

**BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**  
**AT 7.30PM IN ST MARYS HOUSE**

Present: Cllr Leech, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Hands, Cllr Howarth, Christine Coles – Parish Clerk, Cllr George Reynolds and six villagers

**Apologies**

Cllr Dave Hands (unwell)

**Chairpersons Report**

This has been a strange time for Broughton Parish Council. During the early days of the Pandemic, the PC were unable to meet in person, and had zoom meetings for many months, only meeting back in person, in May 2021. The Chair thanked the Parish Councillors for their support during this difficult time. It is with regret that she informed everyone that Councillor Dave Hands (Saxby) has recently stood down, due to ill health. The PC thanked him very much for his contributions while he was with them.

The PC now have a vacancy for another councillor, and would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining them.

At the start of lockdown, the Chair appealed for help for those self-isolating, and she thanked everyone who signed up. There was also an amazing community spirit at this time, and via the village WhatsApp group there were offers of books, jigsaws and games for those unable to get out. While it was not possible to buy DIY items, many people shared what they could.

*Litter* -Thank you to those villagers who have helped with litter picking. As lockdown eased, littering got worse, as we had more visitors to Broughton Park and surrounding area. This got worse as the takeaways opened up. The village itself remains mostly litter free. However “fly tipping” does still occur and this should be reported to [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com), so the council can remove it.

*Church footpath* – The Banbury Wild group, at the request of Martin Fiennes, removed ivy from the wall, and spread chippings alongside the flagstones, making it safer to walk down the side of them. However, the flagstones are still uneven and the council would advise continued care when walking especially during wet weather.

*Notice boards*- The small noticeboard at the top of Wykham Lanes is to be replaced with a larger one, and the household affected are happy with the change. It is hoped that this will be put up soon.

*Jubilee Gardens*- The council would like to thank Tim and Jenny White, for taking over the maintenance of Jubilee Gardens, adding many more plants, and making it look beautiful. Tim also refurbished the bench there, which is much appreciated.

*Car Park*- The council continues to maintain the car park, and trim the grass edges. Later on this year the PC hope to buy more gravel to top up the existing covering.

The PC hope that everyone will encourage visitors to use the carpark and that people using St Mary's House will also use it.

*Glass bins* - Due to high demand two further glass bins have been located in the car park and the PC have had no reports of full bins recently.

*Grass Maintenance* – The PC would like to thank the team of volunteers who have helped with strimming, through the year. The bank in front of the Alms Houses will be kept short to aid vision, when crossing the main road from Wykham Lane. The rest of the verges will be strimmed sympathetically to wildlife.

The Council continue to monitor the contract for grass cutting in the churchyard and to ensure that the work is carried out to a high standard. This is important as grass maintenance accounts for a substantial part of our expenditure.

*Main Road Clear up* – Thank you to everyone who has again helped to keep the footpath along the main road clear. Including sweeping up lots of leaves in the Autumn, and branches after the recent storms

*Speeding*- This continues to be a major concern, the PC continue to take part in “Speed Watch”, and the Chair thanked all the volunteers who have helped with this. In addition, the council have ordered new village signs, with a very large 30 mph sign above, similar to the Wroxton village sign.

*Defibrillator and first aid*- Following the receipt of a grant, the village purchased a defibrillator, which is sited in the Saye and Sele car park. A first aid course, specifically covering use of the defibrillator has been arranged for Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 6.30pm to 8.30pm. This was advertised in the village newsletter, but only 4 people have signed up. Please contact [sue.leech1now@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.leech1now@btinternet.com) if you would like to attend. In addition, later in the year, the PC will be arranging a full one day First Aid course, for villagers.

*Village Website* – This can be found at [www.broughton-oxon.uk](http://www.broughton-oxon.uk). You will find all Parish Council documents on there, and you will find information about the village on there. The PC thanked Nick Jesson for keeping the website up to date. If there is anything you think should be on there but isn't please let us know.

*Planning Applications* - Applications submitted to CDC are passed onto the Parish Council who give careful consideration to the impact that the building would have on individuals and to the village as a whole. We wish to preserve the rural character of the village.

*Highways* – The Parish Council is in regular contact with the Highways Authority advising them of works required to ensure public safety. Any potholes can be reported to the Parish Council who will endeavour to have them repaired as soon as possible. However it is possible to report them yourself by going to [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) and this is a very easy process. The PC are very aware that as soon as the council fill in one pothole another one appears. The idea of a proposed kerb at the top of Wykham Lane to discourage motorists driving the wrong way will be sent to Highways.

*Dogs* – The PC thanked the majority of dog owners who responsibly clean up after their dogs and use the 4 dog bins provided by the Parish Council. The Chair thanked the three local businesses (West Bar Vets, Hawthorne Lodge Vets and Hook Norton Vets) who contribute each year to the contract with Cherwell District Council who empty the bins on a regular basis.

Please could we remind people to also clean up after their dogs in the fields around Broughton. Failure to do this could result in livestock catching parasites from dogs and parasites damage farm animals that are grazing. In view of the facilities that have been provided we feel that there should be no dog mess in the village and would not hesitate to report anyone who is seen.

The Council extend their thanks to Lord Saye and Sele for the continued facility to the village of access to the Castle Grounds. The Chair thanked the Parish Clerk and her fellow Councillors for their continued help and support.

**To receive a financial report**

A set of unaudited accounts was presented. Income was £6.7K and expenditure £5.9K. A balance of £9.3K was recorded for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

**To receive any relevant correspondence**

There was no correspondence to discuss.

**Open Forum**

Mr Fletcher asked if a new 'No Parking in Turning Circle' sign could be ordered for Danvers Close. The current sign is old. It was agreed it could.

There will be a tea party at St Marys House to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

Currently there is utility works happening on the Broughton Road. Work will extend into the village and has been marked up. Drainage and resurfacing work at the bottom of Wykham Lane should be taking place.

The 20mph initiative was briefly discussed. A note will be put in the next newsletter to gain interest. The police do still visit Broughton and the more people that complain to 101 will bring the van to the village.

Cllr Reynolds advised that there will be a consultation on walking and cycling. The Chair did query the formation of a new short footpath between Broughton and the North Newington turn but was told it could cost £100K.

Meeting finished at 8pm.