

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 2022
AT THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD, BROUGHTON ASTLEY**

PRESENT: Councillors G Brown, R Capewell, R Davis, C Golding, C Grafton-Reed, M Graves, S Oliver, R Patrick, P Shipman, M Swinfen and A Teague-Concannon

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Clerk, County Councillor N Bannister, and District Council P Dann

CLERK: Mrs D Barber

APOLOGIES: Councillors D Glenis, R Gahan, G Mallaghan, Mrs M Stell and J Worrell
District Councillor W Liquorish

APOLOGIES NOT RECEIVED:

3301/08/2022 **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Glenis, Gahan, Mallaghan, Mrs Stell and Worrell.

3302/08/2022 **2. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Golding declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17 on the agenda as a tenant on the allotments.

3. PARISH COUNCIL MINIUTES

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 21 July 2022 were presented to the Members. Two additional items were requested to be added to PC 3287/07/22 on the minutes from the Administration and Finance Committee meeting. The minutes were then accepted by a unanimous show of hands.

3303/08/2022 **RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 July 2022 are accepted as a true record with two additional items to be included.**

3304/08/2022 **4. PARISH COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS**

The report of progress in completing Parish Council resolutions was presented and accepted by the Members.

3305/08/2022 **5. CHAIRS TIME**

Parkwood Leisure

You have a copy of the latest report provided by Parkwood Leisure in front of you which contains the latest centre information from the Contract Manager, Scott Marshall. It will provide you with details of the centres use, staff changes, etc. Please take time to read it.

Leisure Centre Site

I informed you at the last Parish Council meeting of the discovery of Ragwort on the leisure centre site. The Parish Office report that the programme of spraying it with a herbicide is now complete and there is evidence of it dying back. Now the ground staff are aware of its presence, they will eradicate the ragwort as soon as it becomes evident in the future.

Road Closures

Broughton Astley is set to have 23 roads disrupted over 10 days at the end of August for carriageway preservation. Notification has been received that from 22 August until 26 August various roads will be affected by these works. The Parish Manager will send a list of dates and the roads where work will be taking place which will also be displayed on the council's website.

Clothing Bank

Since taking delivery of the Air Ambulance clothing bank, we have already had to arrange for it to be emptied due to its popularity.

Broughton Way Planning Application

I have been informed that archaeological investigations are being carried in a piece of land that forms part of the area of separation between Broughton Way and Sutton in the Elms. Despite the objections raised by the Parish Council they are still continuing with development plans.

3306/08/2022 **6. PUBLIC FORUM**

No members of the public were present.

3307/08/2022 **7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

There were no reports from outside bodies

3308/08/2022 **8. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Councillor Bannister – County Councillor

1. New metal gates for the pathway at Fallow Close and Burnside Road have now been obtained and I have been told will be installed by the end of the month.

2. Footpath Jubilee Road/ Village Centre. I have received confirmation the path has now been inspected and found to need repair. The work has now been allocated to the “Southern Patching Gang” but no exact date for the works have been given. My thanks to Cllrs Josh Worrall and Gerald Brown for bringing this matter to my attention.
3. The latest on the s.106 provision for replacement bus shelter at Croft Way - County are aware of latest submissions from BAPC and me but are not yet able to respond as discussions at County are continuing. I am told there will be a substantive response by the end of the month.
4. Grant funding available – Just a reminder of the Safety Fund announced by the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner allowing for grants of up to £10,000 available for community-based crime prevention and diversion projects. The Parish or BAVG may be interested in exploring this for the village.
5. Road Closures - Notice has been given of road closures by LCC locally – Coventry Road will have a prohibition of through traffic on a date from the 22 August 2022 for highway maintenance works and on Frolesworth Road on the 3 October for up to 4 days and again on the 17 October 2022 for up to 5 days to allow O2 to undertake telecom pole installation and related civils work.
6. On a more general County wide issue I have received an update on the challenges facing the County relating to the migrant and immigration schemes in operation. The county is experiencing an overall build-up of pressure across the system linked to what is described as a “complex jigsaw” of migration and asylum schemes in operation, the numbers of migrants needing to be accommodated across the various schemes, funding challenges and supply issues in the private rented housing sector; The general asylum dispersal scheme does not provide any identified funding for County Council services including social care, children’s services, SEND, home to school transport, ESOL and schools; Across the various schemes the actual costs to the County Council, other local authorities and the NHS are under-estimated by Government; The opportunity to influence Home Office policy and operational practice is limited making it difficult to prepare for and manage demand on already stretched services.

