

Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held at Brewham Village Hall on Tuesday, 10th January 2023

Present: Robert Jackson (Chair), Eddie Harper, Christopher Saxton & Patricia Stainton

In attendance: Sue Price (Clerk), County Councillor Lucy Trimnell & three members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Hiscock, Tom Power (County Councillor) & Robin Bastable (District Councillor).

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

Robert Jackson declared an interest in item 6iii – the planning application for The Bull Inn.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2022:**

Patricia Stainton noted that Councillor Trimnell had attended the meeting but her name was not on the list of attendees. Apart from this error the minutes of the 8th November 2022 meeting were unanimously approved and as soon as the Clerk has corrected page 1 they will be 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 0.26p being the quarterly interest on the HSBC Saving account £50.00 burial fee for the late Mr J Mott and £35 fee for a memorial stone for the late Mr Rayner. The latter two amounts had been banked in the new Lloyds Bank Treasurer's account.

As agreed at the November meeting payments of £118.66 had been made to the Somerset Association of Local Councils for the annual subscription, £40 to the Information Commissioner's Office for the annual fee, £50 to Brewham Village Hall being the annual amount paid towards the defibrillator maintenance and £40 to the Royal British Legion for the two Remembrance Day wreaths. Due to the difficulties closing the HSBC accounts a further £17 of bank charges had been incurred.

The Clerk explained that she had paid the agreed invoices expecting that the HSBC accounts would have been closed by mid-November and so they are currently listed below as debtors. She had received confirmation that the HSBC accounts were not closed until 4th January 2023 and she is awaiting confirmation that the money has been deposited in the Lloyds Bank account.

The financial transactions for the period 8th November 2022-9th January 2023 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward at 8 th November 2022	£4,523.12
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Income:

Quarterly interest on HSBC Savings a/c	0.26
Burial fee for the late Mr J Mott	50.00
Memorial tablet for the late Mr Rayner	35.00

Expenditure:

Somerset Association of Local Councils annual subscription	£118,65
Information Commissioner's Office annual fee	40.00
Donation to Brewham Village Hall for maintenance of defibrillator	50.00
Royal British Legion – two wreaths for Remembrance Sunday	40.00
Bank charges	17.00

The Fund balances at 9th January 2023 were therefore:

General Fund	£2,997.38
Burial Ground Fund	102.74
Reserve Fund	1,500.00

Represented by Bank a/cs:

National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£851.64
HSBC Savings a/c	241.75
HSBC Community a/c	3,421.73
Lloyds Bank Treasurers a/c	85.00

Total £4,600.12

Debtors

Somerset Association of Local Councils annual subscription	118.65
Information Commissioner's Office annual fee	40.00
Donation to Brewham Village Hall for maintenance of defibrillator	50.00
Royal British Legion – two wreaths for Remembrance	40.00

Bank balances to include creditors & debtors £4,351.47

Bank balances carried forward at 10th January 2022 £4,600.12

- ii. There were no invoices to authorise but the Clerk requested whether approval could be sought by email before the March meeting if the invoices were received for work on the yew trees several weeks before the meeting.

iii. Budget & Precept for the financial year 2023-2024:

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget statement and estimates. She explained that for the current year the precept had been set at £4,000.

The Reserve Fund:

The Reserve Fund ended the year 2021/22 with a balance of £1,500 and the sum of £1,500 is therefore currently held in the Reserve Fund at the time of the January 2023 meeting and it is hoped this will also be the figure at year-end.

The Burial Ground Fund:

The Burial Ground Fund ended the year 2021/22 with a balance of £220.48.

£1,000 of the precept was allocated to the Burial Ground Fund for the current year and to date further income of £467 has been received and £250 was transferred from the General Fund to help cover the cost of the third mowing.

This year the expenditure for mowing and maintaining the Burial Ground was £1,500 (higher than budgeted due to the sudden increase in fuel prices when it was agreed to pay Graham Kimber this sum rather than £1,300) and water rates were £84.74.

The balance in the Burial Ground Fund at the time of the January meeting is £102.74

The Clerk recommended that the precept for the coming year for the Burial Ground Fund should be set at £1,500 as a minimum. This was unanimously agreed.

The General Fund:

Expenditure for everything else comes from the General Fund. The balance in the General Fund at the end of the year 2021/22 was £1,979.12

The precept for the current year was £3,000 and the only other income expected during the year is the small amount of savings accounts interest which will be approximately £2.

Current confirmed expenditure for the year is £3,221.74 and at the time of the January meeting the balance in the General Fund is £2,748.73 (which includes the debtors yet to show in the bank). The Clerk's salary and expenses needs to be taken from this figure and there will be the cost of work on the yew trees to be paid between now and year-end and it is estimated that this will be in the region of £800. Unless there is any other unforeseen expenditure the year is likely to end with a balance of about £950 so just over £1,000 lower than last year.

The total held in the three funds/bank accounts at year-end will therefore be about £2,550.

The effect of the proposed budget for the year 2023/2024 would be a net expenditure of £4,200 (as attached). This figure assumes that the cost of mowing the Burial Ground and Common land remains at £1800 and the figure set aside for donations and village amenities is reduced from £500 to £400. The Clerk highlighted that no work has been done on the website and so there has been no cost this year and if Stuart Turnbull is not able to complete it and show people from the various organisations in the village how to upload documents there might be someone else in the Parish with a knowledge of IT who would be willing to do this. The cost of any work could come from the amount budget for miscellaneous expenditure. She did not think the Facebook page would be a substitute for a website.

