

BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 8 pm at St Nicholas Church on Monday 19 March 2012

Present: Councillors Mike Fishwick, Liz Lunn, David Pike, Antony Ridge (Vice Chair), Julian Ridge (Chair), Bryan Smith, District Councillor Geoff Coombs, John Wilkinson (North Somerset Council Liaison Officer), speakers Kim Herival and Mike Littleton, 13 parishioners and Gill Rowley (Clerk).

1 Apologies were received from Geoff and Mary Hobbs, Rupert and Blanche Ridge.

2 Minutes of the 2011 APM were read. There were no matters arising.

3 Chair's report

The Chair introduced the new clerk, and councillor Liz Lunn who was co-opted last July. Liz looks after the Chelvey area, Antony Ridge attends planning workshops, David Pike focuses on airport issues, Bryan Smith looks after public rights of way, and Mike Fishwick helps with financial matters. Dr Ridge welcomed Geoff Coombs (who succeeds Tom Collinson as district councillor) and the two guest speakers.

a North Somerset Council's (NSC's) Core Strategy

An independent Examination in Public of the Core Strategy had taken place in November and December. The strategy would become the primary planning policy document, replacing the Local Plan. It set out where and what sort of development will take place and how communities can develop up to 2026.

b Bristol Airport Community Fund

Under the Section 106 agreement accompanying planning permission for its development, Bristol Airport has set up a fund to support community projects in parishes close to the airport, including Brockley. It put in £100k annually, increasing in line with passenger numbers. Eligible projects are those that mitigate the impact of noise, improve transport infrastructure and services to/from the airport, nature conservation, educational projects and sustainability initiatives. They are preferably under £5k. Parishioners can bring suggestions for projects to the council.

c National Grid Interconnector

The route has now been fixed along the present line of pylons and will not directly impact on the parish. The council would therefore take no further part in consultations.

d Footpaths and public rights of way

Some signs need replacing – they are on the list but progress is slow. The kissing gate at Brockley Court Farm will be replaced. All public footpaths and stiles are inspected in the early summer and any necessary trimming of vegetation is done.

e New traffic lights at the crossroads

The Greater Bristol Bus Network paid to install low energy LED bulbs, with a device that allows buses to trigger them on approach.

f Heavy traffic in Brockley Lane

The problem of large lorries in Brockley Lane seems to be getting worse, particularly with large vehicles meeting on Chelvey bridge. Liz Lunn has been keeping a record of these and the council has been consulting with the police and British Rail to try to get more rigorous enforcement of the 7.5 tons weight limit. This is not a safety limit for the bridge (which is safe to 40 tons) but was applied in 1983 to restrict traffic in the approach roads and was originally proposed to be 3 tons. The council will continue to press for action.

g Website

The council considered the suggestion of a Brockley Parish website and decided that while it was a good idea in principle, it would need more time and commitment to maintain than we could afford. If any parishioner has the skill and inclination to take on the job, we would consider this again next year.

h Diamond Jubilee

To commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee the council have planted a Liquidambar tree in the NE quadrant at the crossroads and will plant daffodil bulbs there in the autumn.

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Brockley Hall residents have planted another one in the SE quadrant. Liquidambar trees are so called because of the amber coloured resin they exude. They grow to 20-25' and have dramatic autumn foliage. NB: There was insufficient space to add another oak to the four commemorative trees outside the church entrance.

i Tree Warden

NSC have launched a tree warden network to protect and promote local trees and woodland and have asked councils to consider appointing a resident as parish Tree Warden. If anyone is interested, Liz Lunn has details.

j Olympic Torch

This will pass through Backwell on Wednesday 23 May.

k Parish Register

This year's register shows an electorate of 241 - an increase of six.

l Litter pick

The annual litter pick will be on Saturday 24 March, meeting 10 a.m. at the crossroads. For safety reasons, the Combe will not be picked. NSC to provide gloves and pickers. All welcome!

4 Budget for 2012-13

Copies of the budget were available. The precept for 2012-13 would be £2,800 (£2,340 in 2011), needing a call on £429 from reserves. Expenditure will be higher this year because of increased office costs.

5 Parishioners' questions

* Connie Ridge asked if anything had been done about rubbish mounting up in one of Mr R Fortune's fields. The Chair had spoken with the landowner and the council was monitoring the situation.

* Antony Ridge observed that NSC had done a very good job in clearing rubbish bags from the Combe and were generally very attentive to rubbish in the Combe.

* Pat Pearce commented on the litter along Chelvey Road that appears to come from the recycling lorry – the light plastic is quite noticeable. The council would pursue this with NSC.

* David Pike asked to address the meeting, explaining that the two charities the Backwell Foundation and the Backwell Education Foundation also cover this parish. While the former aims to 'help the poor', the latter typically funds projects/school trips for young people under 20. He asked parishioners to contact him if they knew of anyone the funds could help.

Business ended at 8.30. The Chair thanked Gill Iles and Pat Pearce for providing refreshments, and introduced the guest speakers. These were Kim Herival (Home Energy Efficiency Officer at North Somerset Council) who spoke on 'Fuel bill reduction in the home', and Mike Littleton (Community Relations Manager, Bristol Airport) who gave an illustrated talk on 'The history of Bristol Airport, its operation and future plans'.

Signed.....

Date.....