

## Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020, by Zoom Conference Meeting at 8.00pm

**Present:** David Dabinett (Chair), Richard Hiscock, Robert Jackson & Patricia Stainton.

**In attendance:** Sue Price (Clerk), Robin Bastable (District Councillor) & two members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Eddie Harper, Anna Groskop (County Councillor) & PCSO Tim Russell.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 meeting were unanimously approved and were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising:**

The Clerk reported that she had checked why the planning application at Cockeymoor Farmhouse had been withdrawn and this was due to be discussed between the Planning Department and the owner. The property is now on the market.

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 interest of 0.11p had been received on the HSBC Money Manager account. The following cheques had been cashed - Water2Business for Churchyard tap - £81.00; AS Print for Below the Tower printing - £458.00; Came & Company for annual Insurance renewal - £333.00 & Clive Thorman for the 1<sup>st</sup> mowing and maintenance of the Burial Ground - £350.00.

The financial transactions for the period 12<sup>th</sup> May-13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were therefore as follows:

Bank balances brought forward at 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	£6,232.08
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**Income**

Interest on HSBC Money Manager Account	0.11
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**Expenditure**

Water2Business – Churchyard tap	£81.00
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AS Print – Below the Tower printing	£458.00
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Came & Company – Annual Insurance renewal	£333.00
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**The Fund balances at 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were therefore:**

General Fund	£3,157.79
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Burial Ground Fund	855.40
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Reserve Fund	1,000.00
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<u>Represented by Bank a/cs:</u>	
National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£845.46
HSBC Savings a/c	241.33
HSBC Community a/c	3,926.40
<u>Total</u>	£5,013.19
Bank balances carried forward as at 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020	£5,013.19

- ii. The Clerk requested approval for payment of the following:  
Clive Thorman – 2<sup>nd</sup> payment for the mowing of the Burial Ground - £350

Payment of the invoice from Somerset Association of Local Councils for the annual subscription (c. £120-130) was approved at the May meeting but the invoice has still not been received and this is likely to be sent towards the end of the month

**It was unanimously agreed** that the payment to Clive Thorman be made and also, as previously agreed, the annual subscription to SALC as soon as the invoice is received.

- iii. Review of Risk Assessment:

The Clerk had updated the risk assessment for the current year for approval by Councillors. **It was agreed** that the risk assessment was adequate and it was re-adopted unanimously.

- iv. Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020:

The Chairman took members through the Annual Governance Statement and **it was agreed** that the Council could answer 'Yes' to each of the statements contained in this statement apart from the reference to the Council as the sole trustee of a trust fund or assets as this is not applicable. **The Governance Statement for 2019/2020 was approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.**

- iv.a. Certificate of Exemption for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

The annual gross income and gross expenditure do not exceed £25,000 and therefore Brewham Parish Council can certify themselves exempt from a limited assurance review. **It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman should sign this and the Clerk submit to PKF Littlejohn.**

- v. Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020:

The Clerk showed members the accounting statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 which would normally have been presented at the Annual Parish Meeting but this meeting did not take place this year due to the Covid 19 pandemic. The accounts had been internally audited by Charlie Lane. It was noted that the year ended with a deficit of £1,692.28, mainly due to the repairs to the Burial Ground wall which had more areas requiring repair than originally envisaged. There were no queries and the **Accounting Statements for 2019/20 were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.**

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Charlie Lane.

## 6. Planning Applications:

- i. **Applications already considered by the Parish Councils:**

- a. 20/00640/FUL - Batts Farm Cottage, Hutchins Lane, Brewham, BA10 0QN – the demolition of existing two storey detached dwelling and construction of new proposed two storey replacement dwelling. Decision awaited. On behalf of the Parish Council the Clerk had written to the Planning Department to advise that the application could not be supported. Decision awaited. Mary MacDonald Watson advised that there is a footpath, which is on the definitive map, which runs right through the site of the

proposed new dwelling. She also noted that she had found a precedent at Oak Barn, Charlton Musgrove where a new dwelling had to be built on the site of the old building as permission was not given to move the location to a different part of the property.

- b. 20/01034/DPO - Dreamers Farm, North Brewham, BA10 0JW - Application to discharge a section 106 agreement between South Somerset District Council and Mr Simon Joseph Giles Oakley attached to planning approval 07/04295/FUL dated 29th September 2008 in relation to an agricultural tie and non-fragmentation of the holding. Decision awaited.
  - c. 20/00879/FUL - Hardway House Hardway Brewham Bruton BA10 0LR - Use of land for the siting of a lakeside cabin for use as holiday accommodation or ancillary to main house. Decision awaited.
- ii. **Applications received since the Parish Council's last meeting and discussed by email:**
- a. 20/01304/LBC & 20/01305/LBC – Lipgate Farm, Hassocks Lane, North Brewham, BA10 0JP – Siting of an external oil-fired boiler and bundage storage tank for holiday let and change of use from granny annex to holiday let. Decision awaited.
  - b. 20/01332/HOU – Green Lane Cottage, Hardway, Bruton, BA10 0LW – the erection of two-storey extension for front and sides of dwelling. Decision awaited.
  - c. 20/01383/HOU – Chants, The Square, South Brewham, BA10 0JZ – the erection of a detached three-bay garage, formation of a new vehicular access, driveway and erection of a boundary wall. Application approved.
- iii. **Applications received since the Parish Council's last meeting and for discussion:**
- a. 20/01685/HOU – 8 Fair View, Tile Hill, North Brewham, BA10 0JT – the erection of a first-floor extension above the existing garage and a single storey extension to the rear of the building. It was agreed that Councillors were happy to support this application and the Clerk will write to the Planning Department to advise them of this.

