

BROADWAS AND COTHERIDGE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES of the ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 14th October 2019, at Broadwas Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. Dale, Guest, Brooks, Worrall, Burrows, Cullen.

In Attendance: Cllr. Chambers (Malvern Hills DC.) Cllr. Walton, Cllr. Grove. 1 Member of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Pearce.

2. **Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest and update Register of Interest Forms.** None.

3. **Dispensation requests:** None requested

Public Participation: A member of the public reported that there had been 3 visits from the Road Safety Partnership undertaking speed checks within the last few weeks which was welcomed.

4. Broadwas Village Hall Extension.

Mr Geoff Winkworth, Chairman of the Broadwas Village Hall Committee attended the Parish Council meeting to give an overview of work and progress to date and to discuss a contribution from the Parish Council towards the project.

Geoff commented that discussions go back to 2014 and that Minutes from both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee along the way detail decisions and progress. Planning Permission was granted in 2016 which could have lapsed earlier in 2019 and that before this could happen the Village Hall Committee sought advice from Duncan Rudge at MHDC to preserve planning permission by starting work i.e. site preparations and begin to dig out foundations.

The Village Hall Management Committee have decided on a builder. The quote has been received but needs a little revision to account for digging out the foundations which the builder thought was excluded from the contract due to the fact that this task had commenced.

Building Regulations have now been applied for. A Plans Submission is required. Costs for this are around £800+ vat with a private company. The build costs are around £60,000.

Funding sources identified to date and being sought are: £30,000 from Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council, £8,300 from MHDC Section 106 funding remaining, Knightwick and Doddenham Village Hall £10,000 and £10,000 from National Lottery Funding.

Cllr. Chambers suggested that Geoff speaks to Mark Hammond from MHDC who handles S106 funding to see if there is any other funding available locally.

There was a discussion as to the different routes that could be taken in terms of the next steps, subject to funding being identified and confirmed, re whether the project management should be included in the contract or whether this could be done separately. This resulted in further discussion focused on risk and liability, it was agreed that any contracts entered into would be in the name of the Parish Council.

Cllr. Dale Proposed and Cllr. Brooks Seconded that a certain amount of money be ring fenced and to ultimately enter into contract for the extension of the village hall. All in favour.

Cllr. Brooks Proposed and Cllr. Guest Seconded that £30,000 be ringfenced for the village hall extension project subject to further funding being in place. 3 votes in favour and 2 against. The vote was carried.

A further proposal re the amount the PC would put forward of £20k was Proposed by Cllr. Burrows.

Cllr. Dale agreed to write to the Village Hall Management Committee to inform them of the Parish Council's decision.

5. County and District Councillors reports:

Cllr. Walton- District Council Report.

Since we last met in September much of the month has been about the SWDP revision and the new housing plan for the three authorities, including Malvern, which takes us to 2041.

David and I last week attended a Members' Briefing on the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Preferred Options.

At the end of this month the full report will be put to the public for consultation.

Pre-submission is September 2020 – by which time everything has to have been said and it is looking to be adopted by 2021. We as a council vote on the preferred options at the end of this month.

You will have seen from a leaked report that the BBC have reported on that it's expected that Rushwick will be a key site and this has been confirmed to us now through the preferred options meeting and separate meetings both myself and David have had with planning officers. The proposal is 1,000 houses in Rushwick, to be built after the building of a train station and a larger school.

The meeting last week took us through the development strategy, strategic policies, other development management policies and allocations of land for housing and employment of the SWDP. None of this was different from last time although there was a real emphasis on the need for infrastructure to be sound before applications can progress. It is our belief that this is a real stumbling block for Rushwick given the situation with roads currently, the addition of 2,000 houses at Broadheath and then the proposed 1,000 at Rushwick - along with an increased number of vehicles heading to the area to use the new rail hub.

In light of this new plan in the last full council meeting I asked the following question:

Traffic around Worcester is awful. Traffic through Worcester is awful. Residents in the north of our district are being blocked in and whilst we have the widening of the road south of Worcester, that is only to alleviate the current traffic problems and doesn't appear it will deal with any more traffic created by further development in the area.

Do we believe, as a council, that further large-scale village extensions in the North of our district - beyond the already proposed large developments at Kempsey and Broadheath - can be given the green light without a Northern Link road around Worcester?

It is also worth noting that Lower Broadheath Parish Council have also offered their support to Rushwick Parish council over the proposal. They don't want to see further large-scale developments which will inevitably mean more traffic through Broadheath.