The budget was confirmed and it was unanimously agreed to increase the precept for the year 2023/2024 by £400 to £4,400.

It was unanimously agreed that the precept for the year 2023/2024 should be set at £4,400, this being £1,500 for the Burial Ground Fund and £2,900 for the General Fund.

It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman should sign the Precept Notification Form for 2023/2024 requesting that the precept be set at £4,400.

Christopher Saxton thanked the Clerk for all her work and asked whether consideration should be given to increasing her salary/expenses. The Clerk confirmed that she was very happy with the current remuneration.

6. **Planning Applications:**

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

- a. 22/01688/FUL - Land OS 0006, Gladwill Farm, North Brewham, BA10 0JS – Application for change of use of agricultural hard standing to allow for siting of mobile showman's wagon trailer conversion for holiday let accommodation. Decision awaited.
- b. 22/02676/FUL - Land at Cannwood House, Cannwood Lane, Brewham BA10 0JN - Installation of ground mounted solar array. Decision awaited.

- ii. **Applications received since the November meeting and considered by email:**
 - a. 22/03355/OUT – Hillcrest, Charcroft Hill, Brewham, BA10 0LE – Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling with all matters reserved (renewal of planning consent 19/02837?OUT, permission granted 18th February 2020) It was agreed that although Councillors objected to the original outline application this was just a renewal of the consent that was subsequently approved and that when any detailed plans are submitted at some point in the future there would be an opportunity for Councillors to discuss the matter again.

- iii. **Applications to be considered by the Parish Council:**

- a. 22/03415/FUL – The Bull Inn, Hardway, BA10 0LN - Erection of extension to the kitchen, insertion of roof lights and fitting roof lanterns on the existing and proposed flat roofs. Having declared an interest, Robert Jackson stood down as Chair but the remaining Councillors had no comments or objections to this application.

- iv. **New applications for consideration:**

No new applications had been received.

7. **Burial Ground & Churchyard:**

The sheep are back in the closed Churchyard and doing a very good job at clearing the grass.

The Clerk reported that an application had been made by Mr Jonathan Baker to carry out remedial work on the two yew trees and this had been processed very quickly and granted. This will cost in the region of £50. She has asked for three quotations from specialist arborists suggested by Mr Baker but because of the Christmas holiday has so far only received one quotation from Mr Maistrello for £750. It was agreed that two more quotations are needed before a decision can be made and that the Clerk will send all three to Councillors who will then agree by email which one to accept.

Eddie Harper advised that someone is interested in maintaining and mowing the Burial Ground and Common land on Charcroft Hill and he has passed on the details and hopes to have a quotation in the next couple of weeks. It was agreed that once this had been received Councillors would again decide by email whether to ask Graham Kimber and David Dabinett to continue to do the Burial Ground and Common land respectively or whether they would like to ask the person who had contacted Eddie Harper to take it on.

8. **Roads:**

- a. **Outstanding matters:**

The Highways Department seem to be mending potholes when reported and have just marked a lot on Tower Road. Following a telephone call from Mr Harvey the Clerk has reported further fly tipping by the entrance to the railway line on Pinkwood Lane which was also reported in November. This is an ongoing problem because as soon as rubbish is cleared more is dumped a short while later.

- b. **New matters:**

There are a number of potholes to report in particular a very large one on the Bruton Road beyond Mr Perry's farm entrance which currently has a traffic cone to warn drivers, a number down Street Lane and Border Lane particularly at the end near the entrance to Cooks Farm and at the crossroads. A lot of drains which were jetted last year are blocked again, including a very bad one to the left of the entrance to Mrs Saxton's drive, and the Clerk was asked to enquire once again whether something can be done about the dangerous ditch opposite Leaside on the Hardway and the hedge at Little Orchard needs cutting back.

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 tried to be in touch with Eve Wynn but she had still not responded to any emails. It was noted that it is now nearly seven years that the Parish Council has been trying to get the Swanton Farm footpath unblocked and that the broken stiles on other footpaths are dangerous.

10. **Report from County Councillors**

Councillor Lucy Trimnell had just received the latest Decision Report on the Local Community Network Development next steps. She had not had time to read and digest it but had sent the link and the Clerk will forward on to Councillors (pages 105-148 being the relevant ones). The map of the proposed new boundaries is on p 127. If anyone has any questions once they have read it she would be pleased to try and answer them.

Christopher Saxton asked whether future planning applications would come from the current office or elsewhere. Councillor Trimnell confirmed that not all departments would be moving at the same time and certainly they would continue as they are at least for the time being and she hoped to have more information at the March meeting.

11. **Report from the Police:**

The Clerk had received a report from Daniel Humphrey for December 2022. There had been no recent crimes in the area and the current and future priorities remain the same – to have regular patrols and a productive community engagement. He also highlighted the benefits of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

12. **Dates of future meetings:**

The final meeting of the financial year will be held on Tuesday, 9th March 2023. It was agreed to keep meetings for the forthcoming year to the second Tuesday of the month and so meetings will be held on - Tuesdays, 9th May (following the Annual Meeting), 11th July, 12th September & 14th November 2023 and Tuesdays, 9th January & 12th March 2024.

13. **Open Forum:**

Ann Saxton asked if the Clerk could report the drain outside her house which is blocked.

There were no further questions or matters anyone wished to raise and there being no further business the meeting closed at 8.31pm.