Broadway Parish Council

 **Minutes of the meeting held at Broadway Village Hall on 5th April 2022 at 7.30 pm**

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**539 Attendance**: Councillors Gregory (Chairman), Baker, Preece, Frayne, Toms, Driskell, Clerk Fiona Mckenzie, District Councillor Ray Buckler and 10 members of the public.

**540 Apologies:** Cllr Champion.

**541 Public Participation:**

1. No matters were raised by the public.
2. Cllr Gregory introduced Neroche wards’ new South Somerset District Councillor Ray Buckler.

**542 Declarations of interests**: None.

**543 Minutes:** The Council approved the minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2022 as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.

**544 Matters arising:**

1. Cllr Champion had held a meeting with SCC highways officials at Vardens Pond to ensure the new safety railings allowed access for silting work to be carried out.
2. Cllr Baker confirmed he now knew the names of the villages for the missing finger posts at Newhouse Farm and has passed that information on for work to be started.
3. Cllr Preece reported the community event for the Platinum Jubilee included plans for duck races on the Ding and picnics at the school. Arrangements for the proposed beacon were uncertain.
4. Cllr Toms had attended another Bus Partnership meeting. He reported that investment in public transport in Somerset was lower than in other rural areas. He thought it unlikely that Somerset CC’s bid would result in much investment by the Government.

**545 Planning:**

1. It was noted the extension at Dingford Farm has been approved.
2. There continues to be delay on decisions on pending developments due to the phosphate issue. This includes the approved plans for 35 houses at the Pound and 25 houses behind the Bell Inn, together with the applications for 6 houses at Orchard Court and 9 houses in the field opposite the school.
3. The property owner at Suggs Lane had confirmed he had removed the fencing from his boundary, but stated this was originally approved by SSDC.
4. The Council are still wating to hear from SSDC on whether a garage conversion at Orchard Court had been approved. The Clerk will ask for update from SSDC.

**546 Playing field:**

1. Cllr Gregory confirmed that the applications for Section 106 and Community Grant funding had gone to SSDC. The Community Grant application has to go to the Area West Committee meeting on 18 May. Due to this delay and the current increasing rate of inflation, the Council should expect the quoted cost of the re-equipping project to increase further. This made it imperative to secure outside funding to reduce the amount that the Council would otherwise have to meet from its reserves. Councillors were reminded that work on this needed to be expedited with a view to reporting back on the outcome at the June meeting.
2. It was agreed that Cllr Champion should work up specifications for the renovation of the multi-play tower and the swings and that Cllr Baker would identify companies to undertake the work, ahead of seeking quotations.
3. The mandatory annual inspection had been carried out on the existing play equipment. There were no surprises in the report and nothing that needed immediate attention. Such issues as there were would be resolved once the playing field was re-equipped.

**547 A358 Dualling:**

1. The Chairman and representatives from 4 other parish councils had met officials from SCC to discuss their view of the parish councils’ mitigation measures and their proposals for redesigning Southfields roundabout. The result was very frustrating, with SCC seemingly unprepared to push National Highways to accept the parish councils’ proposals.
2. The publication of National Highways’ definitive plans was expected later this year, with the Examination in Public either towards the end of 2022 or early 2023. In due course the Chairman would ask the Council to agree that it should be registered as an Interested Party for the purposes of the Examination in Public.

**548 Suggs Lane traffic survey**: A resident of Suggs Lane had undertaken an independent survey of local opinion on the options for relieving the speed and volume of traffic in Suggs Lane. He reported that he had received mixed responses, but there had seemed to be a positive response to the idea of traffic calming. The Council noted his report and would await further information from him.

**549 Correspondence:**

1. The Clerk had previously circulated a newsletter from the Police.
2. The Somerset Heritage Centre was seeking parishes to provide ‘village portraits’ for the Jubilee.
3. Cllr Frayne reported that the approach from SCC’s Rights of Way team about a displaced footpath sign at Abbotsford had been dealt with.

**560 Finance:**

1. Cllr Gregory took the opportunity to advise the meeting that the parish council element of the 2022-23 Council Tax bill for Broadway had increased by over 7%. Given the size of this increase he felt obliged to explain the necessity for it. He said that the Parish Council had decided last year not to increase its precept at all. However, due to increased maintenance contracts for work on the Council’s estate and the underlying deficit in its accounts, it was necessary to increase it this year.
2. Payments were approved for payroll chq 291 £60.00, Grinters (grass cutting) chq 282 £1440.00, Somerset Web Services chq 293 £430.80, E & S computers chq 294 £45.00, Clerk’s salary chq 295 £326.74, postage chq 296 £7.68, HMRC chq 297 £12.80, village hall hire chq298 £70.00, play inspection chq 299 £87.54.

**549 Annual Village Meeting/Annual Parish Council meeting**:

1. Due to local elections being held on 5 May, these 2 meetings will be 10th May 2022.
2. The Chairman reported that all 7 nomination forms from the current Council membership for election for the next 4 year period had been submitted to SSDC.

Signed……………………………………………………….

Date………………………………………………………….