

Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held at Brewham Village Hall on Tuesday, 14th November 2023

Present: Robert Jackson (Chair), Richard Hiscock, Christopher Saxton & Patricia Stainton.

In attendance: Sue Price (Clerk), Councillor Tom Power and four members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Eddie Harper and Councillor Lucy Trimnell.

2. **Declarations of Interest:**

Robert Jackson declared an interest in the planning application just received for the construction of a slurry store, reception pit and associated works at Cards Farm, South Brewham.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th September 2023:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2023 were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with elsewhere.

5. **Financial Business:**

Financial transactions:

The Clerk advised that there had been no income since the last meeting and all the invoices which had been approved had been paid.

The financial transactions for the period 13th September-13th November 2023 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward on 13 th September 2023	£5,365.31
--	-----------

Expenditure:

Graham Kimber-Holloway – 3rd mowing of Burial Ground	500.00
David Dabinett – mowing of common land for 2023 season	300.00
Information Commissioner's Office annual fee	40.00

The Fund balances on 13th November 2023 were therefore:

General Fund	£2,881.79
Burial Ground Fund	143.52
Reserve Fund	1,500.00

Represented by Bank a/cs:

National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£852.43
Lloyds Bank Treasurers a/c	3,672.88

<u>Bank balances carried forward on 12th September 2023</u>	£4,525.31
--	-----------

The Clerk requested authorisation to pay the following invoices:

Somerset Association of Local Councils annual subscription - £122.99
Royal British Legion – 2 wreaths for Remembrance Day
(invoiced not received but c £40)

It was unanimously agreed that these invoices be paid.

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. 3/00864/FUL - Lindum Farm, Bruton Road, Brewham, BA10 0JF - The erection of steel framed agricultural machinery storage shed. Decision awaited.
- c. 23/01518/COL – Lavender Bank, Street Lane, Brewham, BA10 0JS - Application for a Lawful Certificate for the proposed erection of a garden room workshop within the boundary of Lavender Bank. Decision awaited.
- d. 223/01418/HOU & 23/01419/LBC - Jasmine Cottage, Charcroft Hill, Brewham BA10 0LE – Extensions and internal alterations (part retrospective). Application approved.
- e. 23/01410/FUL – Land opposite Jerrards Farm, Hammer Street, North Brewham. - the erection of a new dwelling for agricultural occupancy for a family member. Decision awaited.
- f. 23/01635/FUL – Land at Hardway, Brewham, BA10 OLR – siting for two safari tents for use as holiday accommodation. One member of the Parish Council had objected. Decision awaited.
- g. 2300234/FUL – Swanton Farm, Street Lane, Brewham, BA10 0JZ – change of use from equine and private domestic purposes only to additionally commercial purposes and install lighting around the equine outdoor arena (retrospective). Application refused. The Clerk advised that she had been contacted a couple of times by parishioners to advise that the floodlights are still being used. She has reported this, together with photographic evidence, to the department dealing with breaches who are looking into this as they had also been notified by someone.
- h. 23/01930/HOU – Hillcrest, Charcroft Hill, Brewham, BA10 0LE – conversion of garage to annexe. Application approved.
- i. 23/01741/FUL – Barn on land east of Border Lodge, North Brewham, BA10 0JQ – demolition of existing agricultural building and part derelict field shelter, change of use and erection of an Artist’s Studio. Decision awaited.
- j. 23/02613/LBC & 23/02612/HOU - Canwood House Canwood Lane Brewham BA10 0JN - erection of conservatory and pergola; construction of courtyard; and associated landscaping. Decision awaited.

ii. **Application to be discussed:**

23/02787/FUL – Cards Farm, South Brewham, BA10 0LQ – construction of a slurry store, reception pit and associated works. Robert Jackson stood down and Richard Hiscock took the Chair. **It was unanimously agreed** that this was a very good application which Councillors wholeheartedly supported. The Clerk will advise the Planning Department.

7. **Burial Ground, Churchyard, Common Land and Village Amenities:**

Mr Nye was not present, but it was noted that he and his team of volunteers have cut the long grass and Councillors thanked them for their hard work.

The Clerk had received a few complaints during the summer about the grass cutting and asked that if anyone knows of someone who might like the contract to ask them to contact

her for details. She will also put something on the local Facebook pages and include in the budget for next year a similar sum to the current year and this can then be discussed further at the January meeting when setting the precept.

Ric Rogers has very kindly agreed to continue compiling Below the Tower and pointed out that it is already out of date by the time it is printed. Before doing any research he already knows there are at least 30 alterations to be made. The possibility of having an online version was discussed. 500 copies are usually printed and most distributed by the time the next edition is printed. **It was unanimously agreed** that the next version of Below the Tower will be printed in 2024 and that, if possible, there will also be a digital version that can be updated before the next publication in 2026/7. Ric Rogers noted that he will need to start work in mid-late February in order to be ready for circulation at the Annual Meeting in May. He will ask for volunteers to help with this work. Councillors thanked him for kindly continuing to do this which they realise takes a great deal of his time. It is an extremely useful booklet.

Burial Ground charges have not been reviewed since 2019 and the Clerk had found local comparisons which show that Brewham's current charges are considerably lower. It was unanimously agreed to increase them but to keep the fees for a grave space and burial charge for a young child the same. The Clerk will update the figures and circulate to local funeral directors. She has already sent the paperwork with the 2019 charges to Sarah Cumberbatch, who holds a Power of Attorney for Will Down, who just needs to choose a plot and so the charge for this purchase will be at the old rate.

8. **Roads:**

a. **Outstanding matters:**

The Highways Department have filled in a number of potholes throughout the parish but as soon as some are mended others appear elsewhere. There is a problem throughout the parish with blocked drains. Councillor Power noted that neighbouring parishes are experiencing similar problems with gullies and drains being blocked and he is taking this up with John Nicholson in the Highways Department so would be happy to add particular concerns about blocked drains in Brewham. There is again fly tipping in Pinkwood Lane by the gate to the railway line. It has been cleared and a notice put up to say 'No Fly Tipping'. Councillor Power also noted that there are similar problems in Wincanton and again urged that any particular problem be reported to him.

b. **New matters:**

The Clerk will continue to monitor and report any problems. Christopher Saxton asked about the flooding at Plox in Bruton and Tom Power confirmed that Lucy Trimnell is dealing with this.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

Outstanding matters:

Regarding the footpath at Swanton Farm, the Clerk has emailed Eve Wynn to see if the work will be completed by the end of the year but has not yet had a reply. It is probable that she may say it is too wet and the work will have to be deferred until the ground dries up a bit.

10. **Report from County Councillors:**

As has been reported widely in the press the Council has very big financial problems and is on the verge of bankruptcy which will result in major cutbacks for the foreseeable future. The latest report from our Councillors will be sent shortly and the Clerk will forward on.

11. **Report from the Police:**

The Clerk had received a report from the Police. There has been one unspecified crime in the area and their priorities remain the same and they are still encouraging the set up of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

12. **Dates of future meetings:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th January 2024.

The final meeting for the remainder of the financial year will be held on Tuesdays 12th March 2024.

13. **Open Forum:**

The Clerk had received a request for a donation to the CAT bus, but it was agreed that no donation could be made in the current year.

There was no further business and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.04pm.

These minutes were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman at the meeting of Brewham Parish Council on Tuesday, 9th January 2024.