

# BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (128), held at 8pm at St Bridget's Church, Chelvey on Monday, 27 March 2023.

**Present:** Jacqui Olvey, Mary & Geoffrey Hobbs, Gillian Rowcliffe, Tessa Jarman, Sue Hynam, Emma Folkes, Mike Fishwick, Andrea Harrison, Linda Elliott, Dr Bryan Smith, Dr Julian Ridge (Chairman), Steve Hogg (District Councillor), and Andy Warren (Parish Clerk)

## **1 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Felicity Ford, Jo Watt, Blanch Ridge and Liza Ridge.

## **2 Minutes of the previous meeting 127 – 27 April 2022**

The minutes of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting were read out and accepted. There were no matters arising.

## **3 Chairman's Report 2023**

Cllr Dr Julian Ridge, as Chair of the Council, welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting, the latest in an almost unbroken series since the first one in December 1894, held in Brockley Church with 10 people present.

- Your Council has met 9 times in the last year, meeting in St Bridget's during the winter and St Nicholas in the Summer.
- There are 6 places on the Council and a part time Clerk. We have been very grateful for the input from our District Councillor, Steve Hogg who provides us with a valuable link with North Somerset Council Officers.
- 4 councillors are standing for re-election in May: Me, Tessa Jarman, Bryan Smith and Mike Fishwick. We will be saying goodbye to Martin Jarvis and Karen Bailey and we thank them for their work on the Council.
- This leaves 2 vacancies and only 1 person has committed to stand so far.
- Any place still vacant after April 18th can be filled by co-option.

### **Ongoing Issues.**

- We submitted a plan to erect slow signs on Chelvey Road and Brockley Lane to try to reduce the speed of vehicles on these two main through routes. These will now be installed next year.
- There are several old finger posts in the parish and a cast iron boundary post on the A370. These are on the list for renovation by North Somerset Council but await the allocation of funding.
- The New North Somerset Local Plan to 2038 which will replace the existing out of date plans has been going through its consultations and will be adopted in December 2023.
- The appeal against the decision to allow Bristol Airport to expand to 12 million passengers per annum lodged by the Bristol Airport Action Network Coordination Committee (BAANCC) was rejected and the associated compulsory purchase of various plots of land near the airport has been approved. However in his judgement the Judge was not unsympathetic to the appeal but considered that environmental decisions were for the government. BAANCC are

planning to appeal to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of environmental law and are seeking substantial funding for this. Barristers don't come cheap!

#### **On the positive side.**

- We have obtained a grant from the Airport Community Fund for £1071.46 for a new notice board which has been installed outside Brockley Hall entrance and this has been popular with parishioners living in this part of the parish.
- Last year we planted an oak tree to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee and decided that the 4 established oaks should have similar plaques which have now been installed. They commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, King George Fifth's Coronation in 1911, Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee in 2002. We will discuss planting one to commemorate King Charles' Coronation but are running out of space!
- There are a large number of houses being built in Nailsea and this will inevitably increase the traffic through our parish. Your Council decided that we need to have some baseline figures of traffic in Brockley Lane and Chelvey Road so that we could substantiate any future complaints of an unacceptable increase. We are fortunate in that a comprehensive study was carried out in July 2018 as part of the District Council's quiet lanes initiative and the relevant figures have been archived for future use.
- Our footpath Network is in a good state and we are grateful to North Somerset Council for continuing to replace the old wooded stiles and kissing gates with metal gates. If you have any issues with footpaths please tell Bryan or any Councillor.
- We are, sadly, seeing more and more Ash die back disease in the parish and North Somerset Council took pre-emptive action to remove diseased trees along the A370 from the cross roads to the parish boundary with Cleve. It was unfortunate that this action, which involved closing the road for a few days, coincided with the flooding caused by the drains in Brockley Combe failing to take the flow from Greater Pot's Hole, due to lack of maintenance since the last flood in 2012, which in turn caused Brockley Lane to be closed. The response from Gregg Brake of North Somerset Council was impressive and Brockley Lane was speedily repaired and reopened.
- Parishioners have complained about the poor state of the bus stops on the South side of the A370 from the cross roads to opposite Brockley Stores. We have raised this with the Council and they have promised to improve them. There is much emphasis being placed on bus usage in place of private cars to reduce CO2 emissions and you will be hearing about and seeing a number of new initiatives to encourage this. We are fortunate in that our local District Councillor, Steve Hogg is intimately involved and will be giving a talk on this subject shortly.
- Brockley Parish, which includes Midgell, Chelvey Church, Chelvey Pumping Station and Chelvey Batch, as well as Brockley Hall and St Nicholas Church area, approximately 120 dwellings, is rather spread out and as it only has the two churches as meeting places has tended to do things as separate units.. The last time we had a Parish wide get together was the VE Day 50th Parish Picnic in 1994 which was a great success so we have decided to do it again for the Coronation of King Charles III. More about this later.
- As usual at this time of year, Mike is organising a Litter Pick. Please come and help, there was a tremendous response last year. It is on Saturday April 1<sup>st</sup>. We are meeting in the yard at Manor Farm at 10 AM. Some reflective jackets and pickers will be available.
- The budget hasn't been published yet but if anyone is interested, Andy has provisional figures.

