

Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held at Brewham Village Hall on Tuesday, 14th May 2024

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

In attendance: Councillors Lucy Trimnell & Tom Power, Sue Price (Clerk) and five members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Hiscock.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Election of Chairman of Brewham Parish Council for the year 2024/25:**
Eddie Harper proposed that Robert Jackson be elected Chairman of Brewham Parish Council for the year 2024/2025. This was seconded by Christopher Saxton and agreed unanimously. Robert Jackson then signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
4. **Election of Vice-Chairman of Brewham Parish Council for the year 2024/25:**
Christopher Saxton proposed that Richard Hiscock be elected Vice-Chairman of Brewham Parish Council for the year 2024/25. This was seconded by Robert Jackson and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will ask Richard Hiscock to sign the declaration of acceptance of office as soon as possible.
5. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2024:**
The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2024 were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
6. **Matters Arising:**
There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with elsewhere.
7. **Financial Business:**
 - i. **Financial transactions:**
The Clerk advised that since the last meeting there had been income of £4,716.60 and expenditure of £1,312.08.

The financial transactions for the period 12th March-13th May 2024 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward on 12 th March 2024	£4,443.77
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Income

Memorial for the late Mrs B Garrett -	£100.00
Cremated remains plot and burial fee for the late Mrs Brine	155.00
Precept for the year 2024/2025	4,400.00
NSI Investment account interest for the year 1 Jan 2023-1 Jan 2024	6.60

Expenditure:

Somerset Association of Local Councils – annual subscription	£122.99
Mrs Price & HMRC - Clerk's annual salary & PAYE	1,000.00
Nigel Payne – initial tidying of Burial Ground	60.00
Water2Business – churchyard tap	129.09

The Fund balances on 13th May 2024 were therefore:

General Fund	£4,443.86
Burial Ground Fund	1,904.43
Reserve Fund	1,500.00

Represented by Bank a/cs:

National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£859.03
Lloyds Bank Treasurers a/c	6,989.26

Bank balances at 13th May 2024 £7,848.29

Bank balances carried forward on 13th May 2024 £7,848.29

ii. Payment of invoices:

The Clerk requested authorisation to pay the following invoices – Gallagher - £439.09 for the annual insurance premium; Ric Rogers - £538 for printing of Below the Tower (Ric Rogers paid AS Print on collection), Nigel Payne - £500.00 for the first mowing of the Burial Ground and Brewham Village Hall Committee - £54.00 for the hire of the Village Hall for the year's meetings. **It was unanimously agreed** that these should be paid.

The Clerk also noted that the work on the Burial Ground wall is expected to be completed in early June and she asked for authorisation to pay the invoice for £2,600 when received rather than wait for the July meeting. If the invoice is different from this sum, then she will contact Councillors by email. **it was unanimously agreed** that the invoice should be paid when received.

iii. Review of Risk Assessment:

The Clerk had updated the risk assessment for the current year for approval by Councillors. **It was agreed** that the risk assessment was adequate and it was re-adopted unanimously.

iv. Certificate of Exemption for the year ended 31st March 2024

Because the annual income/expenditure is less than £25,000 the accounts do not have to be externally audited unless we wish to pay for this. It was again agreed that because the accounts are still prepared in the normal way as if they were to be submitted, are internally audited, posted on the website and everything is available for anyone to scrutinise for at least 30 working days, that this was not a necessary expense. **It was agreed** that unless there were any queries or requests an external audit was not a necessary expenditure and **it was unanimously agreed that the Chairman should sign this and the Clerk submit to PKF Littlejohn.**

v. Renewal of Insurance:

The Clerk had obtained quotes for insurance and the current cover provided by Hiscox Insurance, via Gallagher, was the best although the cost has risen to £439.09. **It was unanimously agreed** that the insurance be renewed.

vi. Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2024:

The Chairman took members through the Annual Governance Statement and **it was agreed** that the Council could answer 'Yes' to each of the statements contained in this statement apart from the reference to the Council as the sole trustee of a trust fund or assets as this statement is not applicable. **The Governance Statement for 2023/24 was approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.**

vii. Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024:

Copies of the accounts had been circulated. They had once again been internally audited by Ric Rogers.

There were no queries and the **Accounting Statements for 2023/24 were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.**

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Ric Rogers for once again carrying out the internal audit.

