

BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,
at 7:00pm on 6 April 2021

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

1 x 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

Apologies had been received from District Councillor Steve Hogg.

2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations

Tessa Jarman declared a personal interest in agenda item 11(a)(1): Planning application 21/P/0037/TPO.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – 2 March 2021

BS proposed, MF 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 Casual Vacancy and option to co-opt

The Clerk advised that no poll had been called and the Council was free to co-opt. Members considered who may be available and willing to join and it was agreed to make some enquiries.

7:11pm – MJ left the meeting (connectivity issues)

5 Public Questions

The member of the public present thanked the Council for a most enjoyable online Quiz held the previous month and indicated she had a number of points to raise in relation to agenda item 8(b): Rural Lanes Active Travel Enhancements.

JR agreed she could address the Council when that item was discussed.

6 Covid-19 Response

Members noted the progress towards the easing of national lockdown restrictions. Lateral flow tests were readily available from the Scotch Horn Leisure Centre in Nailsea.

7 Police Report

The Clerk advised there had been one Public Order offence on or near St Nicholas Way (under investigation) during February 2021.

8 Consultations and Meetings

a) NSC Green Infrastructure Strategy

JR confirmed the Council's response to the consultation had been submitted in advance of the 9 April deadline, Members agreed NSC had put together a great body of work that, if implemented, would provide remarkable outcomes.

b) NSC Rural Lanes Active Travel Enhancements “access only” restrictions

JR invited the member of the public to address the Council on the proposed “access only” restrictions NSC had recently announced for a number of rural lanes across the District that included Brockley Lane, Brockley Way, Chelvey Lane and Chelvey Road.

The resident expressed concern that, while the housing developments proposed for the surrounding area would inevitably bring much higher volumes of traffic through the parish, any “access only” restrictions would be completely unenforceable. Of greater benefit would be a request for a reduction in the number of commercial vehicles such as airport taxis making use of the rural lanes.

It was agreed an additional road linking Nailsea with Bristol was essential and other measures ought to be considered to deter traffic away from the parish lanes and back on to the main roads. It was noted all the parish lanes were part of NSC's official cycle ways.

Members were asked to be mindful that within the Youngwood Lane planning application was a provision for a link road from Nailsea to the station in Backwell. If that road was extended too far to the west, it would become the more desirable route for traffic leaving the M5 heading for Bristol Airport, thus exacerbating the problem for Brockley and Chelvey.

Following discussion, it was agreed to support the proposal in principle but to request that additional measures are considered alongside this, such as restrictions on commercial vehicles.

Action: TJ & JR to draft and circulate a response

Action: Clerk to ask for progress report on Nailsea - Bristol link road from James Tonkin

9 Finance and Governance

c) Legislation pertaining to meeting arrangements

The Clerk advised the piece of legislation that had been drawn up in March 2020 to enable Councils to meet on a remote basis was due to end on 6 May. The Government had been unable to pass further legislation in time that would allow for Councils to continue meeting remotely and, as such, only face-to-face meetings on or after 7 May could be considered lawful.

The Clerk went on to explain that a group of interested parties had lodged a legal challenge in the High Court but the date for this had not yet been finalised and a positive outcome could not be guaranteed.

Members discussed the feasibility of holding meetings in the two church venues and it was agreed that St Nicholas would not be suitable due to the very limited space available. While St Bridget's offered more room, the Council agreed a venue outside the parish may have to be considered.

It was agreed that, since the May meeting was already scheduled to take place before the 6th of May threshold, the Council would reconsider the options available then when more information should be available.

d) Receipts and Payments

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

TJ proposed, MF seconded and it was resolved to ratify the following **payments** made since the last meeting:-

£224.84	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Clerk's salary (March 2021)
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It was resolved to authorise the following **payments** to be made:-

£66.95	Avon Local Councils Association	Annual subscription (2021/22)
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10 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

e) General update - highways

The following report was received:

- Brockley Lane (between Hall and traffic lights) – carriageway now cracked as a result of underground stream

Action: Clerk to report to North Somerset Council

JR advised he had received reports of a large number of bags fly-tipped at the bottom of Brockley Combe in the entrance to the woods. It is believed the bags contained personal information of a Claverham resident that could prove useful in tracing the offender.

MF commented the tree surgeons appeared to have progressed along Main Road and undertaken appropriate works to remedy the dangerous branches.

f) General update – footpaths

The Clerk was asked to follow up on the decals that were requested from NSC.

g) Changes to recycling, refuse and green waste collections

Members noted NSC had encountered some teething problems in rolling out their new green waste services. Households requiring a green waste collection would be asked to pay £50 per bin per year.

The Clerk advised that recycling and waste collections were being transferred from Biffa to a wholly NSC-owned company who would be performing the collection service from the start of the new financial year. NSC had advised that there would be no changes to the collection routes and days.

It was mentioned that the collectors often missed the private roads,

h) Correspondence received: Woodland “lotting”

Members noted the correspondence received from a group known as *Watch Over Adisham's Woods* that was highlighting the trend to carve up areas of woodland and offering these plots for sale to the possible detriment of local wildlife, the landscape as a whole and the maintenance of the woodland's historical and archaeological records.

It was acknowledged that the concerns raised by the group in their e-mail of people potentially building on these parcels of woodland and putting in access roads could well be an issue for Brockley Woods.

Members discussed the matter further and agreed the Parish Council would need to keep a watchful eye out for developments across the woods.

Action: Clerk to draft letter of reply and copy to:
Woodland Trust
Dr Liam Fox
Cllr Steve Hogg

11 Planning

a) Planning applications since the last meeting

The following planning applications were received since the last meeting:

1	21/P/0037/TPO	T8 – Horse Chestnut – fell due to poor structural stability and poor health at Oaklea, Brockley Hall, Brockley Lane, Brockley TJ had declared an interest and did not vote. <u>Council comment:</u> no objection Clerk asked to make sure of the correct TPO number as there appeared to be a discrepancy within the application documents and on the portal.
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b) Consents, refusals and enforcement cases since the last meeting

The following planning applications were decided since the last meeting:

20/P/2942/FUL – Hestia House, Brockley Lane, Brockley	Permission granted 17/03/2021
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c) Update on Bristol Airport appeal

MF reported back on the PCAA meeting held on 25 March and advised that membership had grown to thirty parish councils and one town council.

Members noted the enquiry had been extended from 16 to 40 days and was due to begin on 20 July 2021. More support had been coming in from District Councillors for NSC's defence of the appeal. MF suggested there may be an opportunity for someone involved with the enquiry to visit the local area to assess the impact of the airport's proposed expansion for themselves.

Members noted Bristol Airport had withdrawn its application for additional night flights.

12 Open Forum for the Parish Council

TJ reminded members of the pot of money available from the Bristol Airport Community Fund and suggested the Council could put in an application to cover the cost of a new noticeboard at Brockley Stores. JR agreed to discuss the matter with the owner of the Stores who had previously offered to replace the current dilapidated board for the Council free of charge.

13 Dates of the next meetings

Date of the next meeting: 4 May 2021

Meeting concluded at 8:46pm.