

## Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held in Brewham Village Hall on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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

**In attendance:** Anna Groskop (County Councillor), Sue Price (Clerk) & four members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Hiscock, Patricia Stainton, Robin Bastable (District Councillor) & PCSO Tim Russell.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021:**

The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2021 meeting were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising:**

There were no 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 income of £140.01, this being for the purchase of a burial plot and interest on the HSBC Money Manager account.

The payments agreed at the May meeting had all been made.

The financial transactions for the period 11<sup>th</sup> May-12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward at 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	£7,232.74
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**Income**

HSBC Business Money Manager account interest	.01
Mrs J Hoskins – purchase of a burial plot	140.00

**Expenditure**

Brewham Village Hall Committee – meeting room hire	17.00
Clive Thorman – early season mowing of Burial Ground	350.00
Came & Company – annual insurance renewal	338.40

**The Fund balances at 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were therefore:**

General Fund	£4,100.37
Burial Ground Fund	1,066.98
Reserve Fund	1,500.00

**Represented by Bank a/cs:**

National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£851.55
HSBC Savings a/c	241.37
HSBC Community a/c	5,574.43

<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>£6,667.35</b>
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- ii. The Clerk requested approval for the payment of £500 to Michael Gardiner, being the first of two payments for the Burial Ground mowing: **It was unanimously agreed** that this payment be made.

6. **Planning Applications:**

There were no outstanding planning applications and none have been received since the May meeting.

7. **Burial Ground & Churchyard:**

David Nye reported that there is a great deal of grass but he hopes to begin cutting it once the flowers have seeded.

The gatepost is still awaiting repair but Robert Jackson will do this as soon as possible.

Regretfully Clive Thorman is no longer able to continue mowing the Burial Ground and Michael Gardiner had agreed to take over doing this from the beginning of June until the end of September, for which he will be paid a total of £1,000, payable in two instalments of £500, the first following the July meeting and the second at the end of September.

On behalf of the supporters of Brewham Churchyard, Libby Nye had written to the Parish Council to ask whether they would consider purchasing a bench so that parishioners could sit and enjoy the flowers and the view of the village in the peace of the Churchyard. This was considered to be a very good idea and **it was unanimously agreed** that the Parish Council would purchase a bench in due course. The possibility of adding a plaque to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year was discussed and it was noted that the bench would need to be securely fixed to the ground. The Clerk will obtain some prices to bring to the September meeting.

8. **Roads:**

i. **Outstanding matters:**

The potholes on Tower Road and Street Lane and the subsidence / broken road surfaces at Border and Bedlamgreen are still awaiting repair and the two blocked drains on Tower Road remain blocked. The Clerk has raised these issues again with the Highways Department together with the surface on Strap Lane and the uneven road surface by Whitehouse Farm on the Hardway.

ii. **New matters:**

Mrs MacDonald Watson had advised the Clerk that there is now zero visibility at the top of Hassocks Lane when pulling out on to the Bruton to Frome road. The Clerk had reported this.

Mr Nye asked about the closure of the road on Charcroft Hill for work by the water board. Residents had received letters warning them about the proposed work in August but the Clerk knew nothing about it.

Following the meeting Tony Leach contacted the Clerk to advise that most of the outstanding work should have been done and as it had been passed to the contractor more than three months ago he would chase all of them. He was also going to look at the problem at the top of Hassocks Lane and other potholes in the village which the Clerk had been about to report.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

i. **Outstanding matters:**

There has been no progress on the blocked footpath at Swanton Farm or the broken stiles on other footpaths and the Clerk is still pursuing these with the Rights of Way Officer, Eve Wynn. Councillor Groskop suggested she could also try Martin Cooper.

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

Patricia Stainton had advised that the Garfield Weston Foundation had awarded a grant of £20,000 and the application for £80,000 to the National Lottery Community Fund has gone through to the second round and it is hoped a decision will be made by them by the end of the month. Work on the second phase of the Restoration Project should begin towards the end of September.

Robert Jackson asked whether the builder's accepted quotation for Phase 2 would stand because of the current climate where the costs of materials have and continue to rocket. Eddie Harper confirmed that it would.

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

PCSO Tim Russell was unable to attend the meeting but had sent a report. There was one incident, a burglary, in the Brewham area. The NH Team and Response Officers continue to make regular patrols of the area and opportunist thieves are still looking for unlocked or poorly secured sheds and garages in order to take power tools, chain saws, mowers and similar items. Vans are still being broken into targeting workmen's tools.

12. **Correspondence Received:**

- a. Get SuSSed! Environment news.
- b. SSDC & Somerset County Council Covid Updates.
- c. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons – 2 June 2022.
- d. An update on local government reorganisation in Somerset.
- e. Councillor Groskop's June & July briefings.

13. **Dates of future meetings:**

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall (either in the Village Hall or if refurbishment work has begun at the Old Red Lion) on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Meetings for the remainder of the year will be held on Tuesdays, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and 11<sup>th</sup> January & 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

14. **Open Forum:**

It is proposed that Beacons be lit for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and whether Brewham would want to have one or even just a bonfire was discussed and it was agreed that as there was plenty of time between now and next June this would be discussed at a future meeting.

Zena Dabinett, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, asked who was responsible for the Church wall between the Church gates and the Village Hall because there is a lot of unsightly weeds and other growth which needs attention. Discussion took place about the ownership and responsibilities of the whole of the wall surrounding the Church and the car park area outside. **It was agreed** that the Village Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council would all check their insurance policies to see what, if anything, was covered by them with regard to the wall and car park and that the three should then meet to decide ownership of each part of the wall and the car park and who was responsible for the insurance, maintenance and upkeep of these. David Dabinett suggested that maybe one insurance policy could cover any liability or damage, such as when the foreign lorry crashed into the wall a couple of years ago, but that the cost of this could be split between the Village Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council.

There were no further questions or matters anyone wished to raise and there being no further business the meeting closed at 8.02pm.

These minutes were unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record at the 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 Parish Council Meeting.