Councillor Shipman made observations regarding increased vandalism in the parish. Councillor Bannister responded that there is not enough youth provision and maybe the Parish Council or the BAVG would like to consider looking into applying for grant funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) office.

Councillor Graves requested that Councillor Bannister feeds back to the PCC regarding the lack of policing within the area.

Councillor Bannister then informed the Parish Council that the Payback Team are available for tasks around the village. A list of tasks can be given to the Team to consider. Councillor Swinfen requested that the Payback Team be used to clear the public right of way at the rear of the George and Dragon public house. Councillor Bannister suggested that he may like to email the Parish Manager with this request to coordinate with the Payback Team.

Councillors Dann and Golding – District Councillors

No report is being provided as we are experiencing very quiet months with not much in the way of decisions from the district.

The only feedback needed is to Councillor Patrick who raised the issue of collections of green bins from properties who have not subscribed to the service. This has been escalated and the issue should now be resolved.

Councillor Oliver raised an issue with a hedge that had been cut on Byre Crescent and that the branches etc had just been left on the highways

Councillor Davis raised an issue that there is not a 'No Entry' signpost on the exit to the car park to the new shops on Devitt Way, it only appears on the road surface.

Councillor Graves agreed to deal with both matters.

Councillor Graves – District Councillor

CROWFOOT WAY

I have received a further, excoriating email from a resident on Crowfoot Way complaining about multiple failures of Lagan Homes in finishing off the new housing estate. However, the issue is now in the hands of the County Council as the District Council has firmly stated that it is a LCC Highways matter, and NOT related to District Planning Enforcement. I hope Councillor Bannister can demonstrate some progress from the County Council in making sure the developer Lagan Homes sorts out the last remaining issues.

LEISURE CENTRE / MARKET HARBOROUGH E5 million spend

For the rest of my report, I will focus on the issue of the Broughton Astley Leisure Centre, and also the documented, and budgeted, E5million investment allocation for the Market Harborough Leisure Centre in District Council minutes.

Can I state for the record that my ONLY desire on this subject is to achieve the BEST RESULT FOR BROUGHTON ASTLEY RESIDENTS.

But this requires ALL FOUR DISTRICT COUNCILORS TO STAND UP FOR THE VILLAGE THEY LIVE IN AND REPRESENT.

It requires the Conservatives to PUT LOCAL RESIDENTS BEFORE THE WISHES OF THEIR COUNCILLOR COLLEAGUES IN MARKET HARBOROUGH.

I believe very strongly that Broughton Astley has always deserved to have a Leisure Centre, and you cannot tell our residents that we didn't really deserve to have a publicly funded Leisure Centre.

The fact that Harborough District Council Conservatives REFUSED TO SUPPORT A LEISURE CENTRE in our village with any District funding is the issue that led me to have repeated arguments with the Conservative Leadership up until 2017 including Cllr Bannister, and I failed to convince the Conservatives to support Broughton Astley residents.

District Councillors Dann, Golding, Liquorish and also Cllr Bannister have repeatedly voted FOR Harborough District

Council to allocate around E5million of District taxpayers' money, on a major refurbishment of Market Harborough Leisure Centre. The Conservative Councillors have repeatedly voted for this sum to be in the budget at Harborough District Council. It remains there to this day.

