

Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held on Tuesday, 14th January 2020, at The Old Red Lion, North Brewham, at 7.30pm

Present: David Dabinett (Chair), Eddie Harper, Robert Jackson & Patricia Stainton.

In attendance: Sue Price (Clerk), Anna Groskop (County Councillor) and six members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Hiscock, Robin Bastable (District Councillor) & PCSO Tim Russell.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th November 2019**
The minutes of the 12th November 2019 meeting were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising:**
There were no other matters arising that would not be dealt with elsewhere.
5. **Financial Business:**
 - i. **Financial transactions:**
The Clerk reported that since the last meeting there had been the following income - £92 burial and memorial fees for the late Mr Hawes, 0.12p interest on the HSBC Savings account and £70 memorial fee for the late Mrs and baby Wyatt. £180 had also just been received for the burial fee for the late Mrs Wyatt and the purchase of a burial plot for Mr Wyatt but this had not yet been banked.

The payments approved at the November meeting had all been made - £40 Annual Fee to the Information Commissioner's Office, £36 to the Royal British Legion for the two Remembrance Day Wreaths, £75 to Clive Thorman for the additional mowing and tidying of the Burial Ground, £20 to The Old Red Lion for the hire of the meeting room for November and January and a £200 donation to the CAT Bus. The invoice for £2,501.10 had been paid to Burfitt & Garrett for the repairs to the Burial Ground wall but this had not yet been cashed.

The financial transactions for the 12th November 2019-13th January 2020 were therefore as follows:

Bank balances brought forward at 12 th November 2019	£5,560.42
<u>Income</u>	
Brewham PCC – burial fee for the late Mr Hawes	80.00
G Holmes Memorials – memorial for the late Mr Hawes	12.00
HSBC Savings account quarterly interest	0.12
Grassby & Son – memorial for the late Mrs & baby Wyatt	70.00
<u>Expenditure</u>	
The Information Commissioner's Office – annual fee	40.00
The Royal British Legion – Remembrance Day wreaths	36.00

The Old Red Lion – meeting room hire November & January	20.00
Clive Thorman – additional mowing and removal of brambles, etc	75.00
SSCAT – agreed donation towards the cost of running the CAT bus	200.00

The Fund balances as 13th January 2020 were therefore:

General Fund	£3,370.14
Burial Ground Fund	506.40
Parish Plan Fund	0.00
Reserve Fund	1,475.00

Represented by Bank a/cs:

National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£838.75
HSBC Savings a/c	241.10
HSBC Community a/c	4,271.69

Total £5,351.54

Creditor

Burfitt & Garrett – repairs to Burial Ground wall £2,501.10

Debtor

Grassby & Sons – burial fee for the late Mrs Wyatt and purchase of a burial plot for Mr Wyatt £180.00

Balance to include creditor and debtor £3,030.44

Bank balances carried forward as at 13th January 2020 £5,351.54

The Clerk reported that she had recently made a submission to reclaim the VAT on the invoices from Burfitt & Garrett and Road Ware totalling £441.24.

- ii. The Clerk requested approval for payment of the following:
 Road Ware - a salt/grit bin for Tile Hill - £146.34
 Qwerk Digital – web hosting and domain renewals - £90.09.

It was unanimously agreed that these two invoices be paid.

- iii. Precept 2019-2020

Budget & Precept for the financial year 2020-2021:

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget statement and estimates. She explained that for the last year the precept had been set at £4,000. There is no longer any Central Government Grant and if the precept were to be set at £4,000 once again this would be a resultant increase to the taxpayer of .04p or 0.22%.

Having carried out the necessary work to the yew trees in the Churchyard and the repairs to the Burial Ground wall in three places, the only major expenditure envisaged for the coming year will be the cost of printing Below The Tower – this is likely to be in the region of £400.

The Reserve Fund:

The Reserve Fund ended the year 2018/19 with a balance of £1,475. Usually £75 is transferred from the General Fund at the end of the year to cover the Parish Council elections and Below the Tower printing but this year it remained in the General Fund and was then used as part payment of the invoice from SSDC for the May election. £475 has been allocated from the Reserve Fund towards the cost of the Burial Ground wall repairs and so the balance at year-end is likely to be £1,000.

The Burial Ground Fund:

The Burial Ground Fund ended the year 2018/2019 with a balance of £753.40. £950 of the precept was allocated to the Burial Ground Fund for the current year. Other income for the year is currently £342.

