

Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held on Tuesday, 8th September 2020, by Zoom Conference Meeting at 8.00pm

Present: David Dabinett (Chair), Eddie Harper, Robert Jackson, Patricia Stainton and Robin Bastable (District Councillor) for final part of meeting.

In attendance: Sue Price (Clerk) & two members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

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

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th July 2020**

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

4. **Matters Arising:**

The Clerk had submitted the necessary paperwork to P K F Littlejohn following the approval of the annual accounts for the year ending 31st March 2020 at the July meeting. She had also uploaded them to the website but unfortunately there has recently been a problem with corruption in the website, which is beyond re-store from backup and Stuart Turnbull is having to re-build a new one. This new website will be more advanced where members of the public can submit news and events themselves (but under moderation). He hopes to have it up in the next couple of weeks and to be able to restore the documents from the old website. He has advised there will be no additional cost to the Parish Council for this work.

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 no income had been received and the cheque for £350 to Clive Thorman for the 2nd mowing and maintenance of the Burial Ground had been cashed.

An invoice for the annual affiliation fee in the sum of £118.15 had been received from Somerset Association of Local Councils and, as agreed at the May meeting, the Clerk had paid this

The financial transactions for the period 14th July-7th September 2020 were therefore as follows:

Bank balances brought forward at 14 th July 2020	£5,013.19
<u>Income</u>	0.00

Expenditure

Clive Thorman – 2nd Mowing and maintenance of the Burial Ground £350.00

The Fund balances at 7th September 2020 were therefore:

General Fund	£3,157.79
Burial Ground Fund	505.40
Reserve Fund	1,000.00

Represented by Bank a/cs:

National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£845.46
HSBC Savings a/c	241.33
HSBC Community a/c	3,576.40

Total £4,663.19

Creditor

Somerset Association of Local Councils affiliation fee 2020/21 £118.15

Balance carried forward to include creditor £4,545.04

Bank balances carried forward as at 7th September 2020 £4,663.19

- ii. The Clerk requested approval for payment of the following:

Clive Thorman – 3rd payment for the mowing of the Burial Ground - £350

It was unanimously agreed that the payment to Clive Thorman be made.

6. Planning Applications:

i. **Decisions on applications already considered by the Parish Council:**

- a. 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. Application approved.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.
- d. 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. Application approved.
- e. 20/01332/HOU – Green Lane Cottage, Hardway, Bruton, BA10 0LW – the erection of two-storey extension for front and sides of dwelling. Decision awaited. Application approved.
- f. 20/01685/HOU – 8 Fair View, Tile Hill, North Brewham, BA10 0JT – the erection of a first-floor extension above existing garage and a single storey extension to rear of building. Application approved.

ii. **Applications received since the Parish Council's last meeting and discussed by email:**

- a. 20/01836/FUL - Hillcombe Farm Kingsettle Hill, Brewham BA10 0LB – The erection of a replacement dwelling (with replacement courtyard building) (Revised application). Decision awaited.

iii. **Applications received since the Parish Council's last meeting and not yet discussed:**

- a. 20/02155/HOU - Rose Cottage Bruton Road, Brewham Bruton BA10 0JF –
Erection of a single storey extension to side of dwelling and timber cladding to replace existing render. It was unanimously agreed to support this application.

iv. **New applications for consideration:**

No new applications have been received.

v. **Swanton Farm & common land:**

The Chairman explained that he had been approached by some parishioners who had expressed their concern about the new brick and stone gate pillars being erected from the field/orchard at Swanton Farm which lead onto the registered common adjoining Street Lane. This is Parish Common Ground, the responsibility of the Parish, where parishioners have the right to graze their stock and which is not allowed to be fenced. They are concerned that the intention might be to lay a stone track between Swanton Farm and Street Lane.

Councillors discussed whether this is definitely Common Ground and the Chairman confirmed that it had been set out as such in the particulars when Swanton Farm was sold to Mr Clayton. Mr Nye said that Somerset County Council had told him a few years ago that it was not Common Ground. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will look into this and once she has confirmation that it is she will draft a letter to Mr Clayton for Councillors to approve asking for assurance that he acknowledges that the land between his field and gates is Common Ground and that there is no intention to lay a stone track on this land now or at any time in the future.

