

Broadwoodkelly Parish Council

Minutes of the Broadwoodkelly Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 23rd January 2024 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Present: Councillors R. Heggadon (Chairman), R. Gant, Mrs B. Cook, D. Reed, A. Hawkey, D Mendus-Edwards and Mrs S. Walters

There was one member of the public present.

1. To receive apologies for absence and consider if the reason for the absence should be approved by the council.

Borough Councillor Mike Casbolt has sent his apologies as he is away.

2. Declaration of Interest from Members:

Councillors are reminded to declare any personal or prejudicial interest they may have in any agenda items.

2.1 The parish council has delegated the power of granting dispensations to the clerk

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).

2.3 To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

There were no declarations of interest and no requests for a dispensation.

3. To receive and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th November 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs B.Cook that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

This was seconded by Councillor Mrs S. Walters. The chairman signed the minutes.

4. Public Participation

The member of the public stated he has awful broadband. He has recently spoken to someone at BT, who informed him it will be late 2025 before any fibre comes to the rest of Broadwoodkelly. As BT shut off the landlines some people will have no communication at all. Five of the green boxes in the area are fitted with fibre.

5. Report by Borough Councillor

Not present.

6. Past Subject Matters for further discussion:

a. [6.a] Parish Website – there are no updates this time.

b. [4] Update on village hall events/improvements – Councillor Mendus-Edwards presented a report. At the last meeting Andy Buckerfield (Village Hall Vice Chair) announced that five grant applications had been made. These have all been successful. A grand total of £28,837 has been received. Some of the grants are to encourage the community to be involved with the village hall and the warm hub it creates. He thanked Robin, the previous Village Hall chairman for leaving the village hall finances in a sound state. All the funds have been earmarked and £24,527.87 has already been paid out. There is new lighting, the work on the toilets has been completed, a dishwasher has been installed, new flooring laid and the windows have been painted. The hall now has an enlarged mountable stage with curtains. The recent pantomime saw this well used. The funds raised from the pantomime (£1145.80) are to shared by the Village Hall and the Church.

c. [6.c] Areas of highways requiring work to utilise TAP fund money

i. Contractor details – the clerk reminded the council that she does have the details of a contractor if they wish to proceed with some highway work. Potholes continue to be reported and those that meet the criteria are being filled in.

ii. Twenty's Plenty – Devon County Council had sent through information regarding window stickers and banners. It was felt the window stickers

would not be suitable and the banner would look inappropriate and motorists would still speed. It was suggested that councillors bring some ideas/designs to the next meeting.

- iii. Broadwoodkelly Village Signs – the signs have been inspected by Devon County Council and as they have both lost their reflective coating they will be replaced by DCC.
- d. [6.f] Broadband – already covered.
- e. [6.g] Neighbourhood Plan meeting – Councillor Mrs S. Walters has been monitoring the planning situation and prior to the meeting proposed that the Neighbourhood Plan be put on hold for the moment because of the uncertainty surrounding planning at the moment. She will, however, provide the council with regular updates. This proposal had been unanimously seconded and approved.
- f. [6.f] Dog Fouling – the clerk hasn't been able to find a contact for the dog warden. Councillor Reed stated Jon Clark had the telephone number. He will ask him and let the clerk know.
- g. [7.a] Snow Warden – no work was undertaken with the recent cold weather. This item will be removed from the agenda.

7. Clerk's report and correspondence received:

The following correspondence is contained within the Councillors folder:

- a. Devon County Council – Public Path Diversion (Footpath No 4) Redhayes, Broadwoodkelly.
- b. Devon County Council – Community Self-Delivery of Highway Improvements trial. A member of the public has suggested shaving off the corner on the road between Four Ways Cross and Barn Town Cross and adding hardcore to make up the verge. The clerk suggested waiting until the full details of the scheme are published.
- c. Notification of Road Closure – Road from Park Farm to Shoresgate Cross. South West Water are carrying out utility works outside The Laurels on 6th and 7th March 2024.
- d. *Okehampton District Community Transport Group has sent thanks for the parish council's donation.*
- e. *Clerks and Councils Direct*
- f. *Glasdon*

8. Planning:

No planning items at time of preparing agenda.

9. Finance

- a. Invoice from clerk for wages/expenses - £212.39
Councillor Mrs B. Cook proposed that this invoice be paid. This was seconded by Councillor Reed. A cheque was signed.
- b. D.A.L.C. – overlooked Invoice for training from 2019 - £36.00
The clerk stated she has checked the accounts and a number of training events were attended by Councillors, but this one was not paid for back at the time. Councillor Mrs B Cook proposed that the invoice be paid. This was seconded by Councillor Hawkey. A cheque was signed.
- c. D.A.L.C – Increase in Subscription Fees
The parish council has been notified of an increase in the subscription fee. In 2023/24 the amount was £75.01 (+ VAT) and in the next financial year 2024/25 it is proposed to increase it to £102 (+VAT). This is subject to change as it depends on the updated electorate figures, which are collected in the spring.
- d. Interest on Business Reserve Account (Nov/Dec) - £16.10

e. Set the precept for 2024/25

The clerk stated that in 2023/24 the precept was £2721 (kept at the same amount as 2022/23). In 2021/22 it was £2864. She has had a look at the expenses for next year and they are going to be in the region of £4124. This includes the cost of the election (£822.32) and the increase in DALC subscription. If the precept was kept at the same amount, then the reserves would be reduced by approximately £1400. It is understood that the village hall committee would appreciate the insurance being paid again, but other than that it has been stated that they aim to be self-funding and would not require any extra funds from the parish council.

The precept was discussed and it was unanimously agreed to keep the precept the same at £2721. The clerk will submit the form.

f. Online banking – the village hall committee have online banking and it does rely on facial recognition for security. The clerk will give it some thought – it would be useful to have online banking, but the parish council doesn't have a large number of payments to make.

g. Balance at Bank – as at 28 December 2023 the balance in the Current account was £8417.31 (this does not include the cheques signed this evening). As at 29 December the balance in the Business Reserve Account was £6883.47.

10. Matters for further reporting:

There were none.

11. Confidential discussion:

16.1 Enforcement cases – there are currently none.

12. Date of next meeting:

March 26th 2024

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.