

BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting 294 of the Parish Council held at St Nicholas' Church, Brockley on 15 September 2015.

Present: Dr Julian Ridge (Chairman), Dr Antony Ridge (Vice Chair), Dr Bryan Smith, Mike Fishwick, Martin Jarvis, Liz Lunn, Gill Rowley (Retiring Clerk) and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)
Deborah Yamanaka (District Councillor) and John Wilkinson (NSC Parish Liaison Officer)

Distribution: The Parish Councillors plus Deborah Yamanaka and John Wilkinson

JR welcomed new Clerk, JvT to the Council and introductions were made.

1 Apologies for absence

No apologies had been received.

2 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made; so recorded, the Register of Declarations was signed.

3 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

4 Minutes and matters arising

4.1 Minutes of meeting 293 - held on 7 July 2015

BS proposed, MF seconded and it was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting having been circulated previously were taken as a true and accurate record.

4.2 Matters Arising

The following matters arising from the meeting of 7 July 2015 are still outstanding or addressed as follows:

293/5.1 – Backwell PC grant request to Airport Community Fund: DY advised that a decision had been deferred to allow Backwell PC to provide further information to clarify how the grant would be spent. She confirmed that the claim had not been resubmitted for consideration at the September meeting of the Fund Trustees.

293/10 – The appointment of new Clerk, JvT, from 1 September was noted.

5 Meetings & Correspondence

5.1 PCAA

LL advised she had been unable to attend the meeting held on 23 June, minutes of which were available for members to view via the Council's e-mail account.

5.2 ALCA (North Somerset) AGM

It was noted that minutes of this meeting held on 25 June were available to view on the e-mail account.

5.3 CPRE Avonside

AR advised he had been unable to attend the AGM on 25 August, held in Wrington.

5.4 North Somerset Council: Sites & Policies Plan Part 1

It was noted that the above Policies Plan went to the Secretary of State in July with the Inspector's Examination Hearing Sessions beginning on 3 November in Weston-super-Mare.

5.5 ALCA AGM

JvT advised that she would be attending the AGM on 3 October in Long Ashton and invited members to forward any concerns to be raised on behalf of the Council.

5.6 Circulation envelope

BS accepted the envelope of newsletters and general correspondence.

6 Planning

6.1 15/P/1965/O: Outline planning permission for erection of agricultural worker's dwelling with all matters reserved on land at Midgell Farm, Chelvey Road, Chelvey

- JR proposed, AR seconded and it was agreed to submit a comment of "no objection".

6.2 15/P/1532/F: Erection of two stables, tack room / hay store and construction of new access and yard within fenced and gated enclosure at a field south of The Bungalow, Brockley Lane, Brockley

- JR proposed, BS seconded and it was agreed to ratify the decision to submit a comment of "no objection", taken at the previous meeting. It was noted that consent had been granted.

6.3 15/P/1582/F: Erection of two polytunnels on land adjacent to Solarsense UK Ltd, Brockley Lane, Brockley

- LL proposed, MJ seconded and it was agreed to ratify the decision to submit a comment of "no objection", made via e-mail communications. It was noted that consent with conditions had been granted.

6.4 APP/D0121/W: Appeal by Mr Gass of Woking to Planning Inspectorate against conditions imposed by NSC when granting 14/P/2617/F (Wrington Parish)

- Councillors were reminded that Brockley PC had objected to the original planning application for a change of use to recreational for woodland off Brockley Combe Road, in support of Wrington PC. DY advised members the paint-balling enterprise had disregarded conditions attached to planning consent primarily concerning noise and are now appealing against an enforcement notice issued by NSC.

6.5 15/P/0543/F: Erection of replacement residential unit arranged over three levels at Upper Meadow, Chelvey Batch

- It was noted that NSC had not yet reached a decision. MJ advised that bat and bird surveys had been carried out and lab results were now awaited. He confirmed that local residents appeared to have no objections to the proposals. Members were reminded that Brockley PC had objected during consultation on the basis that it appeared two properties were being created out of the one.

6.6 Enforcement cases

2015/0004: The Barton, Main Road – resolved.

2015/0009: Chelvey House, Chelvey Batch – A Planning Contravention Notice was issued for unauthorised building works in the front garden. MJ advised the Council that local residents were becoming increasingly unhappy with the property appearing to be used as a builder's yard.

Action: Clerk to e-mail enforcement officer in support of residents

2015/0146: Land between Warren Farm Cottages and Fountain Tree Surgery yard, Brockley Combe Road (Wrington Parish) – NSC have conducted a site visit and are making further enquiries into activities resembling those of a car breaker / scrap yard on the site designated as agricultural.

7 Streets, Open Spaces and Public Rights of Way

7.1 Prioritised gullies and schedule for clearing

JR confirmed that he was waiting for Darren Coffin-Smith to confirm a site meeting date with BS and himself.

Action: JW to contact Darren Coffin-Smith

7.2 Drain near Brockley Gardens

Councillors noted there had been no further action taken as yet.

7.3 Items reported at July meeting

GR confirmed that all new matters reported at the last meeting and minuted under 293/7.4 and 293/7.6-7.9 had been logged. MF reported the flytipping had not yet been cleared away from Chelvey Lane.

Action: Clerk to report on Council Connect

7.4 NSC Assessment of missing posts and signs

Members were advised that Elaine Bowman (Senior Access Officer, NSC) had contacted parish councils asking for assistance in confirming missing or damaged footpath signage at specific locations. It was agreed that the Parish Council would participate.

