

BROADWAY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Broadway Parish Council held in Broadway Village Hall on Tuesday 2nd April 2024 at 7.30p.m.

908. Attendance

Present: Cllrs Neate, Champion, Preece, Toms, Jones and Wilkins;
Somerset Council Cllr Osborne; Mrs Larsson (Clerk)

909. Apologies: Cllr Frayne

910. Declarations of Interest Cllr Toms declared a personal interest in item 5a on the agenda (minute 913) and advised he would withdraw during discussion and vote of this matter.

911. Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th March 2024

Minutes were approved unanimously by Councillors as a true record and duly signed by the Chair.

912. Public Question Time, Including Somerset Council Cllr Report

Query was raised regarding the process for reporting issues on the highways, such as missing or damaged signage. Any problems on the road including signage, pot holes etc should be reported directly to Somerset Council which can be done using their online reporting tool <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/> or alternatively on the Fix My Street website <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> where problems will be directed to the relevant authorities.

Cllr Osborne reported on a number of matters including closure of the Lloyds Bank branch in Ilminster. She commented that they are fighting to try and keep it open as the nearest alternatives are Chard, Taunton and Yeovil, although they are not all accessible by public transport.

Cllr Osborne commented on the financial position of Somerset Council, noting that they have been given approval to use capitalisation to fund the shortfall in the budget for this financial year, allowing devolution of some services to be delayed in the short term.

She also reported that the planning application in Horton for 49 houses was passed at planning committee by the Chairman having a casting vote and commented that the supply of housing as per the local plan for South Somerset will not be met.

913. Planning Application

- a. Application: 24/00535/HOU: Ticino, Olivers Lane, Broadway I TA19 9SB - Erection of single storey side extension to replace existing utility.

Councillors RESOLVED to submit a SUPPORT response to the application, commenting that the design was in keeping with the existing building.

The Council's full responses to all planning applications are available to view against the respective applications on the Somerset Council planning portal <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/?district=South+Somerset>

914. Accounts and Financial Information

- a. Financial Statement: The Clerk had circulated the financial report in advance of the meeting, which covered the full financial year to 31.3.24. There were no queries on the report which was approved by Councillors. It was noted that the budget for 2024-25 will be made available on the Parish Council website.
- b. Payments: The Council RESOLVED to authorise the following payments:
- Website domain & hosting service - £331.20
 - Playground inspection course - £50.00
 - Clerk salary & PAYE to 31/3/24 (restricted information under GDPR)
- c. Internal Auditor Appointment: The Clerk recommended it would be appropriate to instruct a new auditor to carry out the 2023-24 internal audit as the previous one has carried out the role for a number of years and offered suggestions of two alternative auditors with specific local council experience and qualifications to ensure a comprehensive service. The Council RESOLVED to appoint Joanna Simonds as the internal auditor.

915. Parish Priorities

Councillors discussed areas to focus on and concluded the following were those which they felt would have a positive impact in the parish:

Provision of bins: The Council will look into providing larger and additional waste/dog bins in key sites.

Drains: The Council will look to engage with Somerset Council to work on the issues across the parish.

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs): The Council have locations approved by Somerset Council Highways and will look into costs of obtaining and managing a device.

Volunteers: The Council would like to engage residents to assist with tasks around the parish and will look into feasibility of tasks.

916. Playpark Pathways

Quotations for weed treatment have not yet been received. Item deferred to a future meeting.

917. Memorial Tree

Indicative costs for provision of a plaque and tree guard are estimated to be £250-£300. Councillors RESOLVED to set a maximum budget of £300.

918. Parish Volunteers: Discussed in minute 915.

919. Clerk Laptop

The Clerk had obtained indicative costs and commented that there were varying choices although prices and availability were fluctuating all the time. It was RESOLVED for the Clerk to organise sourcing the laptop up to the agreed budget of £500, plus necessary software.

920. Updates

- a. Local Community Network: The recent meeting of the LCN was attended by a notably smaller number of parishes than previous meetings. There is currently an Active Travel and Highways working group holding sessions alongside the main meetings.
- b. Suggs Lane Flooding: Cllr Frayne was not in attendance at the meeting to offer any updates.
- c. Vardens Pond Goldfish: The Council received advice to leave the goldfish in situ as the visiting Heron will soon take them.
- d. Play Park Inspections: The Clerk carried out an initial inspection of the playpark, with minimal areas of concern. Items recommended for action were some additions of safety signage, and to look at improvement to the path and permanent fencing which are likely longer-term investments due to costs. Cllrs agreed to organising the signage and quotations for improvement works will be obtained in due course.

921. Correspondence/Matters for Report

- a. Suggs Lane Bridge: Advance warnings of closure of the bridge for investigative surveys are in place.

922. Items for the next meeting:

- a. Upgrade/replacement and relocation of litter and dog waste bins.
- b. Memorial tree guard and plaque.
- c. Vardens pond goldfish.
- d. Weed treatment of pathways.

923. Date of upcoming meetings: Tuesday 1st May 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting, 7.00pm followed immediately by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. To be held at Broadway Village Hall.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Signed

Date