On the current SWDP plans, for Crown East and Broadheath, we are very close to having final drafts from the solicitors. I'm hoping we might complete by the end of this month. It will be good to get West of Worcester included in the housing land supply calculations

At this administration's first Overview and Scrutiny we discussed Apprentices at length and I'm now heading the start of a task and finish group, with people from all parties, to ensure we work closer with all schools to encourage

the use of apprentices and to work with local businesses to bring on board more apprentices. It's a great way of getting people of all ages into jobs whilst learning.

Our 5-year priorities plan has continued to come together and public consultation on this ended yesterday. The final plan will be published in the new year.

On Thursday I spent a full day visiting businesses in Great Malvern, Barnards Green, Malvern Link and Upton to learn more about their visions for the future for our retail centres. I visit Tenbury later in the week.

The picture is a difficult one with traditional retail, as we know, very much under threat. One interesting fact that came from it is with charity shops. One of the biggest tasks charity shops now carry out is recycling. A large proportion of donations are not fit for re-sell and so are re-cycled. Many people use them to dispose of things and they receive a lot of broken or damaged products which they can't re-sell.

On recycling we're in the process of organising a trip to the Envirosoft facility at Norton, for our Parish councillors – as requested at the last meeting, which I'll send more details on.

Finally, I've had a good month of visiting local events. In Cotheridge I did attend the excellent art and music festival but only managed to attend Sunday morning for a good talk about the history of the church and to see the art exhibition. I'm planning to keep my diary clearer next year for the weekend. I did however get feedback from a couple of people who attended far more and said what an excellent event it was.

Report received.

Cllr. Chambers MHDC Report.

Cllr. Chambers reiterated the update from Cllr Walton. He offered Broadwas Village Hall project £500 towards their village hall extension out of his budget for 2019/20 and a further £500 from his 2020/21 budget.

Cllr. Grove WCC Report.

Infrastructure

The Council is pleased to be supporting a campaign that has been launched to promote Worcestershire as a place to work and to set up a business. The campaign objective is to raise awareness of the benefits of living here in Worcestershire and the work/life balance that people can have in the county. The campaign which is being led by a partnership that includes the LEP, the Worcestershire Ambassadors and the NWEDR is showcasing a range of real-life case studies of people from across the county who are thriving in Worcestershire. For more information and to get involved go to www.oneworcestershire.com

Work is progressing on the fourth phase of the scheme to fully dual the Worcester Southern Link Road. The site offices and main compound have been established and foundation works are progressing well with three out of the five piers for the viaduct already constructed. The embankment that will support the new carriageway on the south side of Temeside Way is now constructed up to almost 1 metre in height and the drainage system is complete. The next phase of works requires some overnight road closures on Temeside Way and A38 at the start of October. For more details visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/slrlatestupdates

Children and Families

Worcestershire Children First is launching this week and with it a new way of delivering children's services in Worcestershire. The new company will be delivering services which include children's social care, education, early help and foster care on behalf of the Council.

A new Education and Skills strategy for the county has been approved. The strategy has been written with input from the newly formed Education and Skills Strategic Group. The Group includes headteachers from

Worcestershire's first/primary, middle, secondary and special schools, representatives from further education colleges, the University of Worcester, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Council.

Health and Wellbeing.

Our libraries from across the county will be partnering with Public Health during National Libraries Week (7 to 12 October) for a local campaign to encourage more people to talk and get support for their mental health. 'Now We're Talking' is a campaign run by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust and delivered through a series of pop up events in libraries countywide.

In the same week libraries will be showcasing their digital services as part of a national campaign to 'Celebrate Libraries in a Digital World'. Promotions will include e-books, e-magazines, adult learning digital skills courses. Digital champion drop-in sessions will also be run to provide customers with support using technology and accessing digital services.

Environment.

Local volunteers from Redditch came out in force last month to help add the finishing touches to the county's first Natural Networks project. The project has been headed up by North Worcestershire Water Management to prevent localised flooding. It received funding from the Natural Networks programme to improve an area of marshy woodland for local people to enjoy and promote wildlife.

The Council's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions have reduced by over 35% in comparison to levels recorded nine years ago. The Council has signed up to the Government's voluntary Emissions Reduction Pledge committing us to a minimum of 30% reduction in GHG emissions from 2009/10 levels by 2020/21. The Council is now working up a new plan to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 across its estate and operations.

Other News.