No new applications have been received.

It was noted that some applications appear to be taking a long time for a decision to be taken. Robin Bastable advised that apart from the effects of Covid 19, the Planning Department is very short staffed, Simon Fox is leaving immediately and another senior officer in the first week of August. Sam Fox is off on long-term sick leave and they have a large number of applications coming in from all over the area so the situation is not likely to improve at least in the short-term.

#### 7. **Burial Ground & Churchyard:**

The crumbling coping on top of the wall on the roadside has still not yet been repaired by Burfitt & Garrett despite repeated requests. They now say this will be done in the next couple of weeks.

Clive Thorman continues to do a very good job keeping the Burial Ground and Church path neat and tidy. David Nye reports that the Churchyard is looking better than ever this year with an abundance of flowers and grasshoppers. The field scabious is thriving and there are large patches of bird's foot trefoil. Tufted vetch has returned and the knapweed is starting to flower. This, with an assortment of grasses, is attracting butterflies and bees and green woodpeckers are enjoying the anthills. Yellow rattle is spreading, suppressing the grasses, so that the flowers grow stronger. The pathways have been cut and this will enable everyone to walk through and enjoy their Churchyard. A Trustee from the Somerset Wildlife Trust is coming to see it at the weekend.

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to David Nye and those who help him during the year for the time and hard work that is put into this.

8. **Roads:**

i. **Outstanding matters:**

The damage to the wall at the bottom of Tower Road is still awaiting repair but has now been barricaded off by Crestmoor and the Clerk has reported that the edge of the road opposite Hassocks Lane needs attention.

ii. **New matters:**

There were no new matters but the Clerk continues to check whether there are any noticeable potholes around the village and reports if necessary and there is a notice on the noticeboard by the Village Hall advising how these can be reported by anyone.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

i. **Outstanding matters:**

Still nothing has been done about marking the footpath at Swanton Farm and the stiles on the footpath leading from Hoofprints because of Covid 19.

ii. There were no new matters to report.

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

Below The Tower was distributed to everyone in the parish in May.

Due to Covid 19 nothing is happening at the moment. The Village Hall remains closed and the Wildlife Watch Club cannot meet. Caroline Rathbone is looking into grants for the next phase of the restoration project.

David Dabinett asked whether the toilets could not just be refurbished to enable the Hall to be used again once Covid 19 restrictions are eased but Patricia Stainton explained that the roof above this area needs doing first and there is likely to be a lot of work to be done on this.

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

PCSO Tim Russell was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report. There was one incident in the Brewham area of 'miscellaneous crimes against society'. The NH Team and Response Officers continue to make regular patrols of the area and it should be noted that opportunist thieves are still touring looking for unlocked or poorly secured sheds and garages in order to take power tools, chain saws, mowers and similar items. There is an ongoing spate of vans being broken into targeting workmen's tools.

12. **Correspondence Received:**

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

(i) Somerset County Council Coronavirus Updates – these can be viewed at - <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/>

(ii) Somerset Waste updates – these can be viewed at - <https://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

(iii) Walking & Cycling Manifesto for Somerset.

(iv) SSDC Town & Parish Update dated 3 July 2020.

Robin Bastable noted that SALC had also circulated information about One Somerset – the Clerk will circulate this and send the link to the document produced by Somerset County Council.

13. **Dates of future meetings:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September & then on Tuesdays, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 and 12<sup>th</sup> January & 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Towards the end of August the Clerk will contact the bookings secretary to see if the next meeting can be held face-to-face as it would be easy to social distance although the Zoom meeting appears to be working well.

14. **Open Forum:**

The Clerk had been contacted by email about a wild boar sow and her young who had been seen early in the morning in a garden. She had spoken to the Chairman of Witham Friary Parish Council who have also had reports of sightings. From research done it appears that there is no legislation regarding wild boar roaming although responses are awaited from Natural England and Defra and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed again once these had been received. It is perfectly legal for any landowner to shoot a wild boar providing they have the right equipment to do this. If anyone contacts the Clerk or any member of the Parish Council because they feel threatened or endangered by wild boar then Robert Jackson would be able to pass on the name and contact details of someone who is professionally qualified to help them.

The Clerk subsequently spoke to the Chairman of Witham Friary again and they have decided the only thing they can do is to put up signs on footpaths warning people that wild boar have been seen in the area and to take care. He has also spoken to Ben Goldsmith who is happy for anyone needing assistance to remove wild boar from their land to contact him and his email details are on the Witham Friary Facebook page. He has himself humanely culled about six fairly recently.

There were no further questions or matters anyone wished to raise and there being no further business the meeting closed at 8.58pm.

The minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 meeting were unanimously approved on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.