In fact, some time ago Councillors Dann, Golding, Liquorish and Cllr Bannister actually voted for up to E20million to be allocated from District Funds to the Market Harborough Leisure Centre. However, in the past year or two the sum has been reduced to E5million.

This clearly, and obviously, means that Broughton Astley taxpayers are expected to be contributing to the Market Harborough Leisure Centre, E5million major refurbishment. Because that is what the last budget, passed by the Conservative Councillors, says.

I am basing my comments on the multiple votes that have taken place in recent years, and the stated source of funds within the District Council Capital Budget. In no budget report has any external funding source been explained or identified to help reduce the E5million allocation from District Council Funds.

It now appears that Councillors Dann, Golding, and Liquorish, have changed their tune, and are now claiming that — and I quote — "The cost of refurbishing both Market Harborough and Lutterworth Leisure centres...is expected to be recovered...from the [leisure] contractors".

This is very welcome news, and if HDC achieves this result, it will be a vindication of my own assertions dating back to 2014 when I pleaded with the then Leader at Harborough District Council, NOT to use Broughton Astley taxpayers Council tax to subsidise the planned, brand new Market Harborough Leisure Centre whilst failing to give any support to the Broughton Astley Leisure Centre. Such a use of funds is what is known as "Double Taxation" because Broughton Astley residents pay for their own Leisure Centre through the till and also through s106 community funding, whilst AT THE SAME TIME we are subsidising the Market Harborough Leisure refurbishment from our Council Tax.

However, you must understand that Councillors Dann, Golding, and Liquorish have only stated their "expectation" of not needing money from our village residents.

What is undeniable is that Councillors Dann, Golding, Liquorish and also Cllr Bannister have repeatedly voted to add the E5million into the District Budget using all District taxpayers' funds.

CONSERVATIVES FAIL TO SUPPORT PARISH COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Something astonishing has happened.

Something monumental has happened.

All three Conservative Councillors in Broughton Astley have failed to give their support to a straightforward Parish Council resolution which was only made on behalf of residents.

I have already said I will GLADLY support the Parish Council resolution.

The resolution strongly supports local residents and upholds the principle of fair funding. In the last Parish Council minutes, the three Conservative Councillors have jointly, completely refused to support Parish Council Resolution 3263/06/2022, where the Parish Council asks for the four District Councillors to "jointly sign a letter expressing their discontent on the matter"; where the matter referred to as "the decision to charge

Broughton Astley residents to contribute by way of their Council Tax payments to refurbish Market Harborough Leisure Centre and ask that they consider other methods of funding which excludes our residents".

It seems that the three Councillors have pretty much STATED this view, in their last report to Parish Council. So why won't they sign the simple and supportive letter, suggested by the Parish Council?

If the three Councillors were at all confident in their own previous statement that District funds will NOT be used, then why are they failing to support the resolution?

I would suggest that it is because they either do not have enough confidence in their own statement, or maybe they know that District funds (including Broughton Astley contributions) amounting to millions of pounds WILL end up being used to refurbish the Market Harborough Leisure Centre.

Otherwise, why are they not backing up their statements to the last Parish Council Meeting with the signed letter?

I want to finish by strongly re-stating my only desire is for the Conservative Councillors to stand up for Broughton Astley residents. I don't want to see Councillors Dann, Golding, and Liquorish kowtow to the wishes of their Market Harborough colleagues, to keep allocating E5million of District Council funds to refurbish the Market Harborough Leisure Centre which will involve the Double Taxation of Broughton Astley residents, who are already paying for their own Leisure Centre.

Councillor Bannister and Dann left the meeting at 20:03

9. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

The Parish Manager presented the schedule of payments made for the period to 31 July 2022 and answered queries on a couple of payments. The schedule of payments and the month end statement were then received and accepted unanimously by the Members with a show of hands. The Chair signed the Bank Reconciliations, on behalf of the Parish Council.