Five new Armed Forces Champions have been named in Worcestershire, with 2 more on the way. The Councillors from across Worcestershire have pledged to offer support and promote the needs of veterans in their areas. They will work with the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership to provide a perspective on services like housing that might be accessed by the armed forces community.

Cllr. Grove offered the Village Hall Committee £500 towards their village Hall extension project from his Divisional Fund and agreed to forward the necessary form to Cllr. Brooks to claim the funding.

Report received.

6. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on September 9th, 2019: These were considered and Cllr. Brooks Proposed that they be accepted as a true record. Seconded by Cllr. Burrows. All in favour They were duly signed and dated as a true record by the Chairman, Cllr. Dale.

7. Matters Arising: -

- A member of the public reported that the hedges next to the Post Box/Bus Stop on Main Rd Broadwas were overgrown. The Clerk reported this to the Lengthsman on the 10th September.
- Drone Flying on Berryfields- Cllr Dale discussed this with Broadwas Primary School with regards to child protection issues. Cllr. Dale ascertained the following: The school, and schools in general do not have a policy about drone flying; Mr Smith will raise the issue at the next 'Heads Cluster Meeting' which is next Tuesday; If nothing concrete comes from that meeting the Head Teacher will add a section to their Duty of Care policies and inform us.
- West Mercia Police have launched their 'On the Beat – South Worcestershire' newsletter. Cllr. Dale uploaded it onto the Parish Council website.
- Interactive roadworks link sent for information to the public and parish. Cllr. Dale uploaded onto the Parish Council website.

- West Mercia PNN- Community Engagement- asking for views on issues within the community and also requesting to discuss the initiatives they are currently promoting and how they might benefit Broadwas and Cotheridge. The email was requesting to meet up to discuss this in more detail. The Clerk responded to this asking if they would be interested in attending a Parish Council meeting to talk to the community with a brief question and answer session. Their Response was circulated stating that they are not interested in engaging through Parish Council meetings.
- Laybys near Laylocks- The Clerk to progress Litterbins in consultation with Cllr. Walton. Cllr. Walton provided details of the type of bins suitable for the layby and Cllr. Dale agreed to take this forward and decide which type of bin was most appropriate.
- Hedges near the 30mph signs/white gates on A44 overgrown. The Clerk contacted the Lengthsman to see if this can be cut back on the 10th September.
- **19/00887:** Elgar Coaches Lower Lightwood Lane Cotheridge –Clerk submitted the Objection Statement to the Planning Portal on behalf of the Parish Council on the 9th September.

8. Correspondence:

23rd September email- Complaint regarding litter and bad language at Berryfields football match. It was decided to ascertain the list of fixtures so that this could be monitored. *Action: The Clerk to request a list of forthcoming fixtures from Joe Grange.*

24th September email – Resident complaint regarding dog walkers using Berryfields. Noted. To be dealt with alongside other football match issues.

25th Sept email- Parish Conference for Parish Councils (17th October at County Hall). Cllr. Dales agreed to attend.

7th October – Further separate Complaint re footballers on Berryfields. Noted. To be dealt with alongside the other correspondence complaints above.

8th October- Car Parking warning signs outside school. Noted.

9. **WCC Highways-** Nothing to report

10. **Planning.** – Report from Cllr. Pearce

To date, there have been no fresh planning applications since the September meeting and MHDC have cleared a couple of historic applications so the list of outstanding applications below is now significantly reduced.

18/01282: Upper Howsen Farm Cotheridge – Proposed demolition of existing farm buildings and use of site for 8 caravans/log cabins. Response submitted on behalf of the Parish Council raising no objections subject to appropriate conditions regarding road access, landscaping, drainage etc and on assumption that the application is for log cabins and not caravans. No change.

16/00335 & 16/00353: Little Lightwood Farm Cotheridge –Two retrospective applications for retention of the earth bund and open storage. Both applications have been approved by MHDC. The consent for open storage is for caravans only so the PC may wish to monitor the actual use.

19/00957: Stone Farm Broadwas – Conversion of former barn to dwelling. Response submitted subsequent to July meeting indicating that the Parish Council has no objections to this application.

19/00887: Elgar Coaches Lower Lightwood Lane Cotheridge – Demolition of existing dutch barn and construction of new coach depot. Comments submitted to MHDC.

Moving on to the updating of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP), the next phase of consultations called the Preferred Options consultation starts on 04.11.2019 and runs for 6 weeks. I do not anticipate that it will

include any major development proposals within Broadwas or Cotheridge but it is likely that the consultation will contain proposals regarding the thorny issue of Village Classification which was recently referred to in an email to the Parish Clerk from one of the residents.

