

## Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held at The Old Red Lion, North Brewham on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Anna Groskop (County Councillor) and Robin Bastable (District Councillor).

Anna Groskop had thanked the members of the Parish Council for all their support.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022:**

The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 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 £160 for the purchase of a cremated remains plot and burial fee for the late Mr Rayner and 0.09 interest on the National Savings Bank Investment account.

The cheques to the Somerset Association of Local Councils for the subscription renewal in the sum of £120.92 and to the Royal British Legion for the Remembrance Day wreaths in the sum of £40 had been cashed. Bank charges were £8.

As agreed at the January meeting payments of £100 had been made to the Village Hall Restoration Fund and £20 to the Old Red Lion for the meeting room hire for January and March. Bank charges for February will be £12.

The financial transactions for the period 11th January-7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward at 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 £5,271.37

**Income:**

Purchase of a cremated remain plot and burial fee for late Mr Rayner 160.00  
Interest on National Savings Bank Investment account .09

**Expenditure:**

Somerset Association of Local Councils subscription renewal 120.92  
Royal British Legion – Remembrance Day wreaths 40.00  
Bank charges 8.00

<u>The Fund balances at 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were therefore:</u>	
General Fund	£3,317.06
Burial Ground Fund	445.48
Reserve Fund	1,500.00

<u>Represented by Bank a/cs:</u>	
National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£851.64
HSBC Savings a/c	241.39
HSBC Community a/c	4,169.51

<u>Total</u>	£5,262.54
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<u>Debtors</u>	
Village Hall Restoration Fund - donation	100.00
The Old Red Lion – meeting room hire January & March 2022	20.00
Bank charges	12.00

Bank balances to include debtors	£5,130.45
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Bank balances carried forward at 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	£5,262.54
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- ii. The Clerk requested approval for the following payment to be made:  
 Clerk's annual salary/expenses & PAYE - £1,000.  
 Christopher Saxton – fittings for and fitting of new bench in closed Churchyard  
 and removing some of the undergrowth on the Burial Ground wall - £272.95.

It was unanimously agreed that these should be paid and that Christopher Saxton be asked to provide a quotation for finishing off the one side of the Burial Ground wall. When received this will be emailed to Councillors for their approval.

The Clerk further requested that Councillors approve the payment to Water2Business, circa £85, for the tap in the churchyard as this invoice needs to be paid in the new financial year before the May meeting. This payment was unanimously approved.

6. **Planning Applications:**

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

- a. 21/01217/LBC. The erection a porch on the front and rear of the property. Shave Farm, Shave Lane, Brewham, Bruton BA10 0LG & 1/01209/HOU. The erection a porch on the front and rear of the property. Shave Farm, Shave Lane, Brewham BA10 0LG. Application approved.
- b. 21/03176/HOU & 21/03177/LBC - Canwood House, Canwood Lane, BA10 0JN. The erection of a conservatory and pergola, construction of a courtyard, relocation of tennis court and associated landscaping. Decision awaited.
- c. 21/03282/FUL – Dreamers Farm, Strap Lane, Brewham, BA10 0JW. Demolition of existing dwelling and agricultural buildings, including one with prior approval to convert to two dwellings, redevelopment of site by the erection of three dwellings and replacement agricultural building and associated landscaping and revised access arrangements. Decision awaited.

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

- a. 21/03755FUL – Horseley Farm, Hardway BA10 0LW. The retention of a Ground Source Renewable Heat System. Application approved.

iii. **Application to be discussed:**

- a. 22/00239/FUL & 22/00249 – Land on Kingsettle Hill - Infrastructure application in respect of access, parking, drainage & landscaping works together with notification for prior approval for the change of use of agricultural barn to a dwelling house. There were no objections and it was considered it would smarten the area up to remove the old buildings.

iv. **New applications for consideration:**

No new applications had been received.

7. **Burial Ground & Churchyard:**

Christopher Saxton has fixed the new bench in the closed Churchyard and removed the worst of the undergrowth on the Burial Ground wall. There is more to be done and it is quite bad in places where the ivy and brambles have begun to grow into the stonework. As agreed above the Clerk will write to him and ask him to provide a quotation for completing removing the undergrowth from the rest of that bit of wall.

On behalf of the "Friends of the Churchyard" and the village, Libby Nye had written to the Clerk to ask her to pass on their thanks to the Parish Council for the lovely bench they have purchased and put in the Churchyard. She is sure it will be much appreciated as the better weather approaches.

David Nye reported that the sheep have now gone having grazed the area very well and he and a group of helpers are meeting at the weekend to remove the wire and tidy up. The snowdrops have been flowering well.

