

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22nd MAY 2018

PRESENT

Messrs J Hendry [Chairman], D Kaspar, Mrs L King and Mrs C Summers [Parish Councillors], Mrs K O'Leary [Chief Executive Stroud District Council], Mr D Mossman [District Councillor], PCSOs D Collicott and Liz Ward [Gloucestershire Police], Mr E Hibbert [Village Hall Committee], Mrs A Szabo [Parish Clerk and RFO], and 13 parishioners.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor S Betts, County Councillor K Rippington, Neighbourhood Wardens Mr P Tiley and Matt Jones and 2 members of the public.

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed and thanked all present for attending.

POLICE REPORT

PCSO Debbie Collicot apologised for not attending Parish Council meetings as resources do not allow this at present. She stated that the crime for this parish over the last twelve months was very low, although she acknowledged that lack of reporting is an issue and suggested reporting online may be better than the 911 number. She reported on ongoing investigations in Naas Lane and the use of drones for isolated areas.

Parishioners raised concerns regarding the recent increase in anti-social behaviour in Gilberts Lane. She said that she would investigate this.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Please see attached report Appendix A.

FINANCE REPORT FROM THE PARISH CLERK

Copies of the Summary of Accounts as approved by Council were circulated.

There are now reserves of £33,112 with £5,000 earmarked for the gateway scheme and a budget set for £32,161. A precept of £15,000 will be received.

Parishioner Paul Gaze noted the lack of Members Allowances being claimed by Councillors and thanked them for their commitment to the Parish.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mrs K O'Leary explained that she had been in the role for 6 months and outlined her background in local government and in particular planning. She stressed that the District Council was being financially well managed and had won national awards for recycling. The Highways Agency have also agreed funding for the next stage of the canal restoration from Saul Junction to Eastington. She also stressed how impressed she is regarding the amount of people who volunteer locally.

Q A Parishioner stated that this parish had had more than its fair share of adverse development and now, with the emerging local plan, Whaddon Fields are under threat. How will this parish's views be heard?

A By engaging with the process at all levels. Numbers of homes needed are set down by Central Government, but it is up to the District Council to accommodate these numbers. It is a difficult balance and decision and the District Council must make lawful decisions as well as acting for the wider public good.

Q Does our geographical location make us more vulnerable?

A With the "duty to co-operate" and the pressure the District Council is under by JSC, yes, this adds to the pressure locally.

Q Do you know what percentage homes from the 2017 -22 plan have been delivered?

A No

Q Can the Council insist on no land-banking?

A The District Council has no powers to control this.

Q Does the Planning Authority have the power to insist on Carbon Neutral builds?

A I would like to see policies strengthened towards a more Carbon Neutral District, but viability and infrastructure pose significant challenges.

Q This Parish has carried out 2 Parish appraisals setting out local views, but it appears that these are not taken into account when decisions are mad.

A It is difficult when Central Government changes systems. Neighbourhood Development Plans are statutory instruments and have to be taken account of when they are adopted.

Q It is very frustrating when conditions laid down in application permissions are then not adhered to and no action is taken.

A Cllr D Mossman advised that there had been issues of recruiting and holding onto staff in the Enforcement Department, but action is being taken to strengthen this area and keep its staff.

Q What is the official view of the proposed hotel development at Gloucester Services?

A There have been no specific objections but until the Officer has completed the report there can be no official view.

The Chairman thanked Kathy for her attendance.

VILLAGE HALL REPORT

Mr E Hibbert reported on matters regarding the Village Hall and the proposed extension.

Mr E Hibbert thanked all members of the Parish Council for their work and support for the Village Hall.

NEWSLETTER

Mr E Hibbert outlined the contents of the first newsletter that has been put together on behalf of the community and funded by the Parish Council.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no further questions from the public

There being no other matters Cllr J Hendry thanked everyone for attending and refreshments were served.

Chairman: