

BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at St Bridget's Church, Chelvey,
at 7:00pm on Monday 6 February 2023

1. Present

Cllrs Dr Julian Ridge (Chair), Mike Fishwick, Dr Bryan Smith, Tessa Jarman, District Cllr Steve Hogg and Andy Warren (Clerk)

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Karen Bailey and Martin Jarvis

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 9 January 2023

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting, having been circulated previously, be taken as a true and accurate record. Proposed by TJ and seconded by BS. JR signed a copy of the minutes in confirmation.

5. Police Report

No update received.

6. District Councillor's Report

Report submitted and appended to these minutes. District Cllr Steve Hogg discussed the issues of DRT (Demand Responsive Transport), BSIP bus priority measures, A370 speed issues. Election 2023 procedures and Bristol Airport appeal outcome..

7. Consultations and Meetings

- Active Travel Consultation. TJ will complete on behalf of the Council and liaise where necessary. All encouraged to complete individually.
- Local Flood Risk Management Consultation will be launched 9 February. TJ to attend event at Clevedon Library on Wednesday 22nd February.

8. Finance

a) Payments

Payments have been made as follows:-

27/01/2023	£298.40	A Warren	Salary
27/01/2023	£74.60	HMRC	Salary
30/01/2023	£10.00	A Warren	Homeworking

Payments have been made from the Unity Bank Account via Standing Order and Automatic Payment.

b) Receipts

11/01/2023	£298.54	HMRC	VAT Refund
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c) Payments for Authorisation

06/02/2023	£100.00	Brian Whiteway	Village Maintenance
06/02/2023	£70.00	St Nicholas Church	Hire for meetings
06/02/2023	£187.50	St Bridget's Church	Hire for meetings

It was resolved to accept the financial report and to authorise the payments. Proposed by JR and seconded by MF.

9. Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) General update – highways

- The work to repair the road surface between Brockley Lights and Brockley Hall has been completed following recent flood damage.
- The damage to the grass area caused by Avonline work for Western Power has been raised with both Avonline and NSC Streetworks for remedy.
- St Nicholas Way issues have been passed to the NSC Land Drainage Team but some further remedial surface work has also been completed.
- Flooding issues in Chelvey at bottom of "Taps Combe" are also being investigated.
- Work on the A370 to deal with Ash and other issues has been completed although we have raised concerns regarding some remaining trees and obstruction of 40mph sign.

b) General update – footpaths

No issues raised.

10. Planning

a) Planning Applications since the last meeting for comment

23/P/0003/FUH	Lynn Wood, Main Road, Brockley	Demolition of the existing conservatory and proposed erection of a single storey rear extension. Loft conversion with 2no. dormer windows (1no.each to side elevations) and associated internal alterations.
23/P0137/FUL	The Shingles, Chelvey Batch,	Proposed demolition of existing dwelling erection of replacement dwelling alongside a detached carport with associated works.

There are no objections to either of these applications – no action required.

b) Consents and refusals since the last meeting

None

11. Coronation Party

It is planned to hold a Parish Picnic to celebrate the Coronation on 8th May 2023. A sub-committee has been formed with representatives from around the Parish and they are meeting to review plans. Letters asking for support have been sent to local businesses and Clerk to prepare application for support from the Bristol Airport Local Community Fund.

12. Pedestrian Safety on A370

TJ has been approached by several parishioners regarding pedestrian safety along the A370, particularly the section from the bus stop on the opposite side to Brockley Stores and the part between Brockley and Cleeve. North Somerset Council are pushing 'bus use' as the preferred way forward. A common 'complaint' by parishioners regarding the bus stop, is how dangerous it is to cross the road at that point and the lack of any pedestrian footpath in either direction to facilitate a better

view of traffic in both directions. I have had similar concerns raised about the lack of anywhere to cross safely on the section opposite St Nicholas Way, and again the lack of pedestrian access on the opposite side. This also holds for access to the footpath in that section.

District Cllr Steve Hogg was invited to join discussion and, at his suggestion, Clerk to:-

- Log issue under the “Widen My Path” process with liaison with Lyndsay Margerison at NSC.
- To add to the new NSC scheme to register the request for a scheme.
- To forward the request to Steve Hogg to seek addition to the BSIP project if possible.

13. Parish Council Elections 2023

Although it seems unlikely that a formal election will be required for Brockley, councillors are required to be re-nominated and packs have been prepared and distributed to all councillors. These need to be completed and submitted to Clerk at March meeting for submission to North Somerset between 21 March and 4 April.

