

BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at St Nicholas Church, Brockley
at 7:00pm on Monday 4 September 2023

1. Present

Cllrs Tessa Jarman (Chair) Dr Julian Ridge (Vice Chair), Emma Folkes, Dr Bryan Smith, Mike Fishwick and Andy Warren (Clerk)

Plus two members of the public.

Member of the public raised issues with regards to a “road narrows” sign and “30” painted sign on the road both adjacent to their property. The resident has also been in correspondence with NSC Highways in this respect.

Other member of the public purely attending out of interest in how the meetings work.

2. Apologies for Absence

District Councillor Steve Hogg

3. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

None

4. Minutes of the previous meeting – 3 July 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 MF and seconded by JR. Signed by TJ.

5. Police Report

No PCSO report received but Clerk due to meet PCSO and their admin support on 7 September.

6. District Councillor’s Report

None received as District Cllr Steve Hogg in course of standing down.

7. Consultations and Meetings

- NSC Corporate Plan and Budget Engagement Consultation is open and Councils are asked to respond. TJ will compile a suggested response for approval at October meeting and submission by October 16.
- Taylor Wimpey are proposing a new development at Grove Farm and Burnt House Farm. They are holding a public meeting on 13th September in Backwell. JR to attend as an observer.
- TJ will attend Town and Parish Forum on September 13th.
- MF will attend Bristol Airport update meeting on 12 September.

8. Finance

Transactions since last meeting

Payments

Payments have been made as follows:-

30/06/2023	Unity Bank	£18.00	Quarterly Charge
24/07/2023	PC Magic	£500.00	New Laptop

27/07/2023	Andy Warren	£194.97	Salary
27/06/2023	HMRC	£46.20	A Warren Tax
01/08/2023	ALCA	£40.00	Course – Cllr Folkes
07/08/2023	B M Whiteway	£100.00	Maintenance
29/08/2023	Andy Warren	£194.77	Salary
29/08/2023	HMRC	£46.40	A Warren Tax
30/08/2023	Sunrise Marquees	£540.00	Coronation Picnic
30/08/2023	NSC	£92.00	Election Charge

Receipts

Receipts as follows:-

12/07/2023	HMRC	£182.84	VAT Refund
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Bank Reconciliation as at 30 June 2023 completed for approval and signature by TJ & MF.

Acceptance of Financial report and signing of Reconciliation proposed by BS and seconded by JR.

9. Asset Review

As agreed at July meeting new laptop has now been purchased and added to the Asset Register in place of previous.

10. Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

a) General update – highways

Gregg Brake advises that:-

- A review of the surface of St Nicholas Way has been completed and the worst of the potholes have been filled.
- A resident has complained that a hedge on the A370 adjacent to his property causes visibility issues when he, and other local residents, are trying to leave their properties. Gregg advises that this is a private hedge and is the responsibility of the landowner. Up to the 1st of September bird-nesting regulations would have precluded action but now could be done and the landowner should be approached as a first step.
- The same resident also raises the issue of the pavement along the A370 through Brockley, this is also blocked with bushes covering the pavement and is an extreme danger to pedestrians as they have to step out into the road for some considerable distance. Currently the bus stop opposite our house is totally covered and obscured with trees and vegetation. Gregg Advises that the barriers currently in this location are largely due to the footway being undermined by badgers and restrictions regarding work around badger setts. The vegetation issues have also been subject to bird-nesting regulations. These issues are with NSC Highways.
- Bus stops vegetation has also been on hold due to bird-nesting regulations but a programme to attend to these is in course.
- Following the recently agreed scheme for improved safety and speed measures we have received representation from a resident regarding the “road narrows” sign and the painted “Slow” sign on the road near their property. Following discussions with NSC Highways and the resident they confirm that the locations of both signs are entirely appropriate to Highways guidance. However, after discussion BPC propose that, as a compromise, the painted sign on the road be omitted from the scheme although the “road narrows” sign is to remain. Clerk to relay this decision to David Bailey of NSC.

Proposed by BS and seconded by EF.

b) General update – footpaths

BS asked that some assistance be given to him in monitoring footpaths and MF has agreed to assist. It was suggested that an approach be made to Woodspring Ramblers to liaise on issues and ensure our paths are up to date.

c) Public transport

The work under the BSIP scheme at Brockley lights is now proposed for later this year but there is some confusion regarding the position of the bus lane and either TJ or JR will be speaking to James Padgham of NSC Highways.

11. Planning

a) Planning Applications since the last meeting for comment

None

b) Consents and refusals since the last meeting

None

12. Planning Conditions for 22/P/1470/NMA Helios House

It has been brought to the attention of Councillors that external lighting at Helios House is very bright and disproportionate and is causing annoyance to neighbouring properties as well as having a negative impact on bats and barn owls. Condition 9 of the planning does not appear to have been satisfied.

As first step TJ is to gently approach the new residents and bring this to their attention.

Proposed by JR and seconded by BS.

13. The Delayed Coronation Picnic

The Picnic was finally held on Monday 28 August and was felt by all to have been a great success. Letters of thanks are to go to Warren Smith (Sound System), Michael Loader (Storyteller) plus those who supported financially Bristol Airport, St Monica Trust, Brockley Stores and Blakemore Foundation. Clerk and JR to liaise in this respect.

A surplus of £346.50 remains after payment of all bills and, as previously discussed, part of this will be used to purchase an oak tree (approx. £130 in commemoration of King Charles III Coronation. Additionally is suggested that a suitable commemorative bench be sourced.

Purchase of tree confirmed. Proposed by TJ and seconded by BS.

14. Open forum for the Parish Council

- WhatsApp Groups. Following suggestions from residents a discussion took place regarding possible use of a WhatsApp group for the parish. It was concluded that with the website, Facebook page and Notice Boards we do comply with providing information. Clerk is available via mobile and email and the administration of such a group would, potentially, create additional workload. Additionally, there are other such groups already operating and we already pass on important information via them.

It was proposed that this option is not pursued. Proposed by JR and seconded by EF.

15. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be 2 October 2023 at St Bridget's Chelvey.

Meeting concluded at 8.35 pm

Andy Warren
Clerk, Brockley Parish Council
6 September 2023