

# BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held remotely,  
at 7:00pm on 15 September 2020

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

Cllr Steve Hogg

**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 for absence had been received from Cllr Karen Shaw (work commitments).

## **2 Declarations of Interest and dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest received.

## **3 [Minutes of the previous meeting – 11 August 2020](#)**

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 Public Questions**

There were no members of the public present.

## **5 Covid-19 Response**

SH advised members of a number of schools throughout the District where groups of students had been required to self-isolate as the number of cases of Covid-19 began to rise once again. Members discussed the lack of local testing capacity and the laboratories' shortcomings with regard to processing capacity. SH confirmed NSC were lobbying for better access to testing.

## **6 Police Report**

No police report was presented.

## **7 Finance and Governance**

### **a) PCAA request for funds for the public enquiry on the Bristol Airport Appeal**

Members discussed the PCAA's request for contributions towards the anticipated £40,000 required to enable it to apply for Rule Six Status and, subsequently go on to fight Bristol Airport's appeal of NSC's decision to refuse planning permission on its expansion application.

SH advised that NSC would be defending the appeal with all its force. Dr Liam Fox MP had been asked to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, Grant Schapps, requesting that he allows the appeal to proceed without undue interference and that consideration is giving to the financial impact on all parties should the appeal be called in mid-way through the process.

Members noted the suggested *contributions per parish populations* data that had been circulated by the PCAA.

JR proposed, BS seconded and it was agreed to make a donation in the amount of £140 to the fund immediately and look to make a provision for a further contribution in the budget for FYE 2021/22.

**b) Clerk's training: SLCC Conference week**

It was agreed the Clerk would enrol on the SLCC Virtual Conference. The cost of £30 + VAT would be split with Barrow Gurney Parish Council on a 50:50 basis.

**c) Website Accessibility Statement**

The Clerk reminded members that the deadline for the publication of the Website Accessibility Statement on the Council's website was 23 September 2020. The Clerk advised that she had been unable to make much progress on this and that a number of historical documents on the website were, as yet, non-compliant.

**Action:** Clerk to draft and publish Accessibility Statement

**d) Clerk's salary: cost of living increase**

It was resolved that the clerk will receive the NALC recommended cost of living increase of 2.75% as of 1 April 2020. The clerk's salary would rise from £218.79 to £224.84 per month. A payment of £30.25 would be due to the Clerk for the increase backdated to 1 April 2020.

**e) Amendment of Clerk's salary standing order**

In accordance with 7(d) above, it was resolved to amend the monthly standing order set up with Natwest Bank to pay the clerk's salary of £224.84 with effect from September 2020.

**f) Receipts and Payments**

The Clerk reported the following **receipts** had been received since the last meeting:

£100.00	North Somerset Council	Village Orderly grant 2020/21
£2,500.00	North Somerset Council	2 <sup>nd</sup> Precept payment 2020/21

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

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

£33.00	Society of Local Council Clerks	50% of Clerk's training and virtual conference
£30.25	Ms Joanna van Tonder / HMRC	Back paid salary increase payable from 01 April 2020

The Clerk's [financial report](#) was noted.

## 8 NSC Standards sub-committee nomination

It was agreed MF would be Brockley Parish Council's nomination on the NSC Standards sub-committee.

## 9 Citizens' Panel for North Somerset

The Clerk outlined NSC's appeal for residents to sign up to a Citizen's Panel that would enable the District Council to consult more widely and engage more thoroughly. The Council agreed to publicise the Panel via the website and parish e-mail.

## 10 Highways, pavements, verges and footpaths

### Footpath clearance

JR reported Brian Whiteway had been experiencing difficulty clearing a path alongside a field of maize. BS to provide a list of works still to be undertaken so that Brian can be advised accordingly and a bill submitted to the Council.

### Reports to be submitted to NSC

- Potholes along Chelvey Road in cycle tracks (see Minute 10, 11/08/20) – copy to SH
  - Deterioration of the carriageway at southern end of Chelvey Batch
  - Fly-tipping on in lay-by on A370 (Long Ashton bypass)
  - 2x Fly-tipping on half way along Chelvey Lane
- Action:** Clerk to report to NSC

### Other reports

- Chelvey Lane potholes have been marked up and filled
- Chelvey Batch verge recovering well following digging up for cable works

## 11 Planning

### a) Planning applications since the last meeting

The following new planning application had been received since the last meeting:

1	20/P/1953/LDP	Proposed erection of 10m x 9m garage to the rear of the dwelling at <b>High Glebe, Chelvey Batch, Brockley</b>  <u>Council comment:</u> objection on the grounds that there was sufficient reason to believe the proposed building will not be used as a garage but as a secondary residence.
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**Action:** SH to write to planning officer

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

The following decisions have been made since the previous meeting:

- <b>20/P/1092/FUL:</b> Proposed extension to create a café. Proposed replacement of the existing fresh produce area with a new structure, and relocation and fencing of a mobile chiller unit and associated works at <i>Brockley Fruit Stall, Main Road, Brockley</i>	CONSENT GRANTED 07/09/2020
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### c) National Planning consultations

#### 1. **Changes to the current planning system (deadline for comment: 01/10/2020)**

Members discussed the scope of this consultation as well as the thoughts of bodies such as NALC and CPRE that the proposed changes were likely to reduce decision-making powers of local councils and communities.

SH advised that a group of District Councillors would be strongly objecting to the proposals.

#### 2. **Planning for the Future (deadline for comment: 29/10/2020)**

Members noted the deadline for comment on this consultation and agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

#### 3. **Transparency and Competition (deadline for comment: 30/10/2020)**

Members noted the deadline for comment on this consultation and agreed to discuss further at the next meeting.

SH advised that Wrington Parish Council was moving forward with a Neighbourhood Plan. JR suggested a joint Neighbourhood Plan with Cleeve PC might be worth consideration.

Members noted the NSC Local Plan 2038: Call for Sites consultation was imminent. It was agreed Brockley Parish Council would be in favour of multiple smaller sites rather than any large scale development.

## **12 Rural Broadband roll-out**

Members noted, while many residences in Chelvey Batch and Brockley Hall were connected, not all households had been successfully connected to Gigaclear's fibre infrastructure. Members expressed disappointment that Gigaclear were failing to resolve issues encountered at some properties and seemingly walking away,

It was noted no communications had been received from Truespeed for several months.

**Action:** Clerk to request an update from Truespeed

## **13 Open Forum for the Parish Council**

### **a) ALCA AGM – 10 October 2020**

The Clerk reminded members of the ALCA AGM to be held remotely on 10 October. She advised that one of the key proposals to be raised at the AGM was the level of membership subscriptions. A significant increase in subs was to be proposed in order to cover the cost of additional staffing resources that would be needed in the near future to enable the organisation to continue to provide the required level of service.

It was agreed to authorise JvT to vote in favour of an increase in subscriptions on behalf of the Council.

### **b) Other Councillor reports**

MF wished to report that he had received the Memorial Bench plaque and thought it to be of very good quality.

## **14 Amendment to Council meeting dates and start time**

Members noted the results of a poll of the members, undertaken by the Clerk, to establish the most favourable evening for meetings and it was agreed to hold remote meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm until further notice.

Dates of the next meetings: 6 October and 3 November 2020

Meeting concluded at 8:21pm.