

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

Held on Monday March 14th, 2022, at 7.30pm at Broadwas Village Hall

Present: Cllr. Burrows (Chair), Cllr. Cullen, Cllr. Usman, Cllr. Clark + 1 vacancies. **Cllr. Guest arrived at 8.20pm at item 9 e and f with prior agreement of the Chair.**

In Attendance: 3 Members of the public. Cllr. Daniel Walton MHDC, Carole Hirst - Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Cllr. Pearce, Cllr. Longley, Cllr. Guest- (Cllr Guest attended part of the meeting), Cllr. J. Worrall, MHDC Cllr. David Chambers.
Absent: Cllr Richardson-Brown (WCC)
2. **Declarations of personal or prejudicial interest and update Register of Interest Forms.** Noted.
 - a) **Register of Interests:** Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests. **Noted.**
 - b) Councillors were asked to declare any **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests** in items on the agenda and their nature. **None.**
 - c) Councillors were asked to declare any **Other Disclosable Interests** in items on the agenda and their nature. Noted.
3. **To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) – written requests to be with the Clerk at least 4 days in advance.** None received.
4. **Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th February 2022.**
Cllr. Usman Proposed and Cllr. Clark Seconded that these were a true record. All in favour.

A Parishioner requested some additional clarification be added to the minutes which is noted below.

1. Was issue of planning notices. For the neighbouring property only the Parishioner themselves out of four properties were notified. The others have all been affected.

2. Putting a notice on a fence, a 60mph Road with no footpath The Parishioner questioned the safety of that.

Cllr Burrows advised that normal minutes of Public Question time were limited to a record of the question and the answer, but on this occasion given the high profile of a planning application an exception had been made.

5. **Resignation of Cllr. Robert Pearce as Parish Councillor from 31st March.** Cllr. Burrows gave thanks to Cllr. Pearce for his tremendous work as a Parish Councillor over the years. Cllr Pearce wished it to be recorded that there was no single issue that had led to his decision and that he felt he needed a break. He remained available to offer advice in respect of planning matters if this was helpful. A number of those present expressed their sadness. The Clerk advised that a Notice had been sent to MHDC of the vacancy so that the statutory notice can be placed for the Broadwas Parish Councillor vacancy for the 1st April 2022. Once notified by MHDC whether it would be necessary to call an election, if an election was not necessary the Parish Council would advertise to co-opt onto the Parish Council if that was the route chosen by the electorate.

6. County and District Councillors reports:

Cllr. Richardson-Brown; WCC Report.

None received.

Cllr. Walton- District Council Report.

For this month's report I just wanted to pull out a few things which have been useful over the last month.

The first is also covered in Vic's roundup:

We are providing funding to community projects which aim to make a greener and more sustainable district.

The Destination Zero Community Fund is a dedicated funding pot available through the crowdfunding platform, Spacehive, to support local, community-led projects that help to reduce carbon emissions.

The £100,000 fund, which is aimed at community groups, charities, local councils, schools and individuals to help bring forward projects that would have a wider community benefit.

We are interested in projects that contribute towards the aims of the Destination Zero plan, focusing on reducing carbon emissions, tackling climate change, and enhancing biodiversity and habitats.

Projects with the following outcomes are being encouraged:

- Improved energy efficiency of homes through community action
- Increased low carbon travel for community benefit
- Community campaigns that support reduce, reuse, and recycle initiatives
- Natural measures to capture and store carbon (e.g., tree planting, pollinator sites, wetlands, wildflower meadows)

Examples of projects could be a community garden, e-bike hire schemes, community repair café, swap shop events, local renewable energy schemes, but there are many more possibilities.

We will review all project campaigns and successful projects can expect to receive a pledge of up to £10,000 (max. 50% of the campaign target).

The size of the pledge will depend on the size of the project, how it delivers against fund criteria and Destination Zero objectives, the impact it will have, and the buy-in from the community.

I think there is an opportunity here for the ward to look at potential projects that we can help support.

I also chaired a Transport Summit last month to look at how the various organisations offering both public transport and community transport can be brought together to create a more joined up transport network in the district. There was representation from County there as well. One of the biggest takeaways for me was the potential use of Apps and technology where users can request transport or indicate when they require transport allowing the various organisations to build up a picture of what is needed and then supply as best is possible. This will allow groups to create regular routes which will be used and at times they will be utilised. For car hire organisations and community transport this will be invaluable to support communities. Certainly, all organisations working together is the way forward and there will be more on this.

We are about to launch our first 'Village Office' - a co-working space based in Lindridge village hall. This format, if it works in Lindridge, – will be rolled out to other village halls as an offer with support from the District Council and Community Action.

