Broadway Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held at Broadway Village Hall on 7th March 2023 at 7.30 pm.

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**750 Attendance**: Councillors Gregory (Chair), Champion, Preece, Toms, Frayne, Driskel, Clerk Fiona Mckenzie, County and District Councillor Osborne and 2 members of the public.

**751 Apologies**: Councilor Baker, District Councillor Buckler.

**752 Public participation:**

1. Nothing was raised by members of the public;
2. The Chairman announced that regrettably Cllr Baker has submitted his resignation from the Parish Council with immediate effect on health grounds, so there will a vacancy for a councillor. The Council agreed to advertise in the village for a replacement. The Clerk would notify SSDC;
3. Cllr Gregory also advised the meeting that it was his intention to retire from the Council at the end of 2023;
4. Cllr Toms reported that, following his reporting of several village potholes, some have been attended to;
5. Cllr Osborne advised that Broadway PC will be part of the Ilminster Local Community Network. She will sit on the new planning committee.

**753 Declarations of interests:** None.

**754 Minutes:** The Council approved the minutes from the meeting held on 7th February 2023 as a true record to be signed by the Chairman.

**755 Matters arising**: None

**756 Planning**: An application was received on the day of the meeting regarding an extension at 12 Tanyard (23/00598/HOU). Cllrs were asked to inform the Clerk of their views when they have been able to view the plans.

**757 Playing field**:

1. With the Wicksteed contract now completed and the invoices presented, the Council agreed to payment in full. The cheque was signed at the meeting and the **Council Resolved** that it would be held back until the outstanding payments of Section 106 monies by SSDC had been received, after which the Clerk is authorised to dispatch it;
2. The Chairman reported on a recent meeting at the playing field between councillors and the Horton and Broadway Community Eco Group at which the Group’s planting plans were discussed and agreed;
3. At this meeting, the councillors agreed that the improvement of the hedge bordering the Bell Field would be considered further, the location of the new sign was confirmed and the positioning of the new seats for the 2 retained swings agreed. Cllr Frayne was asked to obtain an estimate of the cost of fencing the site, to be reported to the next meeting;
4. Council agreed the design of the new notice board, including that there should be no ball games in view of the age range for which the play park was designed, and Cllr Champion was asked to confirm the order;
5. Cllr Champion reported that the work by volunteers to restore the retained equipment was going well. He was hopeful that volunteers might be willing to help with the restoration work of other village assets;
6. Council agreed that the opening ceremony would be held in conjunction with Neroche Primary School in the week beginning 1 May to give time to complete work on the retained equipment and to ensure the recovery of the ground. Cllr Driskel agreed to make the arrangements for the opening ceremony with the School, to be confirmed at the April meeting;
7. Council agreed that a maintenance schedule for all the equipment in the play park would be included in the village-wide asset management plan being prepared.

**758 Archiving**: it was agreed to archive accounts and minutes over 4 years old at the Somerset Heritage Centre, the first batch to be agreed at the April meeting.

**759: Adoption of revised Code of Conduct:** Council agreed to sign this off at the April meeting.

**760 Correspondence**: The Clerk reported further issues with NatWest listing the Council as a business rather than local authority. She hoped this is now resolved. However 2 attempts have been made to add signatories and this has not been actioned by the bank. The Clerk will follow this up again.

**761 Councillor reports:**

1. Councillors agreed that the recent walk around the village to inspect the Council’s assets had been a great success, identifying repairs needed and the need to draft an asset management strategy. The Chairman volunteered to draft such a plan and put it to the April meeting for consideration.
2. Specifically, it was agreed that Vardens Pond should be dredged bi-annually and that the proposed weir at the stream’s entrance to the pond should not be built in view of the risk of silting the stream. Peninsular Developments would be approached by the Clerk to cut back the hedge bordering the pond.

**762 Finance**: Payments were approved for chq 323 Somerset Landscaping Ltd £1,332.00, chq 324 Clerk 318.32, chq 325 Grinters £7130.23, chq 326 E&S computers £46.59, chq 327 SALC training £25.00, chq 328 Somerset Web Services £442.80, chq 329 Wicksteed Ltd £76,010.40.

**763 Date of next meeting** 4th April 2023.

Signed………………………………………………………

Date…………………………………………………………