

BROCKHAMPTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Brockhampton Group Parish Council held on Thursday 16th January 2014 at 7.30pm at Brockhampton Primary School

PRESENT: Cllr J Fellows (Chairman), Cllr P Friend (Vice-Chairman), Cllrs S Brace, D Cave, R Steeds, B Omar, M Land, S Simpson, C Brazier, H Allan, D Boddington, G Williams, G Swinford, K Rock

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs Mary Seldon (Clerk), 1 member of the public – Mr Phil Watkins
PCSO Steph Annette (the beginning of the meeting only)

PCSO Steph Annette was available at the start of the meeting to answer questions about the parishes and give a short report of policing in the area.

14/01 To accept **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr K Young

14/02 To receive **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Land 14/12

Cllr Omar 14/12

14/03 To approve the **Minutes of the Meeting:**

Thursday **21st November** 2013

Proposed for approval Cllr Cave, seconded Cllr Williams, **AGREED** by all
Cllr Swinford abstained

14/04 **Clerk's Report:**

Update on the discussions from the November meeting and points of information:

- CiLCA
- Grit bins – Cllr Swinford to research the price for buying and the Clerk to establish who would fill these up with salt.
- Dog waste bins – Cllr Rock had been in conversation with Balfour Beatty about these. Balfour Beatty would subsidise spades or golf stick, but not empty bins. It was suggested that there needed to be liaison with BDCA as if waste was flicked into bracken the contamination would still occur. Can bins can be relocated.
- Road problems - 6 drains still blocked - rubbish really bad too - by Saltmarsh castles - culverts above drive to Upper Norton Farm – the Clerk to report to Balfour Beatty.
- SLCC Regional Conference
- Houses of Parliament
- Website update
- The flowerbeds outside the Halo building in Bromyard had been given over to the Royal British Legion to use as a commemorative garden and a place for services as an alternative to the sheep. Councillors asked if they might be informed of the official opening.

14/05 **Public Participation** – members of the public are allowed 10 minutes to address the Council

Mr Watkins – Cllr Swinford had a meeting with water expert 3 years ago and nothing has yet been done. Problem with Mr Moore - the issues do not seem to have been resolved.

What is the time limit on the condition for this planning? Cllr Swinford to check time limit.
HC planners to write a letter to Mr Moore - this is now three years. Councillors felt it was important to show we were still interested, and the Clerk was asked to write to Herefordshire Council.

14/06 Report from the Ward Councillor - Cllr Gary Swinford

- Herefordshire Council Budget meeting
- Council tax up 1.9%
- School transport - Overview and Scrutiny Committee call in. Recommendation: Nearest school - within the county and not cut those with SEN - this has now gone back to cabinet.
- Bromyard Library - safe for next financial year, but then what?
- Linton Industrial Estate - how can this be developed - need more employment land - talking to three owners, plus Herefordshire Council - this may take time to come to fruition.
- Balfour Beatty - Burley Lane bottom keeps flooding. Ditch from Burley Lane up to Wash Croft farm. Plus David Hancock's water/ditch problem.
- Layby - get collective view of PC - do we want layby closed?
- Traveller's Camp - delayed because of bats, then a problem with the contractors, this has now had a knock-on effect the local schools as they have missed out on the funding from pupils. Cllr Fellows asked Cllr Swinford to keep the Parish Council updated.
- Tesco - resubmitted application and Porthouse is going to be part housing and part industrial.

14/07 To receive reports from:

BDCA and Bringsty Common – Cllr Friend

BDCA - Evan Bowen Jones has resigned as Chair as he is going to work for Herefordshire Nature Trust and so there is a conflict of interest. Short listing for warden - 12 applicants. Swing bars/disabled access (easy access) - Tom Fisher given a glowing report. Access across muddy ditch, hotly debated and this has now been agreed. British Standards for wheelchair access - waiting for better weather.

Bringsty - applying for heritage lottery fund to restore old drover's pond. Cllr Friend asked for a letter of support from the Parish Council.

Police Liaison Group – covered by the visit from PSCO Steph Annette.

Bromyard Relief in Need – Cllr Brazier

The Charity had produced 34 hampers over the Christmas period – one had been declined. A new Clerk was starting soon.

The possibility of a Parish Council donation was discussed, although Cllr Brazier felt it may be more appropriate to steer these funds to Helping Hands.

14/08 **Financial Matters:**

i) To approve accounts for payment:

Mary Seldon Net Salary 10: £182.60

Expenses incurred by the Clerk: none

Brockhampton Primary School: hire of room fee £20

HMRC PAYE 10: £3.13

Proposed for approval Cllr Cave, seconded Cllr Steeds, APPROVED by all.

ii) To approve Bank Reconciliation to 16th January 2014

iii) To approve Income and Expenditure to 16th January 2014

APPROVED by all.

iv) To review **Budget/Precept** 2014/15

Cllr Brazier proposed a reduction in the precept to £7,000, Cllr Steeds seconded.

All voted in favour. Cllr Boddington abstained.

- 14/09 To receive update on progress for the memorial for Rod Alexander
Cllr Friend not been able to correspond with Felicity Alexander and was waiting for the appropriate time.
- 14/10 To receive HC Emergency Planning report - website not showing information correctly.
Put on the agenda for next time.
- 14/11 To discuss the subsidy in replacement of the Joint Burial policy.
The Clerk had been asked to look the lawfulness of the provision made by Brockhampton Group Parish Council for those being buried in the Bromyard and Winslow Town Council Cemetery. She had taken legal advice from the SLCC:
'There is a specific power (in section 214(6) LGA 1972 for a parish council to contribute to the expenses of another burial authority where residents of your area are buried in that authority's cemetery but there is no specific power to make a contribution towards residents' burial fees. If you do not have the general power of competence you can use section 137 subject to the normal conditions (council must be satisfied that expenditure is for the benefit of the area or its inhabitants, benefit must be commensurate with the expenditure and total section 137 expenditure must not exceed the annual limit)'. It was AGREED that councillors were happy with this response.
- The Clerk was asked to circulate a draft policy for approval at the next meeting.
- 14/12 Planning: To consider the application: P133430/F
Brockhampton Academy, WR6 5TD – Erection of storage shed to rear of main building
Cllr Land gave an account of the works planned before leaving the room.
APPROVED
- 14/13 To review Welcome Pack
It was agreed to defer this until the March meeting. Cllr Brazier offered to proof read and act as critical friend.
- 14/14 Matters for Future Consideration
- Balfour Beatty - unfinished work - footpaths - volunteers to do it ourselves?
 - Bus shelter (opposite Janet)
 - Thorough update - on all outstanding work