

BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 123, held at 8pm at St Nicholas' Church, Brockley on Tuesday, 15 March 2016.

Present: Wanda Dening, Paul and Linda Elliott, Mike Fishwick, Andrea Harrison, Geoff and Mary Hobbs, Martin Jarvis, Liz Lunn, Antony and Conny Ridge, Julian Ridge (Chairman), Bryan Smith
Deborah Yamanaka (District Councillor), Andy Prestt (Speaker) and Joanna van Tonder (Parish Clerk)

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Terry and Gill Iles, Liza Ridge, Rupert and Blanche Ridge and John Wilkinson.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting 122 – 30 March 2015

The minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting were read out and accepted. There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's Report

1. Introductions: Julian Ridge advised parishioners that Gill Rowley, Parish Clerk, had resigned the previous year and introduced her replacement, Joanna van Tonder. As a result of ward boundary changes that saw Brockley included within the Wrington Ward, the parish was now represented on the District Council by Deborah Yamanaka. Co-opted Parish Councillor Martin Jarvis of Chelvey Batch was introduced.
2. Planning: Progress of NSC's Core Strategy was outlined and those gathered were advised that the Site Allocations Plan was open to consultation until 28 April 2016. The majority of the 20,985 required houses were to be in Weston-super-Mare with the other service towns taking up some of the development. In addition, the Joint Spatial Plan was in the process of being formulated and would set the planning strategy for the greater West of England region.
3. Bristol Water Southern Resilience pipeline: A new drinking water main pipeline has been proposed, running from Barrow Gurney to Cheddar and passing through the parish. Where the pipeline crosses the A370 at the Chelvey Batch junction, works are to be open cut whereas tunnelling under Brockley Lane is scheduled to preserve the listed walls of Brockley Hall and is likely to take place between September and December 2016.
4. Wildflower verge: Originally planned for both sides of the A370 at the Backwell border, the creation of a wildflower verge on the north verge has been postponed until 2017 as the proposed pipeline will pass through the middle of it; Bristol Water has offered to replant the disturbed area with a wildflower mix upon completion.
5. St Nicholas Church water project: There has been a further delay due to staff changes within the CCT but fundraising is continuing with an exhibition of Batik and Quilting scheduled for 30 April and an illustrated talk by Dr Bryan Smith and Jasper Allen on 24 June.
6. Brockley drains: Julian advised that NSC's real-time information website has not yet gone live and blocked gullies remain a problem especially after heavy rains.
7. Footpaths: Maintenance of the parish footpaths has been carried out leaving most paths and stiles in good order; the intention is to increase vegetation cut-backs to two this year.
8. Website: Parishioners were encouraged to visit the parish council's new website: www.brockleypc.org where agendas, minutes and other useful information could be found. The cost of setting up and maintaining the site was grant funded.
9. Wall on the A370: No further progress has been made in the resolution of this problem. The parish council's application for grant funding from the Bristol Airport Community Fund had been turned down.
10. Airport: Passenger numbers increased by 7.6% in 2015.
11. Litter pick: Scheduled for 10am, Saturday, 19 March.

12. Budget: Julian reminded those gathered that copies of the Budget 2016 / 2017 were available and that the precept had increased marginally to £4,100 in order to maintain a reasonable reserve.

4 Other Reports

District Councillor Deborah Yamanaka was invited to address the meeting.

1. Planning: Deborah explained NSC's current shortfall in its 5 year supply of housing and unadopted Core Strategy was leaving the District Council vulnerable to less desirable development within the region but reiterated that the greenbelt would remain protected.
2. NSC Budget: Where previously District Councils were encouraged to hold council tax rates, changes in government policy was leading to increases of 3 – 3.5%, partly to cover a compulsory increase of 2% social care component. Further government cuts were due, inevitably leading to further cuts in services.
3. Downside traffic lights: Faulty traffic sensors were blamed for the huge delays experienced when the lights were first installed, however the situation is much improved.
4. NSC website: Deborah advised NSC had upgraded its website and welcomed any comments or suggestions for improvement.

5 Public Questions

Andrea Harrison asked what challenges NSC were facing and Deborah answered by explaining that, as a result of significant cuts to government grants, cuts in areas such as school crossings, social care and general staffing levels were inevitable.

Geoff Hobbs raised the issue of Brockley Combe litter picking. It was established that Martin Parsons had been responsible for the latest major clear up and it was agreed to write a letter of thanks to Martin as well as a request to NSC for a commitment to maintain the cleanliness of the area.

Julian Ridge then handed over to Antony Ridge who introduced the guest speaker, Andrew Prestt, Recycling and Waste Contract Officer with North Somerset Council. Andrew delivered a presentation on the challenges facing the recycling team and ways in which the community could assist both collectively and on an individual basis. Following a discussion on the proposed changes to green waste collections in the district, the meeting concluded.