3309/08/2022

RESOLVED: That the schedule of payments and the month end statements for the period 31 July 2022 were received and accepted unanimously. The Chair signed the Bank Reconciliations, on behalf of the Parish Council.

10. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Parish Manager presented the financial statements for the period ending 31 July 2022 and was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.

3310/08/2022

RESOLVED: That the financial statements for the period to the end of 31 July 2022 are accepted.

11. SECTION 106

This document is also available in large print.

The Members were presented with a statement as of 31 July 2022 detailing the s106 payments and expiry dates allocated to Broughton Astley Parish Council. The Parish Manager was asked to check the expiry date on the s106 contributions for cemeteries in relation to the William Davis Development on Coventry Road, and to circulate the confirmation when received to Members.

3311/08/2022

RESOLVED: That the statement as of 31 July 2022 detailing s106 payments and expiry dates for Broughton Astley Parish Council are accepted, once confirmation has been received that the stated expiry date for the William Davis Development on Coventry Road is correct.

12. GRANT APPLICATION STATUS

Members were presented with a report providing the status of any grant applications being applied for to month end of 31 July 2022.

3312/08/2022

RESOLVED: That the status report provided as of 31 July 2022 detailing any grant application status is accepted and any grant funding that has been received is removed from the list.

13. ROSPA INSPECTION REPORT

The Members noted the outstanding issues from the RoSPA report. It was requested that quotations are obtained for the replacement of the large Chipman play equipment.

3313/08/2022

RESOLVED: That the review of the outstanding RoSPA report is accepted.

14. PLANNING AND LICENSING MINUTES

Members received the minutes from the Planning and Licensing Committee meetings held on 1 August 2022.

3314/0/8/2022

1848.22 – 22/01222/FUL

RESOLVED: Members can see no impact on the street scene or neighbours, so no objections were raised.

3315/08/2022

1849.22 – 22/01324/FUL

RESOLVED: Members can see no impact on the street scene or neighbours, so no objections noted. However, a concern was raised of the possibility of the waste bins being presented on the highway. The Planning Officer is kindly asked to check this.

3316/08/2022

1850.22 – 22/01325/FUL

RESOLVED: After carefully considering the planning application Members can see no impact on the street scene or neighbours. A concern was raised that the Hobby Room could potentially become a fifth bedroom facilitating an effect on the property's parking spaces.

3317/08/2022

1851.22 – 22/01339/FUL

RESOLVED: No objections were raised after considering the planning application.

15. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN DELIVERY AND MONITORING GROUP MINUTES

Members received a copy of the minutes of the Neighbourhood Plan Delivery and Monitoring Group meeting held on Thursday 28 July 2022.

3318/08/2022 22.281 – CALL FOR SITES – LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY
RESOLVED: That the Call for Sites letter to the community is approved and circulated.

3319/08/2022 22.282 – CALL FOR SITES – LETTER TO LAND-OWNERS
RESOLVED: That the Call for Sites letter to landowners is approved and circulated.

16. PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

Members received a copy of the minutes from the Personnel Sub-Committee meeting held on Wednesday 10 August 2022.

3320/08/2022 91.22 – ELECTION OF CHAIR
RESOLVED: That Councillor Glenis is elected Chair of the Personnel Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2022-23.

3321/08/2022 92.22 – ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
RESOLVED: That Councillor Brown is elected Vice-Chair of the Personnel Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2022-23.

3322/08/2022 94.22 – EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC OR PRESS TO MEETING
RESOLVED: That members of the public and press are excluded from the meeting during Item 4 of the agenda due to its personal and confidential nature to employees.

3323/08/2022 96.22 – OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS
RESOLVED:

- 1. That the report detailing the outstanding recommendations from previous meetings is accepted.**
- 2. That a copy of a model employment contract is downloaded from NALC to enable a review / revision of staff contracts to be undertaken.**
- 3. That the Parish Manager sources costs of having job evaluations carried out on each staff member.**

3324/08/2022 97.22 – DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME
RESOLVED: That the draft annual work programme is accepted.

