centre toilets – see 24/105**

24/110 To consider a Parish Council representative for the Patient Participation Group

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Harris will be the representative with Cllr Hollins as a reserve.

24/111 Update on the Village Sign project

NFNPA have approved the planning application, Cllr Wingham confirmed that he will continue as the project manager. A management environment plan is required and he will re-engage with previously sourced contractors for new quotes.

ACTION: Cllr Wingham and clerk to liaise

24/112 Village Entry signs – initial application to HCC along with the £250 fee is due to be submitted. Further decision to be made as and when required.

24/113 CCTV Update

NFDC have confirmed that three of our requested locations have been agreed by the steering group and that they will be presented to the Council cabinet for a decision.

24/114 Accounts for payment: Proposed, seconded and agreed.

The National Allotment Society – Membership - £66.00
J Humphry Associates Ltd - Payroll service May 2024 - £39.60
Highland News & Media - D-Day event advert - £216.00
Lyndhurst Landscaping - War memorial maintenance - £230.04
Gates Engineering – Fuel - £22.79
Streets Ironmongers – Supplies - £61.39
P Reynolds – Fair Account - Nalder Charity Commission independent examination - £150.00
P Reynolds – Fair Account – Parish Council internal audit & AGAR - £180.00
P Reynolds – Fair Account – Financial risk assessment - £250.00
Hampshire Association of Local Councils – LCPD membership - £216.00
Merlin Lighting (Installations) Ltd – Structural inspections and flag installation/removal for D-Day event - £638.52
Bronze Design Limited – Banners & poster for D-Day event - £106.80
AV Ridout Funeral Service – Refund of cemetery fees - £1,100.00
Brockenhurst Allotment Association – Subscriptions paid via PC - £20.00
Wessex Windows – Window cleaning - £12.00
Brockenhurst Village Hall – hall hire - £201.75

Payments Made: -

P&D Hannon – office rent - £625.00
BT – office communications - £69.16
Mailchimp – subscription - £12.40
Microsoft – subscription - £79.99
Flag & Bunting Store – flags for D-Day anniversary - £110.70
Hampshire County Council – banner licence - £82.00

24/115 To Consider Physical Asset Repairs

i) Bus shelter

One specialist quote was considered from J S Arnold for repair of the Waters Green bus shelter. It was agreed that the repair on the bus shelter was urgently needed and the quote for £1575.18 excluding VAT, was unanimously agreed by all.

ii) Bench at watersplash

The three quotes were considered and it was unanimously agreed to accept the quote for £350.00 excluding VAT, from Mint Garden Services for the replacement piece of wood in Oak.

iii) Cemetery gate

The three quotes were considered for the replacement of the gate posts and to replace some picket fencing. It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote from Westbeams for £645.00 excluding VAT.

ACTION: Clerk to instruct all three contractors

24/116 Approval of Asset Register 31.3.2024

The circulated asset register was unanimously approved.

24/117 Consideration of Internal Audit Report and Financial Risk Assessment 2023/24

Both documents were circulated, reviewed and noted. One recommendation included in the Financial Risk Assessment was noted.

24/118 Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2023/24

i) Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement

It was resolved to respond 'Yes' in all boxes of the Governance Statement, Section 1 of the Annual Return for 2023/24. The document was approved and signed.

ii) Section 2 - Accounting Statements

The Accounting Statement in Section 2 of the Annual Return for 2023/24 was considered, approved and signed.

iii) Period for the exercise of public rights from 20 June 2024 to 31 July 2024. – noted.

24/119 Re-appointment of Paul Reynolds FMAAT as Internal Auditor for 2024/25

It was resolved to re-appoint Paul Reynolds for 2024/25. It was agreed that for 2025/26 that the RFO should be consulted as to whether it is best practice to change the internal auditor as he has been appointed for several years.

24/120 Clerks & RFO report – no items to report

24/121 To decide the date for the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting

It was noted that the PCC AGM is due to held on the 28th April and therefore the APM should be arranged for Wednesday 30th April 2025.

ACTION: Clerk to book hall

24/122 Items to note - to include items raised by members of the public

Cllr Bowles asked for further information of how to obtain an electronic device for Parish Council business.

Cllr Bartlett asked if there was any update on the Speedwatch group,

It was note that the equipment and agreement is ready and that final checks were being conducted with the local police team.

Cllr Whittle asked if there was any update from HCC regarding local directional signage for Brockenhurst and the priority list.

Cllr Wingham commented that there seemed to be an increase in the brown tourist signage, especially near New Park.

In the public session David Eley, FoB, asked whether a meeting date had been agreed for the Village Centre Strategy Group and Cllr Bowles agreed to issue one as a matter of urgency.

ACTION: Cllr Bowles to contact RFO and arrange a date for the VCS meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to make enquiries with the Speedwatch co-ordinator and the local policing team.

ACTION: Clerk to contact HCC regarding local directional signage and the priority list.

24/123 Date of Next Meeting:

Tuesday 16th July 7.00pm at Brockenhurst Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.10pm