With so many people still working from home or having set up new businesses we have lots of individual workers in our villages, so these spaces allow people to come together and co-work.

At full council we presented the council tax and budget for 2022/23. It was voted for that council tax would be see a £5 increase (at band D equivalent).

A vote was also taken on a response to the Local Boundary Commission recommendation. The four responses were:

That Councillors are surprised and disappointed that a visit to the area by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was not conducted in line with the Commission's guidance prior to the draft recommendations being published and hope that a visit can be made prior to final recommendations being made.

That the proposal for the Martley and Teme Valley 2-member ward would create a ward that would be too large, including unrelated communities, and 2 single member wards is preferred.

That the proposals for Tenbury and Lindridge wards are supported.

That there is no support for splitting parish councils across wards unless absolutely essential and with good justification.

I abstained on the vote as I've already put forward my thoughts and believe that the four suggestions alone didn't cover the Council's full view on the recommendation.

In regard to ongoing planning issues:

Gladwish - the note has been sent to Gladwish and to owners that are known. We've asked for to display the notice on their website and to share with prospective purchasers, but this is down to them.

In regard to The Track Aaron has met with the landowner's son who is dealing with matters present.

Prosecution is likely if those on the land without permission are not removed urgently.

Cllr. Burrows asked on MHDC Ukraine situation. Cllr. Walton reported that the government had launched a website and that he would keep us informed as MHDC progressed.

7. Matters Arising not covered on the agenda:

- a) Parish Council Vacancies-** most recent **vacancy** has been advertised - there is currently 1 Parish Councillor co-option vacancy that is open for expressions of interest. It is understood there is some interest in the footpath warden vacancy and this interest has been directed to the WCC manager who makes appointments. The Lengthsman vacancy has been advertised on social media, on Worcestershire CALC newsletter and on PC website and noticeboards. Deadline for Lengthsman applications is 26th March 12 noon.
- b) Update on discussions with Royal Mail on Post Box next to Bus Shelter.** The Chair contacted Cllr Scott Richardson Brown as WCC Highways kindly agreed to take an interest in this matter, to establish given the submission of a pre planning application where the proposed new site for the replacement box was, the rationale for this and any further information as to progress. As yet there has been no response from WCC. It was noted that this remained a highly unsatisfactory situation.
- c) Update re Track, Gladwish Field,**

Gladwish - the note has been sent to Gladwish and to owners that are known. We've asked for to display the notice on their website and to share with prospective purchasers, but this is down to them. It does feel like people are being mis-sold land here.

The Track (this is from MHDC officer responsible directly following his meeting):

"In relation to The Track I met with the landowner's son who is dealing with matters at present. As I have said previously the site is in a better condition than I have seen it, particularly the bank where a lot of the material that was falling down has been removed. That said however the notice is clearly still not being complied with. They explained that the current occupiers are there without their permission and would like them removed, I stated the urgency of this in light of the fact they are responsible as landowners and could potentially be prosecuted for failing to comply with the notice. As such they agreed to undertake steps to explore what civil action may be necessary to achieve this. I will liaise with them closely regarding this over the next couple of weeks and update on any progress." Cllr. Burrows asked for an indication of timescales which Cllr. Walton agreed to pursue.

d) Boundary Commission review - The Parish Council agreed that Cllr. Burrows respond on behalf of the Parish Council.

8. Correspondence –

- 17/2/22- West Mercia Police- South Worcestershire Rural Beat Newsletter.
- WCC/MHDC regarding funding for Platinum Jubilee

9. Finance:

a) Treasurers Report (Payments and Receipts up to 14th March 2022)

March 14th, 2022, Payments List

Payee	Description	TOTAL
Broadwas Village Hall	Hall Hire Feb	30.00
C Hirst	Clerk Salary Feb 22	£351.92
HMRC	Tax Deductions Feb 22	£88.00
PKR Planning	Consultancy for planning application	£1,255.80
E Dale	Website expenses	£123.35
Wyre Piddle PC -	Shared Stationery	£10.57
Wyre Piddle PC -	Shared Stationery	£6.33
C Hirst	Expenses to March 14th 22	£39.75
TOTALS		£1,875.72

Total Cash at Bank on March 2nd 22		
Treasurers Account		42,958.27
Treasurer's Account Berryfields		£10,267.42
	TOTAL	£53,225.69
<u>Receipts:</u>		

	Total Receipts not previously reported	£0.00

Cllr. Cullen Proposed and Cllr. Usman Seconded that the above payments be approved. All in favour.