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 the siting of a 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. 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.
- e. 23/01635/FUL – Land at Hardway, Brewham, BA10 OLR – siting for two safari tents for use as holiday accommodation. Application approved.
- f. 24/00181/FUL – Border Lodge, Hammer Street, Brewham, BA10 0JQ – installation of photovoltaic panels within field adjacent to Border Lodge and associated planting/screening. Application approved.

ii. **Applications received since last meeting and considered by email:**

- a. 24/00357/LBC - Batts Farm, Hutchins Lane, Brewham BA10 0QN - Alterations to a stone barn that is a Grade II Listed Building. Installation of one number timber framed casement window. Internal alterations to create a pair of cloakrooms on the Ground Floor & 24/00356/HOU - Retrospective application for alterations to a stone barn that is a Grade II Listed Building. Installation of one timber framed casement window. Internal alterations to create a pair of cloakrooms on the Ground Floor. Councillors were happy to support these applications and decisions are awaited.
- b. 24/00686/HOU – The Laurels, Charcroft Hill, South Brewham BA10 0LE - Erection of replacement rear extension, front extension and detached carport/workshop with studio over. Councillors were happy to support this application and a decision is awaited.
- c. 24/00724/LBC - Canwood House, Canwood Lane, Brewham BA10 0JN - Formation of window in rear elevation. Councillors were happy to support this application and a decision is awaited.

iii. **Any new applications received:**

No new applications had been received.

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

The sheep did a very good job grazing the long grass in the closed Churchyard although it is growing rapidly again now and the spring flowers gave a good show once again.

The Parochial Church Council are arranging to cut down the small yew bush between the large yew tree and the wall bordering Mr & Mrs Nye’s garden and they will be organising the removal of the debris.

The very wet spring has continued making mowing the Burial Ground and the Common difficult. Nigel Payne has been strimming in the Burial Ground and it is very much hoped that he will soon be able to mow and then remove all the grass which has already been strimmed. David Dabinett has only recently been able to do the first mowing of the Common.

Quotations had been received for repairing the Burial Ground wall which has collapsed into Mrs Ward’s garden and these ranged from just under £3,000 to over £8,000. Robert Jackson

and Christopher Saxton met with Steve Knightley and were happy with his proposals and recommended to the remaining members of the Parish Council that his quotation should be accepted to which they agreed and it is hoped that, subject to the weather, the work will be done in early to mid-June.

Various events have taken place in the Village Hall, the Coffee and Chat continues to be well-supported and Jackie Garrett has started the Brewham Hub every Friday from 10.30-12.30 ,

Once again Ric Rogers has put in an enormous amount of time and hard work to produce the latest edition of Below The Tower which has just come from the printers and copies will be delivered to every parishioner in the next week or so. Councillors thanked Ric for once again producing this valued publication and for persuading the printers not to increase the cost of printing it.

8. **Roads:**

a. **Outstanding matters:**

Potholes continue to appear throughout the parish and the Clerk had thought that they had been marked for repair by the Highways Department and that none had been because they probably had no resource at year-end but it was suggested that the marks were more likely to have been made by organisers of a cycle race and so the Clerk will report all the current problems. Drains also remain blocked. She had contacted the Emily Estate about the hedge at the top of Hassocks Lane and will follow up as nothing appears to have been done. Eddie Harper had spoken to the local firm using Hassocks Lane but there are few alternative routes for their lorries to take to get back to their base.

b. **New matters:**

There were reports of some new potholes and the Clerk will report the problems throughout the Parish that were mentioned in the meeting.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

Outstanding matters:

The Clerk has still had no response about the blocked footpath at Swanton Farm although it is now eight years since this was first reported and she will continue to chase for something to be done.

Repairs needed on other footpaths in the parish are also outstanding although there is a temporary closure of footpath WN 4/30 because a bridge is considered unsafe.

10. **Report from County Councillors:**

The County Councillors were both present and highlighted the points from their latest newsletter. Due to the Council's financial position, a restructure is taking place, redundancies being made and property being sold but there is still a £100m black hole and it will not take much to tip it towards bankruptcy. This could mean that parishes would have to take on more services with the biggest concern being highways and work such as emptying gulleys and drains. There is a meeting of the full Council next week when there might be more information and if there is it will be included in the next newsletter. Discussions are taking place in the hope that work will be able to be carried out to the Octagon and there was a lot of concern about the possible closure of Dimmer Dump and the worry that fly tipping in rural areas would increase considerably but this has gone quiet for the time being. Waste collection routes run by Suez are changing in June and all households will be sent details shortly. Tom Power has recently joined the Planning Committee South which is good news but the delays in processing applications are likely to remain as the area covered is now much bigger and the department has lost a lot of staff and there is very little they can do to improve the situation.

On behalf of the Parish Council the Chairman thanked them for their input during the year and for the work they do and support they give to Brewham and other parishes in the area.

11. **Report from the Police:**

The Clerk had had been unable to open the police report and had asked that it be sent in a different format but had so far not received anything.

A vehicle had been stolen from the middle of the village the previous night, probably somewhere between 11pm and 6am. On the Brewham Facebook page Clare Tatum had suggested setting up a Neighbourhood WhatsApp group which a number of people have already agreed is a good idea and have joined.

12. **Dates of future meetings:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th May, following the Annual Meeting, and subsequent meetings will be held on 9th July, 10th September, 12th November 2024 and Tuesdays, 14th January and 11th March 2025.

13. **Open Forum:**

Ric Rogers had brought the copies of Below the Tower for distribution and asked for volunteers to do this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.16pm.

These minutes were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman at the meeting of Brewham Parish Council on Tuesday, 14th May 2024.