This year the expenditure for mowing and maintaining the Burial Ground was £1,125, water rates were £79 and there was also the cost of trimming the yew trees at £180 and £400 has been allocated towards the cost of repairing the Burial Ground wall.

Assuming there is no further income or expenditure the Burial Ground Fund is likely to end the year with a balance of about £260.

The Clerk recommended that the Parish Council should precept for £1,000 for the Burial Ground Fund.

The Parish Plan Fund:

The Parish Plan Fund was created to account for the use of grants received towards the cost of producing and implementing the 'Our Brewham' Parish Plan. There was no expenditure from this account during the previous year and so the balance at the start of the 2019/2020 year was £290.40. At the September meeting it was agreed to make a donation of £290.40 to the Brewham Village Hall Restoration Project towards the cost of a hearing loop as a result of which this Fund is now closed.

The General Fund:

Expenditure for everything else comes from the General Fund. The balance in the General Fund at the end of 2018/2019 was £1,405.56. The precept for the current year was £3,050. Other income expected before year-end is the small amount of savings accounts interest, approximately £6, and the VAT reclaimed for the repairs to the Burial Ground wall and the purchase of a salt/grit bin for Tile Hill totalling £441.24.

Current known expenditure for the year is £3,933.00. This figure does not include any further donations which the Council may decide to make.

If there is no further income or expenditure, then the balance in the General Fund is likely to be in the region of £970.

Overall income for the year is likely to be around £4,790 and expenditure around £6,482 thus leaving a year-end deficit of around £1,692.

The total held in the three funds/bank accounts will therefore be about £2,230 (£3,924 last year).

The effect of the proposed budget for the year 2020/2021, as attached, would be a net expenditure of £4,030 which includes the next publication of the Below The Tower.

The budget was confirmed and it was agreed that it was not necessary to increase the precept for the year 2020/2021 but that if there was unforeseen expenditure and it proved necessary to use money held in the Reserve Fund during the year then consideration would be given to increasing this amount in the following year.

It was unanimously agreed that the precept for the year 2020/2021 should remain at £4,000, this being £1,000 for the Burial Ground Fund and £3,000 for the General Fund. **It was unanimously agreed** that the Chairman should sign the Precept Notification Form for 2020/2021 requesting that the precept be £4,000.

6. Planning Applications:

i. **Applications already considered by the Parish Council:**

- a. 19/02837/OUT – Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling at Hillcrest, Charcroft Hill, Brewham, BA10 0LE. At the November meeting it was agreed that Councillors would carry out a site visit before making a decision. Following this visit it was agreed that the proposed development was not in keeping with the linear development of the village; that from the highway the proposed development was directly behind and too close to an established building at Hylands and that the proposed entrance was too narrow passing between Hillcrest and Hylands and any attempt to widen this would encroach on this common land. It was further agreed that if planning was granted, then this could set a precedent throughout the village where there was land up and behind existing houses, where development could attract planning. Finally, if planning were to be granted then it should be a bungalow, with future restrictions on height. **It was unanimously agreed** that this application could not be supported by Brewham Parish Council for the above reasons. Decision awaited and see 6ii below.
- b. 19/02981/FUL – The continued use of existing building and land for Use Class B8 (storage) and the erection of an additional Use Class B8 storage building on land OS 7858 Part, Hammer Street, Brewham, BA10 0JR. Decision awaited.
- c. 19/02764/FUL – Installation of three woodchip fuel boilers, hot water tanks, woodchip storage, demolition of existing stables and extension to existing outbuilding to provide storage facility and salt-water tank for salt making process and installation of solar panels at Brewham House, Hammer Street, North Brewham. Decision awaited.
- d. 19/03117/LBC – Listed Building Consent for a retrospective application to replace 5 single glazed sash windows with double glazed units and to enclose existing utility area link at Cockeymoor Farmhouse, Tile Hill, Brewham, BA10 0JF. Decision awaited.

ii. **Applications received since the agenda was published:**

- a. 19/02837/OUT/Sam Fox – Amended outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling, all matters reserved – application amended with revised access details and confirmation of reduction from 1.5 storey dwelling to a single storey dwelling.

This amended application was discussed and **it was unanimously agreed** that, whilst the application was now for a single storey dwelling, it was still not in keeping with the linear development of the village, the access was still too narrow passing between Hillcrest and Hylands and that if planning was granted, then this could set a precedent throughout the village where there was land up and behind existing houses, where development could attract planning. **It was therefore unanimously agreed** that Brewham Parish Council could still not support this application and that the Clerk should write to the Planning Department to inform them of this decision.