- b) Bank Reconciliation as of 4th March 2022.** The bank reconciliation was reviewed by Cllr. Guest and agreed as reconciled. **Noted.**
- c) Budget update Report on 4th March 2022.** The Chair asked those present whether they had any questions. There were no questions. **Noted.**
- d) Lengthsman Contract tender exercise.** The Lengthsman vacancy has been advertised on social media, on Worcestershire CALC newsletter and on PC website and noticeboards. Deadline for Lengthsman applications is 26th March 12 noon. If appointed the new Lengthsman contract will commence on 18th April 2022 and run until 31st March 2023. The contract could be renewed subject to confirmation from WCC of continuation of funding for 2023/24.
- e) Quotes for Berryfields equipment update/maintenance re 2021 ROSPA report**
Cllr. Guest recommended that the Clerk be given delegated powers to approve the urgent work for general playground items once the quote had been received. **Cllr. Guest Proposed and Cllr. Usman Seconded that once the quote has been received as long as the figure of £324 or thereabouts is quoted that this be approved. All in favour. Should the quote be more than £324 then the Clerk be given delegated powers to authorize this if the cost was reasonable. All in favour.**

Item 2 – Slide and Swing refurbish – (estimate £2592 including VAT). Awaiting fixed quotation. Once received this item be referred to the next Parish Council meeting for approval and identification of funding

Item 3 Goal Post Refurbishment – (estimate £432.00 including VAT). Awaiting fixed quotation. Councillors considered this to be of a lower priority and would be referred to the next Parish Council for a decision.

Cllr. Clark asked if the quotes and advice re the matting work could be moved forward too. Cllr. Burrows agreed to explore this.

- f) Broad Green Signage –** to prevent vehicles damaging the edges of kerbs or driving onto Broad Green and to identify that the site of Specific Scientific Interest. Cllr. Clark spoke of the possibility of 3 signs to discourage parking across Broad Green. Cllr. Clark to look at draft wording for signage and bring it back to the next Parish Council meeting.
- g) National Association of Local Councils (nalc) 2021/22 National Pay Awards to note the 2021/22**
National increase. Nalc National Pay Award for 2021/22 was circulated to all Councillors and the backpay applies backdated to April 1st, 2021. **Noted.**

10. Planning Report – Cllr. Pearce.

21/02321: Land at A44 Broadwas – Change of use for siting of 4 travellers caravans etc. Comments submitted to MHDC. No date yet for this to be decided.

21/01000: Ridgeacre Farm Broad Green Broadwas – Development of Live/Work unit. Appeal submitted by applicant following refusal of application by MHDC. The Parish Council has reiterated to the Inspector its concerns regarding this application.

20/01303: Tack Farm Broadwas – Erection of stables, kennels, barn, tourist accommodation plus relocation of dwelling and creation of lake. A range of concerns raised by Councillors and by members of the public. Response submitted to MHDC. The Parish Council agreed to write to the Planning Officer reiterating its concerns regarding the vehicular access in the light of the Planning Inspector's decision on Application No 19/01832. MHDC being chased for update.

22/00222: Field Ridge Bromyard Road Cotheridge – Erection of 5 commercial units. New application. This site fronts the A44 opposite Laylocks Nurseries and to the East of A R Sneddon & Sons premises. It was decided

that all Councillors look at the application and send comments back to Cllr. Pearce. Cllr. Burrows to talk to Cllr. Pearce about various considerations.

22/00242: Redgables Court Lane Cotheridge – Application for non-material alterations to consent obtained on appeal. The alterations relate to glazing and external finishes. The Parish Council is not a statutory consultee but can nevertheless make comments to MHDC if it so wishes. Cllr. Burrows to discuss with Cllr. Pearce but it appears there are no comments.

21/02270: Far View Lightwood Lane Cotheridge – Single storey front extension and rear balcony. New application. The Parish Council submitted a “No comments” response. Approved by MHDC.

21/02018: Little Acres Cotheridge – Demolition of garage block and construction of single storey extension. The Parish Council considered this application to be beneficial and agreed to support it. Approved by MHDC

21/01512: Upper Howsen Farm Cotheridge – Change of use of existing agricultural building to a single dwelling in lieu of existing consent for Class C1 visitor accommodation. The Parish Council has submitted a response objecting to the application as it is contrary to SWDP Policy 2 being in open countryside and not in a sustainable location.

19/00532: 1 Cotheridge Court Cotheridge – Conversion of outbuildings into ancillary living accommodation. The Parish Council has supported this application.

Revision to SWDP No further progress regarding the classification of Broadwas as a Category 2 Settlement. Consultation period for final draft of the SWDP Revision due to commence in July 2022 but the documentation may be in public domain by end of May 2022. No further news.

