

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15th APRIL 2024
AT 7.30PM IN ST MARYS HOUSE

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

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

Apologies

Martin Fiennes

Chairpersons Report

It was with great sorrow, that the Parish Council learnt of the death of Lord Saye and Sele in January this year, aged 103. He, together with Lady Saye, have always been great supporters of the village, and we all appreciate being allowed access to the Castle Grounds, and the Castle Garden.

Many villagers attended his funeral in February and were made very welcome, both in the church and marquee. We extend our condolences to Lady Saye, Martin and all their family.

In my last report, I advised that Councillor Dave Hands (Saxby) had to stand down due to ill health. We were very saddened to learn of his death in December last year, and our condolences go to his widow Sam, and all his family. He was a lovely man who will be much missed.

Banbury Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan - Nothing more has been decided under this plan, but the Parish Council will inform the village once more information is received.

Village defibrillator and First Aid - The village defibrillator is located on the side of the garage at the Saye and Sele Pub. The Parish Council have been in touch with Laws and Fiennes who manage the building, and they confirm that electricity is still connected to the unit, so it is still operational. If you need to use the defibrillator, you must phone 999 to get the code to open the case.

With regards to First Aid training, this is planned for every 3 years, and after 12 villagers did the course last year, the next one will be in 2026.

Kings Party Sunday 7th May 2023 - The Parish Council teamed up with the Broughton Social Group to arrange the Kings Party. Many people attended and enjoyed tea and cake, with a tombola and raffle. Martin Fiennes kindly came and cut the cake, and we were very happy to see Lord and Lady Saye too. A big thank you to everyone who helped, and a profit of £206.81 was made, which was split £100 to St Mary's House and £100 to Katharine House Hospice.

Speedwatch - There was a consultation with villagers with regard to reducing the speed limit through Broughton to 20 mph. There were very few replies received, and after an open meeting, where a handful of villagers attended, it was decided to keep the 30mph limit. Full details are available on the village website. Councillors agreed that the more Speedwatch we can do, the better, as this encourages drivers to stick to the 30mph limit. If you would like to join the Speedwatch team, and help us achieve this goal, please contact Sue Leech via the Parish Council.

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. However, the cost of this came out at over £26,000 !!!!!, so unfortunately, we can't afford this. However highways have placed a yellow board behind the no entry sign to make it more visible. Unfortunately, motorists do still drive the wrong way along Wykham Lane. Please report this to the police on 101. The more it is reported, the more likely it is that we can get something done.

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. It looks especially lovely in the spring. The Parish Council have just ordered a new litter bin for the gardens.

Church Footpath - We are still waiting for more chippings to put alongside the path. 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. However, following my attendance at a Climate Change event in January, I heard about villages who set aside parts of their churchyard for wildlife, and I will be investigating this during the year, and will report back to everyone. In addition, we contacted North Newington Parish Council, regarding increasing their contribution towards the grass cutting.

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. You will find all Parish Council documents on there, and you will find information about the village on there. The PC 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 PC 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 thanks 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 £1000.00 for this.

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 £7114.50 and expenditure £5673.91. This left a surplus of £1440.59.

To receive any relevant correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Open Forum

Cllr Reynolds spoke about work at OCC. A lot of time and money is spent on adult and social care. CDC will move to Castle Quay and save money on revenue costs. Work on the Local Plan is continuing. There will be the odd infill in Broughton. Banbury may continue to creep out.

Cars continue to drive down Wykham Lane the wrong way. The lines need repainting. The Parish Clerk will report on FMS.

Meeting finished at 8pm.