



## **BRUSHFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BRUSHFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH 2023**

#### **23/031 PRESENT**

The following took part in the meeting

Parish Councillors: Councillor F. Takel, Councillor H. Albery, Councillor S. Cookson, Councillor J. Sandiford

In Attendance Councillor F. Nicholson, Councillor S. Pugsley

Clerk : J. Aldridge

Public :

#### **23/032 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor N. Prouse

#### **23/033 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**23/034 DEFERMENT OF BUSINESS**

None

**23/035 APPROVAL OF MAY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Approved by Councillor Cookson and seconded by Councillor Takel

**23/036 FINANCIAL REPORT****23/036/01 Payment Authorisation**

The following June payments were approved and cheques signed:

**PAYMENT AUTHORISATION : JUNE 13TH. 2023**

PAYEE	INVOICE NO.	EXPENSE	NET	VAT	GROSS	CHEQUE NUMBER
Amherst & Shapland		Staff Wages	£538.00		£538.00	
		Amherst & Shapland monthly fee	£12.50	£2.50	£15.00	
		<b>Total Staff Wages and Administration</b>	<b>£550.50</b>	<b>£2.50</b>	<b>£553.00</b>	<b>NATWEST 000704</b>
P. A. Clements	45	50 Coronation Mugs @ £10 each	£500.00		£500.00	NATWEST 000703
Mr P Takel		2X Grass Cutting JG £75 = £150 + 2X Strimming at Bus Stop £15 = £30 + Tape to mask off wooden train £13.19	£193.19		£193.19	NATWEST 000705
Mrs J Aldridge	11675	Reimbursement of £2.80 for ring binder and pencil sharpener + £33.60 paid for 2 x Private Land signs	£30.80	£5.60	£36.40	NATWEST 000706
idverde	10856626	Resent cheque as original (000683) was cancelled due to misplacement	£257.40	£51.48	£308.88	NATWEST 000707
Arthur J Gallagher		Insurance Brokers Yearly Payment	£531.08		£531.08	NATWEST 000708
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£2,062.97</b>	<b>£59.58</b>	<b>£2,122.55</b>	

### **23/036/02 Online Banking**

The online banking application is progressing well and it is hoped that the online account will be up and running within the next month.

The Clerk has banked the £190 from the sale of the Coronation mugs

### **23/037 PATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS**

Councillor Albery reported that Sarah Cresswell is the replacement for Sam Jackson.

### **23/038 PARISH MAINTENANCE**

#### **23/038/01 Village Centre Project**

The Clerk spoke to Dave Leigh to remind him about the quote required for the preparation of the grounds in readiness for the new Village Centre and presented the quote to the Councillors at the meeting amounting to £1,370. The Councillors requested the Clerk contact Mr Leigh to ask if he would remove the scrappy hedge at the front of the site and this work to be included in the price.

#### **23/038/02 Telephone Box - Update**

The Clerk reported that after speaking to Mr Leigh regarding the repair of the telephone box door she presented the Councillors with his quote including Costs and Labour charge which amounted to £1,740. The Councillors requested the Clerk to contact Mr Leigh and ask for a quote to supply a plinth to reinstate the box in place.

#### **23/038/03 Coronation Bench**

After receiving an email from a Parishioner on the 24th May in which it was suggested the Parish Council may wish to purchase a wooden bench commemorating King Charles III Coronation the Councillors decided they would like a bench made from Oak and asked the Clerk to get a quote from Wedgewood Buildings for this.

#### **23/039 SOMERSET BUS PARTNERSHIP - re: Email sent 1st June**

Following the email received from Brushford's Bus Champion in which the Parish Council was urged to write to Richard Holden MP Minister for Roads and Local Transport to call for both the £2 fare and the Bus Recovery Grant (BRG) to be continued through to the end of 2023. The Councillors decided to ask the Clerk to send the letter to Richard Holden in support of this.

#### **23/040 CHAIRS AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY 2023 - Suggestions**

The Councillors could not think of anyone to nominate and therefore will leave this until the next nominations.

#### **23/041 FIRST LCN MEETING - report from Clerk**

The Clerk informed the Councillors there was a large turn out of Clerks and Councillors at the first LCN meeting held at the Moorland Hall, Whedon Cross on Thursday 8th June.

Various topics were discussed and once the minutes are received by the Clerk she will pass on any relevant information to the Councillors for their information.

#### **23/042 EXMOOR NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ELECTION NOMINATIONS**

Councillor Cookson and the Clerk attended the Hustings on 31st May and reported back to the Councillors who then cast 5 votes for their choice of nominees.

The Clerk will email the Ballot Paper to SALC before noon tomorrow

#### **23/043 JUBILEE GARDENS PLAY EQUIPMENT - Redlynch Rockers**

The Clerk passed onto the Councillors an email received from Redlynch Leisure which included prices and installation costs for certain Rocker play equipment in order for them to decide whether or not to purchase any item/s as replacement/s

The Councillors will have a look at the website to decide which of the pieces they are interested in and asked the Clerk to invite a rep from Redlynch Leisure to visit at a future meeting.

Councillor Takel reported the wooden play equipment is easily repairable for the price of around £300, the Councillors voted to have this repair carried out.

#### **23/044 STREET LIGHTING - email from a Parishioner**

After receiving an email from a Parishioner regarding the excessive amount of light from a replaced street light outside his property the Clerk forwarded the email onto the Councillors for their information as well as contacting Somerset Council.

The Clerk has emailed the Parishioner, and copied in the Councillors, with the information she was given by Somerset Council but this it seems was not factual as there was confusion over the locality of the street light in question. The Clerk now has the direct number for the Highways Lighting Team in Somerset Council and has called them to inquire whether a lower wattage bulb could be used in the street light. The Clerk was told the lowest wattage of bulb has been used in this light, however, arrangements are being made to send a technician out a night time to assess the situation, will turn the light/s on and off and will report back with their findings and the Parishioner will be contacted directly by email with the results and hopefully a satisfactory solution.

#### **23/045 DOG CONTROL ORDERS - views/comments**

Following an email received on the 7th June detailing the various where dogs are either excluded or are to be kept on a lead the Councillors views were happy with the list.

#### **23/046 CLERKS JOB - update**

The Clerk email Justin Robinson and subsequently spoke to him regarding the issue of her appointment as Clerk.

He advised that as the Council made an honest mistake when employing her, due to the ruling regarding employing a Councillor as a Clerk not being common knowledge, providing they reiterate their voting in of Mrs J Aldridge as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer at this meeting then the matter would be resolved legally.

The Councillors duly voted unanimously in favour of Mrs Jan Aldridge being the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Brushford Parish Council.

#### **23/047 SALC AGM 2023 - Update**

To date no further correspondence has been received by the Clerk regarding a new date for the SALC AGM

**23/048 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

None received

**23/049 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Pugsley stated that this meeting had covered many of the issues he was going to raise and did not have anything else to report. If there was anything the Councillors need to know they only have to contact them. Ongoing issue with the Ellersdown development Councillor Pugsley will keep an eye on the issue.

Councillor Nicholson reported that Highways work will start at Exebridge 19th June the road will be controlled by traffic lights.

From 11th September the road between Riphay and Exebridge will be closed for about 2 weeks.

**23/050 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting is to be Tuesday, July 11th 2023 at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.

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N. Prouse Chair