Action: Clerk to obtain location maps and forward to BS to inspect

7.5 Parish Maintenance

Glendale Waste Management – An offer by Glendale to take over parish maintenance was considered. It was agreed to continue making use of the services of Brian Whiteway for as long as he is able to continue.

Annual Parish maintenance – JR reported that Brian Whiteway had expressed a desire to cut back footpaths twice a year at no extra cost, instead of just the once in order to keep the growth under control. Members discussed the possibility of scheduling the maintenance of some sites to every other year.

Action: BS to draw up a list of works for Brian Whiteway

7.6 Any new matters

BS told the Council that, after lodging a complaint with NSC that green recycling bags were not always being weighted down after collection causing them to blow about, this was now being done. It was decided to remind parishioners to leave a rock with their green waste and to advise NSC if these are not used by the contractors.

Action: Clerk to include on the newsletter

Members discussed who was responsible for hedge-cutting as well as the renewal of the NSC waste contracts due in 2017 and the what possible changes would mean. MJ asked when Chelvey Batch hedges would be cut.

JR reported a pothole on the left side of Chelvey Road approaching Chelvey.

Action: Clerk to log on Council Connect

8 Local Projects

8.1 Facilities at Brockley Church

AR confirmed that percolation tests had been completed with the architect to decide if it would be acceptable to proceed with the preferred 'trench-arch' system. Final pipework maps were awaited.

8.2 Cleaning of Memorial Fountain

It was noted that Bristol Water had paid Brian Whiteway directly for works to clean the site.

8.3 Backwell Parish Council's planting at Chelvey Batch

The Council expressed concern following the response from Backwell PC's chairman, Bob Taylor, to recent correspondence requesting the removal of the formal planting around the Millenium Stone. It was agreed that Backwell PC's refusal to comply would stand in the way of the Council's desire to create wildflower meadow planting along the verges. Members agreed to write to David Turner.

Action: Clerk to contact Backwell PC Clerk
Action: Clerk to draft a letter to David Turner

Councillors discussed the proposed natural verges and options to suppress undesirable grass growth. It was agreed that plug plants would be needed. MJ advised that Chelvey Batch residents were broadly in favour of cut verges so would need convincing of the benefits of allowing wildflower proliferation.

8.4 Changes to Parish mowing

West end of Chelvey Lane – It was noted that Ed McKay had asked Glendale to reduce flailing to once a year to preserve the display of wild garlic.

A370 at north end of Chelvey Batch – JR confirmed he had attended a site meeting.

8.5 Collapsed sections of wall on A370

It was noted that the Council's application for grant funding from the Airport Community Fund had been declined on the grounds that the wall in question was in private ownership. It was agreed there was little more the Parish Council could do.

8.6 Post box for Water Works end of Chelvey Lane

Royal Mail's correspondence denying the Council's request for the installation of a new post box was considered. MF advised he had appealed to Royal Mail in his personal capacity to reconsider but was not optimistic of a positive outcome.

8.7 Purchase of hi-viz jackets

LL produced the twelve tabards purchased at a cost of £86.26 (incl VAT of £14.38).

Vests were given out to JR, BS, LL and JvT, with the remaining eight to be held in storage with MF.

JR proposed, BS seconded and it was agreed to authorise a cheque payment to reimburse LL in the amount of £86.26.

8.8 Air Ambulance Clothing Bank

JR confirmed that Brockley Stores had agreed to accommodate a clothing bank on their premises.

Action: Clerk to advise Great Western Air Ambulance Charity

9 Finance

9.1 Transparency Code compliance Grants

GR and JvT explained that grants were available to recoup costs incurred in setting up websites required to comply with the recently introduced Transparency Code. As the grant could include hardware, it was agreed to consider the purchase of a computer / laptop within the limit of £300. Members were advised that GR's reimbursement of hours spent on the Council's website in the amount of £95.51 would be included in the grant request.

Action: Clerk to put together a claim for submission

9.2 Current Bank balances

Following receipt of the balance of the Precept from NSC, the current account balance was £2,528.98 and deposit account, £1,101.23 giving a total cash available of £3,630.21.

9.3 Call on Reserves

Following a discussion on the impact on the budget of the change of Clerks, it was agreed that there would be a call on reserves in the region of £1,100 over this current financial year.

9.4 Payments

MF proposed, MJ seconded and it was resolved to authorise the following payments to be made:-

£849.00	Mrs Gill Rowley	Final net salary payment
£149.04	Ms Joanna van Tonder	Clerk's salary (September 2015)
£210.22	HMRC	PAYE
£86.26	Mrs Elizabeth Lunn	Reimburse expenses (see 294/8.7 above)

9.5 Changes to Banking arrangements

Signatories – The Council noted that David Pike and GR cease to be signatories on the accounts held with Santander; JvT is to be added as a signatory.

Change of Bank – The Council, having previously been advised that a change of bank would be preferable due to problems experienced with Santander, agreed to the setting up of a Natwest Community Account with JR, MF, LL and JvT as signatories.

10 Any other business

No other business was considered.

11 Date of next meeting

Members discussed possible dates and it was agreed to hold meetings on the first Tuesday of alternate months beginning on 3 November 2015, until further notice or unless otherwise agreed.

Date of next meeting: 3 November 2015

Meetings for 2016: 5 January, 1 March, 3 May, 5 July, 6 September and 1 November 2016

JR thanked GR for her years' of outstanding service to the Parish Council and presented her with an original, framed sketch of Brockley Church. LL presented her with a bunch of flowers that was followed by a round of applause by all present.

The meeting closed at 8:20 pm.