Broadway Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Broadway Village Hall on 6th September 2022 at 7.30

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**688 Attendance**: Councilors Gregory (Chair), Baker, Champion, Preece, Toms, Frayne, Clerk Fiona Mckenzie, County Councilor Sue Osborne and 8 members of the public.

**689 Apologies**: Councilor Driskel and District Councillor Buckler had sent their apologies.

**690 Public participation:** A member of the public asked if it was likely the Taunton/Axminster bus could be diverted through the village to improve public access along the route. The Council felt that it was unlikely that additional routes would be added as in general services are being cut due to lack of resources. It was reported that a large section of a tree remained in the River Ding, although the landowner had removed much of it. The Council was asked whether SSDC could remove the remainder to reduce the risk of flooding. It advised that when a similar problem had arisen it was found that the relevant department at SSDC was unmanned.

**691 Declarations of interests:** None.

**692 Minutes:** The Council approved the minutes from the meeting held on 5th July 2022 as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.

**693 Matters arising:**

1. The Council noted that the village signposts at the Pound and Newhouse Farm have been removed and are currently being restored.
2. The Council noted that SCC had repaired the barrier at Varden’s Pond. The Council would consider improvements at the Pond at a future meeting.
3. It was noted that there is work going on at the treatment works. It was reported that Wessex Water are working on upgrading the existing sewage works.

**694 Planning:**

1. **22/01293/HOU: Extension at 13 Standerwick Orchard.** To note a letter had just been received from SSDC in connection with the Council’s query on the approval of this application. The Chairman said that he would circulate a draft response to councillors for comment.
2. **22/01251/HOU: Changes to the existing consent for the construction of a dwelling.** To note that this application has been approved.
3. **22/01545/HOU: Extension to the Meadows, Suggs Lane.** To note that this application has been approved.
4. **22/01896/HOU: Extension at 12 Standerwick Orchard.** To note that this application has been approved.
5. **22/02072/HOU: Extension at The Old Bakehouse.** To note that this application had been approved.
6. **22/02350/HOU: Extension at Woodcote, Broadway Road.** This application had been received and would be considered by the Council at a later date.

**695 Standerwick Orchard:**

1. The Chairman thanked those residents who had responded to the Council’s letter asking for views on the future use of the public open space adjoining Bullen Court and those residents present for attending this meeting. He said that, while there had been a couple of suggestions from residents that they would take on part of the area, the general sense of the consultation was that things should stay as they are. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Council would retain ownership of the whole area and continue to maintain it.
2. The meeting also discussed maintenance of the public open spaces, including concern by a resident that the area by the attenuation pond has not been maintained as well recently as it was in the past. The Chairman said that the Council took its maintenance responsibilities seriously and had agreed much more specific maintenance contracts for grass cutting and tree and shrub maintenance. However, while the Council welcomed constructive suggestions for improving maintenance, it was not always possible to meet residents’ wishes because these often diverged. After a short discussion, particularly of the maintenance of the area adjoining Bullen Court, it was agreed to come back to the issue at the next meeting.

**696 Playing Field:**

1. To note acceptance of Wicksteed 2 quotations.
2. Restoration of the existing swings and multi-play tower. It was agreed that the work needs to be done before any other work on the playing field begins. It was agreed to ask the village for assistance in either time or materials or donations. In view of a potential conflict of interest should Grinters wish to quote for the work, it was agreed that Councillor Champion should not be involved in any further discussions on the costings.
3. A flyer will be produced for all the villagers asking for assistance with this project. The Council noted that some fund raising had already begun.
4. The Clerk was asked to review insurance cover for the Council in the light of the enhanced value of the redeveloped playing field. The Council would return to this in the autumn.

**697 A358 dualling:** The Chairman said that, apart from the prospect of a Community Forum in October, there was nothing to report. However, he said that it was expected that the final design of the proposed route would be published by way of a draft Development Consent Order (DCO), which would then be considered by an Examination in Public. The Council agreed that it would wish to register as an Interested Party once the DCO was published. A resident pointed out that if the proposed service road between Broadway Street and the grade-separated junction at Rapps were built, the link to the village along Broadway Street would not be adequate to take the increased traffic. The Chairman pointed out that the Council felt that this was the best that could be achieved to ensure a connection to the dualled A358 or over it to the east via the Rapps junction. The problem arose because of National Highways’ refusal to permit an off-slip road from the A358 to Broadway Street. This option was still being pursued by the Parish Council, together with a proposal to link Horton Cross to Broadway Street.

**698 Correspondence:** A new resident has enquired about making a historical record of those villagers commemorated on the War memorial. Cllr Baker offered to assist where he can.

**699 Finance:**

1. The Council approved the Clerk’s August salary [put amount in please].
2. The Council noted that the owner of Bullen Court had agreed to pay 50% of the cost of repairing the party fence between his property and Standerwick Orchard.
3. The Council agreed to fund legal advice on the status of the money transferred to the Council when it acquired the public open spaces at Standerwick Orchard.

**700 Date of next meeting:** 11th October 2022.