

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL

Sunny Bank,
Church Lane,
Whaddon,
Glos
GL4 0UE
30th April 2008

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 29TH APRIL 2008

PRESENT

Messers B Wiggall [Chairman], E Hibbert, S Fry, Mrs E Brent-Smith, Mrs J Nash [County Councillor], Mr K Pearson [District Councillor], PCSO Phillip Middlemiss, Mrs C Novoth and Mr A Foster [Neighbourhood Wardens], Mr C Brent-Smith [Newsletter], Mrs R Cole [Brookthorpe Cameo Group], Mr D Harris [Village Hall Committee] Mr D Purchase [Haresfield Parish Council] Mrs A Rigelsford [Parish Clerk] 8 parishioners and 3 guests from other parishes.

APOLOGIES

Mr D Drew MP, Mrs L Kemp [Village Agent] Mr B Dare [GCC] and Mr A Cook [GCC]

1. MINUTES OF LAST YEARS APM were confirmed. There were no matters arising.

2. PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS

a) Chairman's Report – Please see appendix A

b) Finance Report – The Clerk circulated copies of the draft summary of Council's payments and expenditure. She stated that over the last three years the Council had been building up the reserves held in order to have some finances should they be needed to fight the proposed MSA. She also stated that parishioners could examine the books, make copies and make representations to Moore Stephens, the appointed External Auditor, ahead of the audit due to begin on 7th July. There were no questions from the public.

c) Parish Newsletter – Chris Bent-Smith reported that there had been 10 issues of the Parish Newsletter since the last Annual Parish Meeting. He had taken a selection of photographs for the front cover and added a photograph competition to the last two issues. Although, entries for this had been disappointing. He added that family news, articles and so on are always welcome. He urged parishioner to view the newsletter on line where it can be viewed in colour.

d) Parish Website – Eric Hibbert reported that Parish Council did all it can to inform people with minutes, agendas, village hall news as well as news of current issues such as the traffic calming all on the website. Like the Parish Newsletter though he is always looking for more content.

3. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Please see appendix B

4. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT – Councillor Keith Pearson reported that there has now been six years of Council Tax increase for SDC at 2.5%.

The "Stanley's" waste trials have been running for six months now and have proved to be a success. Recycling in this area is now at 58%. Kitchen and recycled waste is collected weekly and other waste is collected every two weeks. The waste to landfill has reduced significantly.

Other trials in the district include renewable energy with ground heat pumps and heat exchangers being trialled in nine new homes.

Many of the Council's housing stock are being fitted with new kitchens at the moment. This is to comply with the decent homes standard that comes into effect in 2011. Parts of the Stroud District were affected by the summer floods, particularly the lack of water. Keith praised the work carried out by the emergency team.

5. POLICE REPORT – CSPO Phillip Middlemiss reported that for the year 1st April 07 – 28th April 08 there were 24 crimes reported, only three of which have been detected. For the same period, 2006 – 07 there were 23 crimes reported. During April 2008 there has been 1 crime of theft from a vehicle.

There is now a Neighbourhood Policing Panel meeting twice yearly. Meetings are open to any members of the public wishing to attend. At each meeting, issues are prioritised and 3 particular policing issues are chosen to be dealt with more action that is visible. There is a legal obligation to substantially reduce crime in these areas using a multi-agency approach. 1 of the areas chosen at the last meeting is the speeding problems in Upton Lane and various speed reduction methods will be used to detect and prosecute offenders. Police are still keeping an eye on the activities surrounding the Gypsy Site including migrant workers, vehicles, businesses etc.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN – It was reported that Carol spends around four hours in the Parish a week. Times vary so that she is able to deal with a range of issues that appear throughout the day. She has spent a great deal of her time litter picking throughout the parish and arranging for larger items to be removed by SDC. She is getting to know the area better and is picking up on the more vulnerable members of our community. She has also been active in tackling the illegal parking that happens from time to time.

8. VILLAGE HALL REPORT – Mr Don Harris reported that two members of the committee had resigned in the passed year but they had been replaced by two new members.

Use of the hall was good with Playgroup, bands and the dog trainers among the regular users.

The balance in the bank stands at around £11-12,000. As no repairs were carried out last year, there are repairs necessary this year. The committee hope to be able to carry out the re-roofing of the hall but this will be subject to the availability of grants.

The Everyman Theatre productions have proved a success and more are planned.

9. BROOKTHORPE CAMEO GROUP – Mrs Cole reported that the Cameo Group had been successful after breaking away from the WI last year and welcomes any new members.

There has been a full program of speakers including basket making, keep fit, sea shells, greyhound rescue, sugar craft, the wrecks at Purton and cloud 9. There had also been demonstrations of hanging baskets and Christmas tree decorations.

Last year Gloria Wiggall, the Social Secretary, arranged outings to the Houses of Parliament, Bowood House, Westonbirt, the Everyman Theatre and Street. This year trips are arranged to Lacock Abbey, Chelsea Royal Hospital, Street and the Everyman.

Unfortunately last years Garden Party had to be cancelled due to the water crisis, but this year's will [hopefully take place although details are to be finalised so watch for information in the news letter.](#)

10. HUNTS GROVE – David Purchase reported on the background and what led to the development being called in by the Government. He believed that the County Council's decision to make no objections, when they had been promised, was as a direct result of Whaddon being named as a search area in the RSS, published shortly before the enquiry. He outlined the problems associated with the difficulties experienced by the members of the public wishing to make representations. The decision on the first phase of development

is due to be made public May/June this year. He believes that if Hunts Grove goes ahead that this Parish will have an up hill battle over development at Whaddon.

11. REGIONAL SPACIAL STRATEGY – Bruce Wiggall outlined the proposal. He reported that this area had been looked at by SDC for development in the past and then decided against. Access and possible flooding issues could be reasons for opposition to the proposal. The Clerk reported that she had been in touch with the SW Regional Government in order to obtain some details but had been met with a wall of silence and the same had been from Barry Dare of the GCC. David Purchase stated that there was a legal issue as to the naming of Whaddon as a search area. He pointed out that the key people to help in the fight would be the local Councillors and that Haresfield Parish Council would help in any way they could. He stated that this proposal would not do anything to help in the regeneration of Stroud but could again be viewed as the easy option for SDC. However if it were to become a reality the Parish Council would have to secure an acceptable plan.

There being no other questions, everyone enjoyed the refreshments supplied by Councillors.