

**BROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023**  
**AT 7.30PM IN ST MARYS HOUSE**

Present: Cllr Leech, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Hidson, Cllr Howarth and Cllr Mills

Christine Coles – Parish Clerk, Cllr George Reynolds and five villagers

**Apologies**

None

**Chairpersons Report**

Things have been getting back to “normal” for Broughton Parish Council, following the Covid Pandemic. After Councillor Dave Hands (Saxby) stood down due to ill health last year, we were down to 4 Councillors for most of the year. However, I am pleased to announce that Nicola (Nicki) Hilsdon was co-opted to the council at this March’s meeting. Nicki has lived in the village for 8 years, and has been on a Parish Council before, so brings lots of experience.

*Banbury Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan* - The recent consultation brought up the idea of a bridle way between Salt Way and Broughton. Most villagers agree that we would like a footpath/cycleway between Broughton and the North Newington turn, and in the past the Council have approached our MP Victoria Prentice, and Oxfordshire County Council to ask for this. I attended a meeting at the Town Hall, together with several villagers, to put our point of view across. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation, and inform the village, once more information is received.

*Village defibrillator and First Aid* - Following the installation of a village defibrillator on the side of the garage at the Saye and Sele Pub, a training course was arranged last May. The Hook Norton Community First Responders kindly led a free course for 12 villagers, and it was good to actually practice with the equipment. The Parish Council also paid for an Emergency First Aid Course, on 25th February this year, for 14 people. This covered many other aspects, including stroke, choking and burns, as well as heart attacks. It was led by Tiffany Watson, of the Oxford College of First Aid, and everyone agreed it was well worth while giving up four hours of their Saturday to learn so much. Although the pub is shut at the moment, the defibrillator is being checked regularly.

*Queens Party 2022 and Kings Party 2023* - Last year the Parish Council teamed up with St Mary’s House committee to put on a tea party for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. Many people attended, and enjoyed tea and cake, with a tombola and raffle. Martin Fiennes kindly came and cut the cake and proposed a toast to the Queen. A profit of £100 was made, and £50 each donated to Katherine House Hospice, and Dogs for Good. This year, the King’s Party, on Sunday 7th May, will be along similar lines. But this time the Parish Council is teaming up with the Broughton Social Group, who between them, will cover any shortfall, if we fail to make a profit.

*Speedwatch* - Following a change in the way Speedwatch is managed by the police, operators now have to do an on line training course before they can help out. Partly due to this, and partly due to ongoing roadworks around the village, very little Speedwatch has been done in the last year.

However, with the roadworks coming to an end, and the better weather approaching, we hope to start regular sessions again. If you would like to join the team, please let me know.

*Highways* - Traffic going the wrong way in Wykham Lane. A resident of Wykham Lane suggested a structure to narrow the road at the Danvers Road end, and Highways came out to have a look at the feasibility of this. They took measurements, and thought it was a good idea, but we have yet to get a price for this. In addition, they thought they might be able to improve the signage. We continue to chase this.

*Potholes* - The PC continue to report these, but you can go to [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) to report them yourself, and this is a very easy process.

*Notice board* - You may have noticed that we now have a smart new larger noticeboard, on the green triangle at the end of Wykham Lane/Danvers Road.

*Car Park on Wykham Lane* - The council continues to maintain the car park and trim the grass edges. In May last year a lorry load of gravel was ordered, to top up the surface. A very big thank you to all the villagers who came along to help spread it out. Much appreciated.

*Jubilee Gardens* – The Parish Council would like to thank Tim and Jenny White for continuing to maintain the gardens, and adding more plants all the time. You may have noticed the silhouette of the unknown soldier that the council purchased, in the gardens for the month of November.

*Church Footpath*- The chippings that were spread alongside the flagstones, have been washed away, but we hope to replace them soon, as Chris Hopkins says there is a lot of tree work going on in the park, and we should get new chippings. In the meantime, please take care on the flagstones, particularly in wet weather.

*Grass Cutting* – The Parish 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. Last year we did little strimming, due to the hot weather, and as we said last year, most verges will be strimmed sympathetically to maintain wildlife, but the bank in front of the Alms Houses will be kept short to aid vision when crossing the road.

*Missed bins* - Around September, there were many instances of missed bins. The Parish Council contacted Cherwell District Council and were advised that this was due to lack of staff. Since then, the problem seems to have been resolved.

*Litter* - Again, a big thank you to those villagers who have helped with litter picking. The village itself remains mostly litter free. However “fly tipping” does still occur, and this should be reported to Cherwell District Council, on their website.

*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 Parish Council thank 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 on to the Parish Council who give careful consideration to the impact the building would have on individuals, and to the village as a whole. We wish to preserve the rural character of the village.

*Dogs* - The Parish Council would like to thank the majority of dog owners who responsibly clean up after their dogs and use the 4 bins provided by the Parish Council. The Chair would like to thank the three local businesses (West Bar Vets, Hawthorn 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 so could result in livestock catching parasites from dogs, and this can cause abortions in sheep and cattle. 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. There is a fine of up to £1000 for this.

The Parish Council extend their thanks to Lord Saye and Sele for the continued access to the Castle Grounds. There is free access to the Castle Gardens, and café for villagers, but for details of Castle opening, please see their website [www.broughtoncastle.com](http://www.broughtoncastle.com) I would like to thank the Parish Clerk and all my fellow Councillors for their continued help and support.

**To receive a financial report**

A set of unaudited accounts was presented. Income was £7819.00 and expenditure £7583.00. This left a balance on 31.03.23 of £9584.00.

**To receive any relevant correspondence**

There was no correspondence to discuss.

**Open Forum**

A villager asked if the hedge by the car park on Wykham Lane could be cut back. It can be, but not until September as its bird nesting season.

A villager enquired about the pub re-opening but there is no further news.

Cllr Reynolds briefly spoke about the cycling and walking plan. It will affect everyone and driving into Banbury will be difficult. The Parish Council have received no updates. The hedge near Mole End will be cut back each year which will make walking into Banbury easier.

Cllr Reynolds spoke about his Cllr Priority Fund. Councillors to think of ideas for the May meeting.

Meeting finished at 8pm.