11. Community Fibre Partnership Gigabyte/ Full Fibre Connection for Broadwas and Cotheridge project –
Contacts have been made with the Project team WCC and Openreach to ascertain position and progress

Openreach have experienced some small delays to the Cotheridge/Church Lane and Little Green schemes. Parishioners may have received e mails from the DCMS advising them that their vouchers* are due to expire. (* the voucher allows the funding from central government to be drawn down by Openreach to finance the scheme).

At our request Openreach clarified the position as follows

Openreach are currently working with DCMS with the aim of extending the validity dates for vouchers secured for your Fibre Community Partnership scheme that are due to expire shortly. This is an ongoing discussion. In the interim, DCMS have informed us that they are unable to stop the expiry comms going out directly to beneficiaries this week, which is likely to impact your community. This will most probably happen around the 3rd of March for those applicants whose vouchers expire by 31 March 2022. There is no need to take any immediate action in relation to this, we are working closely to address this position and will update you at the earliest opportunity on any remedial steps required if any.

The new projected completion/go live dates are now as follows:

Cotheridge/Church Lane. - June 2022.

Little Green - July 2022.

The Broadwas scheme quote is being updated in anticipation that the internal Openreach review will be completed soon, which means that this scheme can be restarted.

12. Parish Council website - update on progress.

Cllr Clark has kindly agreed to liaise with Parish Council Websites in order to finalise and launch the site hopefully by May 22.

13. Regular Parish Council Reports

a. Berryfields - usage of football pitches – No bookings for pitches made –

b. Berryfields - update on options for improvement of amenities Report (Cllr Cullen)

A comprehensive report was circulated by Cllr. Cullen into looking at ways of improving the local facilities for physical activity.

Parish Councillors will recall the agreement they reached to look at ways of improving this facility within the terms set out in the covenant that governs how the facility is used.

The attached papers provide some background information.

Cllr Cullen has undertaken some initial research and consultation, and Cllr Burrows has met with representatives from the MHDC Connected Communities team. This team can provide further advice and support in regard to necessary permissions that may be needed, funding options and sources, in order to develop a more detailed plan.

It is therefore proposed that the Parish Council agree that further work is undertaken to identify a more detailed plan which would include funding options. Cllr. Clark Proposed and Cllr. Guest Seconded that this be approved. All in favour.

- c. Correspondence from Parishioner requesting update removed/resited of Container on Berryfields
- d. Broad Green - Update re damage and Parish Council response Cllr Clark ask PC to agree further work to establish cost and type of proposed signage, on the basis of concerns expressed by a number of parishioners in respect of misuse of the area and in terms of our responsibilities re the SSI site

14. Report back from meeting between Connected Communities (MHDC), Broadwas Sports Association and the Parish Council 10.3.22

positive meeting was held with 3 officers from MHDC responsible for Connected Communities and representatives from Broadwas Sports Association and the Parish Council. As a result, all concerned were clearer about the approach and the details. From a Parish Council perspective, it is clear that the Connected Communities approach and the priorities overlap with the priorities and approach adopted by the PC. It was agreed to liaise with one of the team when planning both the Dementia initiative and the next consultation/meet you neighbour, and to further explore other developments that may be helpful to the parish. It was also agreed that should the PC agree to progress the improvement of Berryfields amenities that a member of the team would be willing to offer assistance and advice.

15. Parish Plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (2nd to 5th June 2022).

Broadwas Village Hall and School are working together on plans. A meeting is taking place on 15th March to bring plans together. The Parish Council is prepared to offer morale support **and could look at any other ways it could help**

16. Any Other Business –

None

Date of next meeting:

Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Monday 11th April 2022 at 7.30pm

Cllr Burrows advised that the June meeting would now be on the 6th of June and that it was intended to hold the July meeting at St Leonards Church, Cotheridge

The Annual Parish meeting and AGM of the Parish Council will be held at Broadwas Village Hall on Monday 9th May 2022

The Meeting closed at 21:03pm

Signed Chairman..... Date 11th April 2022

APPENDIX 1 - PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Post box. Very disappointed not resolved. If it isn't sorted soon the Parishioner will take some action. Parish Council continue to raise their concerns and members of the public are reminded that they can utilise both Royal Mail and WCC complaints procedures

Footprints. Parish Council meetings are not listed in Events. It was agreed the Clerk would rectify this

Motorbikes- noise and speeding. Several suggestions made two years ago. What is happening? - Cllr Burrows advised there were ongoing discussions and now that Covid was less of a risk it was intended to convene a parish site meeting of involved and responsible agencies

Gladwish Field. Police and Harriet Baldwin contacted by several people in 2020 during lockdown when tent on site for several weeks, so MP is aware. This was noted