A branch had come off one of the yew trees in the recent gales but no damage done.

8. **Roads:**

a. **Outstanding matters:**

The Clerk had reported the matters raised at the January meeting and repairs had been done in Street Lane and Tower Road and some drains had been unblocked. The edge of the road by Fisherton Cottage, opposite Tower Road, is currently marked for repair.

The Clerk had received a report of fly tipping on Pinkwood Lane (tyres in the railway line gateway). These had been removed but not the roofing felt on which they had been put. She had also spoken to Tracy Breden about re-planting the small tree currently growing by the roadside.

b. **New matters:**

Ann Saxton reported that Strap Lane has a number of potholes and it might also be necessary to advise the Clerk at Witham Friary about the ones at their end.

Mary Macdonald Watson reported a number of potholes on Hassocks Lane and Pinkwood Lane. The Clerk will report all these to the Highways department.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

a. **Outstanding matters:**

There has still been no progress on the blocked footpath at Swanton Farm or the broken stiles on other footpaths. The Clerk has again been in touch with Eve Wynn but she had still not responded.

b. **New matters:**

Robert Jackson reported that the rails on the bridge across the river on Cards Farm are rotting.

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

James Coward reported that work on Phase Two of the Village Hall restoration continues to go well and the progress is on schedule. Grants had been received from the Somerset Community Fund and South Somerset District Council and further donations from local businesses and individuals.

Thanks were due to Robin Bastable for his invaluable help in securing the grant from SSDC.

Patricia Stainton reported that the terrace at the back had been finished but there are delays getting the metal fire door to be fitted at the back of the building. This is not due to be fitted until 9<sup>th</sup> May so although the elections will be able to take place in the Hall on the 5<sup>th</sup> May other events will not be able to be held until after this date. There have also been delays with other metal items.

The Hall will definitely be open by the time of the Jubilee weekend at the beginning of June.

The annual bird count forms have been circulated.

Ric Rogers has started work on the latest edition of Below the Tower and this is going well. He hopes to have the final version ready to go to the printers as soon as possible after the May election ready for distribution in early June. There have been a lot of people leaving and coming to the village since the last edition and he asked if everyone could check the list in their area so that when printed it is as accurate as possible. He has also written letters to everyone with businesses who featured in the last edition and again asked for help in delivering these.

Councillors thanked Ric Rogers for his continuing hard work to produce this very valuable and much used booklet.

11. **The Platinum Jubilee**

It was agreed that the village should do something to celebrate the Jubilee in June and that perhaps it could coincide with the re-opening of the Village Hall.

The Chairman suggested that the Village Hall Committee, the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council could join together to help arrange something. Liza Greaves has already spoken to Cath Coward and emailed her Committee and several residents have spoken to her hoping that something will be organised.

The possibility of an afternoon cream tea with Pimms was discussed which would give everyone the opportunity to chat to each other and not involve too much organisation. Liza Greaves said she was happy to organise something for the children and to bake cakes and it was agreed that it would be good to get a small group together to organise something low-key.

The Clerk advised that it had previously been discussed that a plaque could be added to the new bench and this was deemed to be a good idea.

12. **Parish Council Election**

Due to the reorganisation of local government the election has been brought forward a year to 5<sup>th</sup> May. This will mean that the next term of office will be five rather than four years.. Papers have to be submitted by hand to the Council offices by 5<sup>th</sup> April. The Chairman has indicated that he will not be standing for re-election and it would be good if there were new faces who were interested in standing so that there is an election. The Clerk has Nomination Packs which she can deliver to anyone who is interested in standing.

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

PCSO Russell is currently off on long-term sick leave and so there was no report.

14. **Correspondence Received:**

- a. Councillor Groskop's February and March briefings.
- b. Somerset County Council Covid-19 updates.
- c. Letter advising about elections for May 2022.
- d. Somerset Waste Partnership February briefing.
- e. Local Government Reorganisation Programme Governance.
- f. Get SuSSed February newsletter.
- g. Somerton & Wincanton Neighbourhood Police Newsletter March 2022.

15. **Dates of future meetings:**

The final meeting of the financial year will be held at either the Village Hall or The Old Red Lion on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> May (following the Annual Meeting).

Meeting dates for the financial year 2022/2023 – Tuesdays, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 13<sup>th</sup> September & 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and Tuesdays, 10<sup>th</sup> January & 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

16. **Open Forum:**

The Clerk has yet to hear from the Post Office about reinstating the post box opposite the village hall.

There were no further questions or matters anyone wished to raise and there being no further business the meeting closed at 8.04pm.