7. Burial Ground & Churchyard:

Following the November meeting it had been noted that Burfitt & Garrett had in fact only repaired two of the three sections. The third section has now been repaired and the invoice for £2,501.10 paid. David Cowie had recently reported that he had noticed that the coping on top of wall on the roadside was crumbling and the Clerk had asked Burfitt & Garrett to look at this and repair as necessary.

8. **Roads:**

i. **Outstanding matters:**

The deep hole at the Border/Strap Lane crossroads had been filled in but the area of tarmac nearby it is also breaking up. A lot of surface water runs down Strap Lane and accumulates at the corner by the junction. There are still a number of blocked drains throughout the village and although some repairs have been done near Whitehouse Farm the surface is still quite rough. Nothing has yet been done to the bridge between the old village shop and the Chapel.

The new salt bin has been placed at the bottom of Tile Hill, just above the entrance to Hoofprints. Ideally this would be concreted in to prevent theft but for the time being **it was agreed** to ask Richard Hiscock if he could fill it with some salt.

The Clerk has asked the Highways Department to fill most of the bins throughout the village.

ii. **New matters:**

Although some of the potholes in Street Lane were repaired last year there are still some which are quite deep. **The Clerk** will report this to the Highways Department.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

i. **Outstanding matters:**

Nothing has yet been done about marking the footpath at Swanton Farm and the stiles on the footpath leading from Hoofprints because it is currently too wet.

ii. There were no new matters to report.

10. **Update on the Village Hall Restoration Project & Parish Plan**

Patricia Stainton reported that the ceiling, walls of the main room and lobby are all being decorated, the acoustic panels are due to be fitted on the 23rd January and the electrical work is being finished. Despite extra work being found necessary it is hoped that the builder's Phase 1 work will be completed by the end of January. After this the whole place will need a very good clean and so it is hoped that the Village Hall will be ready to re-open by the end of February/early March. There will be a Village Hall opening event after the Phase 1 of the refurbishments have been completed on Saturday, 14th March, from 2-5pm. This will be a chance for everyone to see what has been done and ask any questions, etc.

The next meeting of the Village Hall Restoration Committee will be held on the 20th January, the Our Brewham Support Group on the 12th February and the next Wildlife Watch Club meeting will be on the 21st February.

It is planned to open some gardens during the first weekend in July and further details will be available soon.

11. **Report from PCSO Tim Russell:**

PCSO Tim Russell was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report. There was one reported theft and the current and future PACT priorities remain the same in that there will be regular patrols of the area by the NH Team and Response Officers. Opportunist thieves are still looking for power tools, chain saws, mowers and similar items in unlocked or poorly secured sheds and garages and there is still an ongoing spate of van break-ins at the moment targeting workman's tools.

12. **Correspondence Received:**

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

(i) Somerset Waste December Briefing.

13. **Dates of future meetings:**

The next meeting will be held on 10th March 2020, hopefully in the Village Hall.

Robin Bastable had asked whether it would be possible for two of either Charlton Musgrove, Pitcombe & Brewham to move from the second Tuesday of the month in order to avoid a clash. Anna Groskop did not consider it to be a great problem as Pitcombe and Brewham had clashed for a very long time and Charlton Musgrove had only recently changed their meeting date so it now clashed with the other two. **It was agreed** that if necessary Brewham Parish Council meetings could be held on the second Wednesday instead. Charlton Musgrove have subsequently moved their meeting date and it was agreed that for the time being Pitcombe and Brewham would continue to hold their meetings on the second Tuesday as a Wednesday was not convenient for Robin Bastable either.

Meeting dates for the remainder of the year will therefore be:

Tuesdays 12th May (following the Annual Meeting), 14th July; 8th September & 10th November.

14. **Open Forum:**

Anna Groskop thanked the Parish Council for their donation to the CAT bus, among the things it is used for is providing vital transport for the elderly and taking cancer patients to their treatment and without such donations it would not be able to operate as it does.

On behalf of the Village Hall Restoration Committee, Mary Macdonald Watson thanked the Parish Council for their generous donations towards the restoration.

There were no questions or matters anyone wished to raise.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.12.

The minutes of the 14th January 2020 meeting were unanimously approved on 10th March 2020 and were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.