14. Open forum for the Parish Council

- Annual Litter Pick to take place on April 1st 2023. Clerk to arrange in liaison with MF.
- Annual Parish Meeting to be held Monday 27th March in St Bridget’s at 7.00pm. District Cllr Steve Hogg has agreed to speak on recent issues, plus the DRT and background to the mechanics of local government.
- Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held 15th May due to Election date and additional Bank Holidays.

15. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held Monday 6 March 2023 in St Bridget’s Church, Chelvey

Meeting concluded at 8.30

Andy Warren

Clerk, Brockley Parish Council

07 February 2023

Addendum: District Councillors Report February 2023

Buses

1. DRT

NSC is launching a new, Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) bus service on Monday 3rd April to help serve those areas like ours, with little or no regular public transport routes. Initially it is hoped there will be 16 buses in North Somerset running from 7am until 7pm, Monday to Saturday. Passengers will be able to book their journeys by phone or through a mobile app. Think of it a bit like Uber, where you book your location and desired destination – and will be able to see the bus as it approaches your nearest stop.

The new 'demand responsive transport' (DRT) services will go where they're needed and run without a set timetable, typically using smaller vehicles than fixed route bus services. We have been working with WECA on contracts for these new services.

Demand responsive transport is perfect for residents in my ward – in that it will bring public transport to areas of North Somerset which have traditionally struggled to sustain timetabled services due to low passenger demand, or that may have been inaccessible to larger vehicles. I do have a map showing the initial zones – if anyone would like a copy of this please send me an email and I will share the link with you.

This development is such good news for communities like ours which have been struggling to access public transport since a number of commercial services were withdrawn last year in the wake of declining passenger numbers post-covid. Having a demand responsive service will enable the buses to go where they're needed, and using smaller vehicles will be better for the environment.

I have high hopes for DRT. Of course it's not a silver bullet, (and it will be dependent on capacity and driver sufficiency if it is to work well) but it is an important step.

Pricing will be in line with fares for local buses and Diamond Travel concessionary passes will be accepted, along with the West of England multi-operator ticketing for seamless onward travel.

This will be very new for our area so bear in mind this is under development and the precise scope might change in the early days as we respond to how people use the service. But this is a genuine and exciting opportunity to improve access to bus services for many rural communities currently missing out or paying the price for service cuts.

2. BSIP

Part of our £48m capital programme of bus priority measures and schemes has been agreed and forms part of the BSIP strategy. This update focuses on the redesign of over 18 junctions and routes which are known to cause delays to services. As part of these schemes, NSC will be making changes to road layouts and traffic regulations to enable enforcement of bus priority. As well as these 18 key schemes the council will make other changes in order to create faster and more reliable bus services, alongside a programme of shelter and stop, interchange and first and last mile improvements.

The first package of seven schemes is programmed for construction starting in the spring, and will benefit local passengers as much of it is focussed on A370 and A38 pinch points:

- A38 at Barrow Gurney
- A370 Long Ashton bypass
- A370 at Brockley Combe
- A370 at Wood Hill
- A370 at Congresbury Smallway junction

- A369 at Beggar Bush Lane
- A369 Martcombe Road

A370 Speeds

I am meeting with officers later this month to look at speed limits along the length of the A370 between WSM and Bristol. I am very keen that whilst we are making changes to road layouts as part of our BSIP work, we also examine and make changes to speed limits where justified. For example, I am keen for an overall reduction in speed along some stretches, and more uniform speeds in others. I will share details on this once I have had those discussions and we have a plan.

Local Elections

I am sure councillors will be aware that for the first time, residents in North Somerset will need to show photographic ID to vote at this year's local elections. Residents are being urged to make sure they are ready to vote in May by checking they have an accepted form of ID.

Accepted forms of ID include a UK, European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth passport; a UK, EEA or Commonwealth drivers' licence; and some concessionary travel passes, such as an older person's bus pass. Voters will be able to use expired ID if they are still recognisable from the photo.

Anyone who does not have one of the accepted forms of ID will be able to apply for free ID online at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate or by completing a paper form.

The full list of accepted ID is available on the Electoral Commission's website, along with more information about the new requirement and details of how to apply for the free ID, at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID

I'd be grateful if the PC could help to share this information via usual social media channels and noticeboards etc.

Bristol Airport

I was disappointed but not surprised to see that BAAN lost their recent High Court judgement and that the appeal to expand operations at the airport has been allowed.

Sadly, national government aviation policy favours economic growth at the expense of the environment. I know that BAAN are not giving up, and perhaps a change of government is what's needed to address this oversight.

Meanwhile I will continue to hold the airport to account against the various conditions set out within the approval document itself.

Steve Hogg 06/02/2023