The background is that, under the existing SWDP, Broadwas is classified as a Category 2 settlement and Cotheridge as being part of Open Countryside. For a number of years, the Parish Council has taken the view that Broadwas has been wrongly categorized as the definition of a Category 2 Settlement specified that the settlement must have at least 2 key services **including** a village shop. Broadwas has three key services (Village Hall, School, and Public House) but no village shop.

That said, the Parish Council must accept some responsibility for the current scenario as the categorization was based upon information provided by Parish Councils in 2012. Therefore, either inaccurate information was provided or, if an error was made by MHDC, this was not spotted and rectified.

Last year, the District Councils within the area of the SWDP published an initial consultation on the proposed Methodology for classifying settlements. This included a proposal to remove the requirement for Category 2 Settlements to have a village shop as one of their key services.

As far as I am aware, the results of that initial consultation have not yet been widely publicised – but will be incorporated into the forthcoming consultation exercise. That said, I understand from David Harrison who is the MHDC Councillor representing MHDC on the Joint Advisory Panel coordinating the SWDP revision that the initial consultation went out to 200 villages but only 13 responses were received – including 3 from Broadwas. Therefore, given the undoubted outcry which will result from some of the other proposals in the forthcoming consultation, this issue is hardly likely to attract much excitement at a District Council level.

Put bluntly, whilst Broadwas has probably been discriminated against as a result of the error in the existing SWDP, the proposed amended method of classification will not disadvantage Broadwas when compared to other settlements. We can potentially continue to plead our case – possibly on the basis that there is no meaningful justification for changing the methodology – but I am not optimistic of a positive outcome.

Pending publication of the Preferred Options consultation next month, my comments above are speculative but, in the light of the recent email, I felt it appropriate to warn the Parish Council that we are likely to face a difficult battle to avoid Broadwas continuing to be classified as a Category 2 settlement.

11. **Defibrillator Checks:** Cllr. Burrows reported that a contact has been identified to resolve issues re on-line notification and support system – this matter is ongoing.

12. **Gigabyte/Fibre connection for Broadwas and Cotheridge project:**

Since the last report the following progress has been achieved

- Article in Footprints
- Launch of online survey*
- With support of Worcs CC we should have a complete list of premises in the parish to enable mail shot
- As a result of overlap with other parishes 42 addresses have been included in a quotation exercise, which means that WCC and BT can secure funding for Fibre to Premises connections – Cllr Burrows has agreed to act as named person so as to be able to proceed to final quote. Further information once known re progress will be reported.
- Various options and costs for a parish wide mail shot are being costed and explored for approval by the PC once known.

18 responses have been received from a variety of addresses across the parish, all expressing interest and support. It is clear that in certain parts of the parish Internet speeds and reliability are very poor, and even where they are good those responding would welcome faster speeds and improved reliability.

It remains important to identify and involve as many premises (Business and domestic) as possible, so as to work towards 100% coverage.

The meeting noted that a full list of business and domestic premises in the parish would be useful.

13. Berryfields. Update by Cllr. Brooks.

Further to my update at our last meeting I can report that as I envisaged there has been Zero response from Mr David Lane (!) which I take to mean he is not prepared to consider my/our request/proposal for any possible sale of his land adjoining Berryfield.

Whilst I have also approached Ms Ros Bemand regarding her land (which abuts the V/Hall on its North and East sides) I do not consider it appropriate to pursue this matter further with her until the Parish Council has considered and arrived at any form of possible usage/development of her said land. Interestingly, after having declined all previous requests over many years regarding possible sale of her land to the V/Hall (PC), Ms Bemand did say on this occasion that she would 'consider things'... she said this in response to my stating that our current approach was relating to several different possible community improvement projects being considered by the PC, which importantly would include possible improved and new facilities for Younger People in our Communities! I therefore do not propose to disturb her again until such plans have been discussed and agreed by the PC.

Cllr. Dale asked that this be put on hold for now.

14. Grand Plan.

Cllr. Dale referred to an email sent to Councillors by him that outlined proposed projects and funds for the forthcoming financial year as part of the 2020/21 Budget and Precept. The Clerk used this information to prepare a draft Budget and Precept. Cllr. Burrows was asked to clarify whether the Faster Broadband project would need any of the Parish Council's funds.

Consultation was discussed and ways that the Parish Council could engage with young people including engaging with local groups and the school. Cllr. Walton agreed to send on information he had on the local demographics.