3325/08/2022 98.22 – STAFF JOB DESCRIPTIONS
RESOLVED: That the agenda item to approve the renewed staff job descriptions is deferred to the next meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee due to limited time factors at the meeting.

3326/08/2022 99.22 – PAY SCALES AND GRADES – STAFF MEMBERS
RESOLVED: That the agenda item to discuss pay scales and grades for existing staff members is deferred to the next meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee due to limited time factors at the meeting.

3327/08/2022 100.22 – BUSINESS PLAN FOR RECRUITMENT – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE STAFF
RESOLVED: That the Parish Council recruits a General Maintenance Assistant to

work 30 hours per week on NJC Pay Scale 2/3 (SCP 3-6 £18,887 - £20,043 pro rata) with a six-month probation period.

3328/08/2022 101.22 – PRODUCTION OF JOB DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION
RESOLVED: That a job description and person specification will be produced for the new role of Grounds Maintenance Assistant.

3329/08/2022 102.22 – STAFF MEETING
RESOLVED: That a meeting takes place with staff members and the Personnel Sub-Committee on a date to be agreed.

17. SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY FOR ALLOTMENTS

Members received a report from the Parish Manager providing information on a grant that had been awarded for £9,879 from Severn Trent to provide a sustainable water supply at the allotment sites plus the purchase of water butts for those tenants who do not currently have one on their plot.

The proposal is to provide two water stations which will consist of a purpose build structure to collect rainwater which is then stored in large tanks to provide short-term usage and to ensure there is some extra water for prolonged dry spells reducing the need to rely on the metered water supply. The provision of the water supply will also align with the Parish Council's Environmental and Sustainability Policy. Members did suggest that a push tap or return valve be installed to prevent the taps being left opened either unintentionally or other. Councillor Grafton-Reed proposed, and Councillor Swinfen seconded that the grant should be accepted, and the water stations and water butts installed at the allotment sites. A show of hands carried this unanimously.

3330/08/2022 **RESOLVED: That a grant of £9,879 from Severn Trent is accepted to provide a sustainable water supply with additional water butts at both allotment sites.**

18. NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT – FROLESWORTH ROAD RECREATION GROUND

A report was provided to detailing five quotations from three different companies for the supply of a new piece of play equipment to be purchased to replace the existing large Chipman climbing frame that is no longer able to have viable repairs made to it. From the five quotations received, the Grants Officer undertook a survey at the recreation ground allowing the young members and their parents to choose their favourite piece of equipment. There was an overall and clear favourite from those surveyed for the new climbing apparatus from Online Playgrounds. It was proposed by Councillor Patrick, and seconded by Councillor Teague-Concannon that the quotation from Online Playgrounds is accepted at a cost of £37,233 exclusive of VAT. A show of hands carried this unanimously.

3331/08/2022 **RESOLVED: That the quotation from Online Playgrounds for £37,233 exclusive of VAT is accepted for the replacement play equipment for Frolesworth Road Recreation Ground.**

19. S106 ENQUIRY TO HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Following a request at the previous Parish Council meeting to approach Harborough District Council for clarification and advice on securing a re-allocation of s106 funding, a response has since been received.

Detailed in the report provided to Members, is an explanation that although legally possible to secure a re-allocation of funding by way of a deed of variation, Harborough has a policy

which they say prevents them from supporting such an application. It was suggested that the Parish Council should insist on a face-to-face meeting with officers and cabinet and council members of Harborough District Council to discuss this further. Other councillors agreed that dialogue must be maintained as there is a need to seek legal advice on whether it is possible to challenge the existing policy. The current mechanism to consult with the Parish Council on s106 funding is also flawed as the council has never been consulted by Harborough prior to an agreement being secured.

