

BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,
at 7:00pm on 3 November 2020

Present: Dr Julian Ridge (chair), Mike Fishwick, Tessa Jarman, Martin Jarvis, Dr Antony Ridge, Dr Bryan Smith and Joanna van Tonder (Clerk)

2x residents

Distribution: The Parish Councillors plus District Councillor Steve Hogg

In line with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting was held remotely using the Zoom platform enabling both Council members and the public to hear and be heard.

1 Apologies for absence

District Councillor Steve Hogg had sent his apologies.

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 [Minutes of the previous meeting – 6 October 2020](#)

MJ proposed, BS seconded and it was agreed the minutes of the last meeting having been circulated previously be taken as a true and accurate record. It was noted JR would sign a copy of the minutes and return signed copy to the Clerk.

4 Co-option to fill casual vacancy

JR introduced Tessa Jarman of Brockley Hall and welcomed her to the meeting.

JR proposed, MF seconded and it was agreed to co-opt Tessa on to the Council.

The Clerk advised, as a result of meeting remotely, TJ would be sent a Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed at a later date.

5 Public Questions

Members of the public expressed an interest in discussions that would be covered under Highways, later on the agenda.

6 Truespeed Broadband update

As Andy Moore of Truespeed had, as yet, not joined the meeting, it was agreed to come back to this item if he joined at a later stage. The Clerk confirmed Andy had been invited to the meeting and had accepted.

7 Covid-19 Response

Members noted England would be entering another period of lock down for four weeks from Thursday, 5 November to Wednesday, 2 December.

8 Police Report

No incidents of crime had been reported during the month of September 2020.

9 Correspondence received: Mental Health services for children

Members noted with dismay the letter received from a member of *Protect our NHS* wherein it stated that, for various reasons, there were no mental health residential places available for children and adolescents in the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area. After a passionate discussion, the Clerk agreed to draft a letter to Julia Ross, CEO CCG.

Action: Clerk to circulate draft response

10 Finance and Governance

a) Half Year Financial Review

The Clerk presented the previously circulated Financial Review and outlined areas where the Council was expected to be over budget. The anticipated overspend on some key items of £185 was offset by savings of around £130 on administrative expenditure.

Members discussed the option of switching to an annual room hire charge as opposed to the current "pay as you go" system. The Clerk suggested this would safeguard the venues reliant on this income from the Council as well as the Council who would benefit from a set rate.

Action: Clerk to discuss feasibility with respective Church administrators

The Clerk advised that a balance of £860 was expected in the contingency fund at year end and that, as was agreed during budget setting in January, any unspent contingency would be earmarked for future consultancy costs.

b) Grant allocation 2020/21

Members noted the three requests received for the FYE 31 March 2021. The Clerk reminded members that no budget had been provided for grants for this financial year. After consideration, it was agreed to turn down the requests submitted on the grounds that the applicants provided insufficient evidence of local benefit to meet criterion 2b) of the Parish Council's *Grants & Charitable Donations Policy*.

c) Budget 2021/22

Members were asked to consider the role of the Parish Council in light of significant challenges faced by the community during the past year and the inevitable financial consequences that would likely see further constraints on service provision by the Local Authority. The Clerk suggested the following year's budget would need to reflect the changing role of the Council.

Members were asked to forward any suggestions or projects for inclusion in the budget to the Clerk by Friday, 11 December.

d) Website Accessibility Statement

The Clerk advised she had been unable to progress this item any further since the last meeting.

e) Receipts and Payments

The Clerk reported no **receipts** had been received since the last meeting.

It was resolved to ratify the following **payments** made since the last meeting:-

£218.79	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (October 2020)
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It was resolved to authorise the following **payments** to be made:-

£120.00	Brian Whiteway	Annual footpath maintenance
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11 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) General update

Footpaths

BS reported the maize field had been harvested making it much easier to walk through the new cereal crop. The farmer would, however, be asked to cut back the encroaching hedge.

Trees along Main Road

JR declared a personal interest in that there were some trees on his land.

Members heard from the residents present that a large two ton branch from an oak located on the west side of Main Road (opposite the row on nine houses) had snapped off, ripping down power lines and damaging the roof of one of the properties. During August, a chestnut tree had also fallen. Concerns were raised that the trees were not being properly maintained and that a number of trees were evidently rotten.

Residents confirmed that WPD had been on site to reinstate the electricity supply but were not in a position to consider any essential tree works as they had been of the opinion that the trees were covered by TPOs. The Clerk confirmed this was not the case.

Action: Clerk to escalate with WPD

General

The following reports were received:

- Brockley Lane (at the traffic lights) – potholes exposing the wiring
- Brockley Lane (at the Lodge, Brockley Hall) – extensive potholes on the edge of the carriageway

Action: Clerk to report on Council Connect

Action: Clerk to follow up on potholes in cycle tracks along the parish lanes

b) Refurbishment of fingerposts

Members noted the response from NSC to the Council's request for the refurbishment of the damaged fingerpost on Chelvey Road.

As NSC were unable to assist, it was agreed that an audit of all existing fingerposts should be undertaken and the necessary cost of repairs, ascertained.

MJ advised he would take on the maintenance of the two fingerposts at each end of Chelvey Batch and was thanked for his offer.

12 Planning

a) Planning applications since the last meeting

The following planning applications were received since the last meeting:

1	20/P/2217/FUL	Erection of small timber framed barn at Five Acre Farm, Pit Lane, Backwell <u>Council comment:</u> no objection
2	20/P/2295/LDP	Certificate of lawful development for a proposed single storey side extension at Chelvey Hollow, Chelvey Batch <u>Council comment:</u> no objection

b) Consents, refusals and enforcement cases since the last meeting

No planning decisions had been made since the previous meeting.

Members noted that a decision had not yet been taken on planning application 20/P/1953/LDP – High Glebe, Chelvey Batch. Members noted the roof had now been completed.

c) North Somerset Local Plan 2038: Choices for the future

Members noted the invitation to attend an introductory briefing on the Local Plan. JR and TJ agreed to represent the Council at the briefings.

d) Bristol Airport Planning appeal

Members noted the estimated timetable for the appeal process and the likelihood of a consultation on updated Environmental Statements to be submitted by Bristol Airport, running over the Christmas period. MF advised the PCAA were expected to circulate a brief to aid in responding to this additional information.

In addition, the Clerk advised of a planning application request for a formal screening opinion as to whether an Environmental Impact Assessment was required for a proposed Public Transport Interchange facility.

Action: Clerk to circulate details of 20/P/2712/EA1 to councillors

13 Open Forum for the Parish Council

Broadband

JR reported only some properties had working Gigaclear connections. Despite complications with way-leaves, it appeared progress was being made however. It was noted Gigaclear were opting for some overhead cabling in the Flax Bourton area which was contrary to initial promises.

Members and residents discussed the provision of fibre broadband to the rest of the parish and it was clear there was confusion around which of the suppliers was planning to provide services to which zones.

Action: Clerk to make contact with Andy Moore, Truespeed and ask for a report

14 Dates of the next meetings

Dates of the next meetings: 5 January, 2 February and 2 March 2021

Meeting concluded at 8:25pm.