There was a discussion about how we might bring together the various ideas, the implications for the budget and the precept and the need for further consultation. It was suggested and agreed that we should undertake further consultation with the aim of bringing to the next annual parish meeting a forward looking statement of priorities as we see them. Cllr Burrows agreed to draft and coordinate this.

Cllr. Dale asked the Clerk if there were any parishes that had undertaken similar exercise to consult with the community within the area. Cllr. Burrows agreed to put a piece together for the Clerk to send to Worcestershire CALC to ask other Clerks if they had undertaken a Grand Plan and/or review of Community Assets.

15. Gladwish Land Sales Site-

A report was presented to the District and Parish Councillors regarding excerpts from the Gladwish Land Sales Site in September. Cllr's Walton and Chambers agreed to take this back to MHDC. They reported that this was now being monitored.

16. Lower Teme and Martley FC 2019/20 Pitch Agreement.

A revised pitch agreement was discussed along with correspondence received from local residents. *Action: The Clerk was asked to contact Joe Grange to obtain a list of forthcoming fixtures so that the pitch and behaviour could be monitored. The Clerk was asked to include a further clause in the contract regarding breach of contract which will be added and forwarded for signing.*

17. Proposal for four pairs of 30mph road marking Roundels.

Cllr. Grove wrote to the Parish Council forwarding an email from WCC Highways outlining planned Roundels giving locations for their siting. Councillors asked whether the Roundel marked "2" had to be included in this siting or whether another location could be sought for this one. Cllr. Grove had agreed to contribute £800 for the installation of the Roundels. *Action: Clerk to write to WCC Highways to clarify Roundel 2.*

18. Progress Reports:

a) **Treasurer's Report:** copy circulated to Councillors and attached to these Minutes. All payments were Proposed by Cllr. Guest and Seconded by Cllr. Brooks to be approved. All in favour. See Appendix below. In addition to this as a late item it was requested that 2 new VAS batteries be purchased. Mr. K. Downes agreed to obtain price and report to the Clerk who would then place the order.

Cllr. Dale Proposed and Cllr. Brooks Seconded that this be approved.

A Bank Reconciliation to the 9/10/19 was circulated and approved at the meeting. Cllr. Guest Proposed that it be accepted as a true record. Seconded by Cllr. Brooks. All in favour.

b) Budget Review and Precept.

A revised Budget for 2019/20 and Proposed Budget for 2020/21 was prepared by the Clerk and presented to the Parish Council for discussion on setting the precept. A discussion took place as to whether or not to increase the precept. Cllr. Guest Proposed and Cllr. Brooks Seconded that a 4% Precept increase be requested from MHDC. This would take the Precept from £20,000 to £20,800. 3 in favour and 2 abstained. The vote was carried to request a 4% increase in Precept from MHDC.

c) Clerk's Report.

The Clerk dealt with the Broad Green payments and finishing off works to RJC.

Progressed all Matters Arising.

Clerk prepared a draft budget for discussion for the October meeting to assist with Precept discussion.

d) RJC Report to 14th October.

Berryfields: No new matters to report. Inspected by Richard Cole 30-9-19

BROAD GREEN No new matters to report Broad Green. Inspected by Richard Cole 30-9-19

19. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda: Cllr. Burrows requested that an item on Road Safety and Speed Initiatives be added to the next agenda.

20. Date of next meeting: November 11th, 2019 at Broadwas Village Hall at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 9:45pm

Signed Chairman..... date.....

18A. Treasurer's Report.

Payee	Description	TOTAL
C Hirst	Clerk Salary Sept 19	£ 311.16
HMRC	Tax Deductions Sept 19	£ 77.80
RJC Landscaping	Sept	£ 184.75
RJC Landscaping	Inspections and bus shelters	£ 50.00
RJC Landscaping	Strimming Broadgreen	£ 111.00
C Hirst	Clerk Expenses to 14th Oct	£ 31.29
Adrian Bullock	Lengthsman Sept	
Worcestershire CALC	Training	£ 30.00
Wyre Piddle PC	Magenta shared ink	£ 10.82
TOTALS		806.82

Cash at Bank at 9th Oct 2019

Treasurers Account	£ 23,668.60
Treasurer's Account Berryfields	£ 10,267.42
N.S. & I	£ 38,867.43
TOTAL	£ 72,803.45

Receipts:

MHDC Precept 2	£ 10,000.00
WCC Lengthsman Scheme	£ 240.00

Total Receipts not
previously reported **£ 10,240.00**