Councillor Grafton-Reed proposed, and Councillor Swinfen seconded that

1. The Parish Council should request a face-to-face meeting before the end of September with relevant officers and cabinet and council members from Harborough District Council
2. To seek legal advice on the correct procedure to take and whether Harborough District Council's policy can be challenged.

This proposal was carried unanimously by a show of hands with one abstention.

3332/08/2022

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council should:

1. **Request a face-to-face meeting before the end of September with relevant officers and cabinet and council members from Harborough District Council.**
2. **To seek legal advice on the correct procedure to take and whether Harborough District Council's policy can be challenged.**

20. MEMBERS MOTION – 05/22 CLLR MICHAEL SWINFEN

Village Planters

To look at having flower planters around the village and village centre.

I propose 2 by the Memorial, 2 by Wedges and 2 near to the Parish noticeboard by the café.

Many villages have floral displays and Harborough look to have at least 12 new timber ones in the centre. I know we need permission to site them but I'm pretty sure it will be worthwhile.

If this motion is passed, I'm prepared to contact BAVG for assistance with planting. I believe they are trying to promote a 'Men in Shed's group which could benefit everyone. Councillor Swinfen proposed this motion and Councillor Oliver seconded it. Members agreed that Councillor Swinfen should come back to council with a fully costed proposal for further consideration. This motion was carried by a show of hands with one abstention.

3333/08/2022

RESOLVED: That Councillor Swinfen reports back to the council with a fully costed proposal.

21. MEMBERS MOTION – 06/22 CLLR ROBERT DAVIS

Recreation Ground Footpath

That the Parish Council considers carrying out urgent repairs to the footpath on Frolesworth Road Recreation Ground.

1. The tree roots have lifted the tarmac in various places along its length.
2. The tarmac is starting to break up.

Many residents use this park and with the way the path is it will not be long till somebody trips over. We have a nice park, but the footpath lets it down.

Councillor Davis proposed, and Councillor Swinfen seconded this motion. It was agreed that a formulised quotation is obtained along with a health and safety inspection and is presented to full council for further consideration. This motion was carried by a show of hands.

3334/08/2022

RESOLVED: That a formulised quotation is obtained along with a health and safety inspection on the condition of the footpath in the recreation ground to be presented to full council for further consideration.

22. MEMBERS MOTION – 07/22 CLLR GRAFTON-REED

Visual Display Equipment

That BAPC invest in a minimum of one large screen display / smart TV of suitable size (50 inches +) to be mounted in the Astley meeting room to allow easy displace of key documents during planning and other meetings.

Additionally, a separate wall mounting kit or a suitable wheeled stand is purchased to allow this screen to be used in the Alan Talbot room for meetings which would benefit from being able to display key documents.

Alternative solutions should also be considered provided they meet the functional intent of this motion.

Councillor Grafton-Reed proposed, and Councillor Golding seconded this motion. Councillor Grafton-Reed stated that he will gather quotations for consideration by full council at a Parish Council meeting. This motion was carried by a show of hands.

3335/08/2022

RESOLVED: That Councillor Grafton-Reed will present quotations at a Parish Council meeting for the cost of visual display equipment.

23. MEMBERS MOTION – 08/22 CLLR GLENIS

Winter Support

As members will be aware, there are many villagers who will struggle to cope financially with the rising costs of energy this coming winter.

The Village Hall is kept warm for use during the day. Does this Parish wish to consider offering support to these villagers by for instance, allowing them to come and spend some time in the village hall? Would we want to offer warm drinks or even a hot meal?

Would we find grants or volunteers to support this?

The purpose of this motion is purely to ask the question, 'does this Council wish to consider providing winter support to villagers who may need it?'

As Councillor Glenis was unable to attend the Parish Council meeting, this Members Motion will be postponed until the next meeting in September.

3336/08/2022

RESOLVED: That this Members Motion for Winter Support will be postponed until the next Parish Council meeting in September.

3337/08/2022 The meeting closed at 21:07

Minutes approved and accepted as correct

.....Chair

Dated.....