7. **Burial Ground & Churchyard:**

The crumbling coping on top of the wall on the roadside has at last been repaired by Burfitt & Garrett.

David Nye reported that he has started cutting the grass in the Churchyard with help from Chas Blacker and Holly Pepper. There is a lot of grass there this year and he has already taken seven loads to be fed to Neil Taylor's cows. He will leave the area where the devil's-bit scabious is growing until later as it is still flowering and he wants it to seed.

Simon Hicks, the Trustee from the Somerset Wildlife Trust, had visited and was very enthusiastic and had written to the Clerk to express his thanks for a glorious and memorable visit. He also asked whether consideration had been given to placing a bench among the orchids, ox-eye daisies, bumble bees and butterflies, for parish folk, young and old, to enjoy. This was discussed and David Nye was not keen and it was agreed no further action would be taken.

David Nye advised that the tomb which had collapsed and been filled in has sunk again and needs more soil – Robert Jackson agreed that he would do this and David Nye asked him to wait until all the grass has been cut. He also kindly agreed to look at the wooden gate post near at the top of the Churchyard which is rotten and falling over.

Councillors once again expressed their thanks to David Nye and those are helping him.

8. **Roads:**

i. **Outstanding matters:**

The damage to the wall at the bottom of Tower Road has just been completed by Crestmoor.

ii. Traffic on Kingsettle Hill

The Clerk had been asked to raise the increase in traffic on Kingsettle Hill. It was agreed that there has been an increase generally in volume and speed throughout the village, particularly since lockdown when people were allowed to visit Alfred's Tower and the surrounding woods once again. There are also more cyclists than ever before and a good number of tradesmen's vehicles use the road on weekdays. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would write to the Highways Department to ask whether it would be possible to erect some 'Single track' and 'Slow' signs.

iii. New matters:

There was a water leak at just above Limelee on Barrow Water Lane which took Wessex Water weeks to repair as a result of which there are some potholes, there are some up Tower Road, one outside Hookgate Farm and one near Charcroft bungalow and the road towards Cooks Farm is subsiding on the left hand side. The Clerk will report these.

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 but the Clerk will continue to chase.

ii. There were no new matters to report.

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

The Brewham Village Hall Newsletter for August 2020 had been delivered to all parishioners. The Committee met recently and following the Government guidelines regarding the Covid 19 pandemic it was decided that the Hall will remain closed and everyone will be informed as soon as it is able to be re-opened.

Harriet Gardiner is doing a sponsored walk around her garden and has so far raised £100 for the Village Hall.

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 'violence against the person'. The NH Team and Response Officers continue to make regular patrols of the area and 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. The spate of vans being broken into targeting workmen's tools continues.

12. Correspondence Received:

The following correspondence had been received since the last meeting:

- (i) Somerset County Council Coronavirus Updates – these can be viewed at - Somerset Waste Partnership Briefing, August 2020.
- (ii) Get SuSSed newsletter.
- (iii) Somerset County Council Coronavirus Updates - <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-latest-advice/>

13. Dates of future meetings:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10th November 2020 and then on Tuesdays, 12th January & 9th March 2021.

14. Open Forum:

Mary MacDonald Watson advised that the hedge at the top of Hassocks Lane near the main Bruton to Frome road is once again very overgrown and it is impossible to see traffic coming from the Frome direction. **The Clerk** will report this urgently.

Robin Bastable updated on the proposal for Somerset to become a unitary authority. Somerset County Council has set out its case to scrap both itself and the four districts to create one unitary council. The four district councils remain opposed to a single, unitary council and are proposing two new unitary authorities across the county. This would result in one council covering Somerset West, Taunton and Sedgemoor and another for the Mendip and South Somerset areas.

Which plan is put in place will be decided later in the year by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Discussion took place and Robin Bastable urged Councillors to listen to the presentations being held by Zoom and to let him know the views of the Parish Council as soon as possible.

There were no further questions or matters anyone wished to raise and there being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

The minutes of the 8th September 2020 meeting were unanimously approved on 10th November 2020 and were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.