Finally, to end on a personal note, I have been Chairman of the Parish Council since 1998 during which time there have been 5 Clerks and I think 25 years is quite long enough, so I shall be standing down from that post in May. I shall remain on the Council unless voted off! I have enjoyed my time as chair, even if sometimes I felt a bit frustrated at how much influence we really have. The new Chair will be elected at our meeting on May 15th, please give them and the whole Council, your support in looking after our lovely parish.

Before I ask Steve Hogg to talk to us about all things bus, Tessa will tell you more about the Coronation Picnic.

#### **4 Coronation Picnic**

Cllr Tessa Jarman outlined plans for Brockley's "Bring Your Own Coronation Picnic" which will be held in the Orchard field adjacent to Manor Farm on Monday 8 May. All residents of the Parish are invited along with their families.

Two large marquees, a couple of portaloos and a gas barbeque have been arranged. It is hoped that people will bring and cook their own sausages, burgers and simple food.

Planned activities include skittles, rounders, a horse racing game, "Pin the Crown on the King!", a tabletop quiz, tombola plus a cake stall, plant stall, and home produce stall.

We are delighted to report that we have already secured financial support from the Bristol Airport Community Fund, Brockley Stores, The Blakemore Foundation (Spar) and St Monica's Trust and we are very grateful for this.

We are hoping for 3 things to make the event a success:-

1. Good weather
2. That everyone comes along
3. Your help and support

Let us all help make the picnic an event everybody will enjoy.

#### **5 District Cllr Steve Hogg**

District Councillor Steve Hogg was invited to address the meeting.

Steve started by acknowledging Julian's service as Chair of the Council and thanked him for his considerable contribution over so many years.

Steve then gave an overview to the Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) Bus Service being launched in North Somerset on 3 April 2023.

- Operated by WESTlink, the DRT is a public bus service of 16 mini-buses which can be booked to travel anywhere within its operating zone with no fixed routes or timetable.
- Journey booking is app based but with a phone option for those without smart phones.
- "On demand" or book up to 24 hours in advance.
- Not door to door but uses nearest actual or virtual bus stops.
- Can link to existing rail routes and bus services, replace car travel and provide a service where buses not available.

- Along with the BSIP (Bus Service Improvement Plan) initiative various road improvements are planned which will enable improvements such as making the X1 service between Bristol and Weston a 15 minute service.
- The initiative is planned to run for an initial 2 years to prove it's worth.

## 5 Public Questions

### Relating to Demand Responsive Transport

Q1: A resident asked if it is possible to book a journey to Bristol Airport and how will this be controlled especially with restricted room for luggage?

A1: Demand will dictate how this evolves.

Q2: A resident asked where have trials taken place?

A2: In a number of places for example Southampton.

Q3: A resident asked how bus stop issues (or lack of them) are being addressed.

A3: There is the possibility of virtual/floating bus stops and these will be considered along with demand.

Q4: A resident asked where times for the X1 can be found?

Q4: District Cllr Hogg will advise via email (Clerk to take forward).

### Other Issues

Q1: A resident raised the question of the issues with some road signs:-

- There is a weight restriction sign missing one side of the railway bridge.
- The "Double bends" sign opposite Little Chelvey has been damaged and needs replacing.
  - These will be investigated via NSC and District Cllr Steve Hogg.

Q2: A resident raised the question of current concerns regarding changes on Clevedon sea front.

- District Cllr Hogg acknowledged that there are various issues and the situation will remain under review.

Meeting concluded at 9.30.

Andy Warren  
Clerk, Brockley Parish Council  
04 April 2023