

BROUGHTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 28th APRIL 2025
AT 7.30PM IN ST MARYS HOUSE, WYKHAM LANE

Present: Cllr Leech (Chair of PC), Cllr Byrne, Cllr Crawley, Cllr Hilsdon and Cllr Howarth

Christine Coles – Parish Clerk and eight villagers

Apologies

There were no apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone and each Councillor was introduced.

Chairpersons Report

In June this year we were sad to learn that Haden Mills was resigning from the Parish Council due to work commitments. We would like to thank him for all he did for the village during his term of office. He is also keeping the Remembrance Day soldier safe for us.

Trevor Crawley from Wykham Lane, very kindly stepped forward and was co-opted as a Parish Councillor in September.

Gigaclear- As you will have noticed Gigaclear have been working in the village. In January I attended a community event held by them in Horley. Gigaclear have been given the contract by the government to provide full fibre broadband to rural areas. They are putting in the infrastructure, and then broadband will come to us via the poles that currently provide our phone/broadband. I am advised that the completion date for the broadband build in the village is November 2025.

Thames Valley Police Rural Community Forum - I have just started attending these forums and have found them interesting, particularly the bit about car theft/burglary and other theft. So arranged for PC Freeman and PCSO Langford to visit the village on Saturday 15th March at the village hall. This was a very successful event, which the people who attended found very interesting. They were able to ask the officers questions relating to their own circumstances.

The possible purchase of a new Vehicle Activated Sign for the main road - A poll of the village resulted in very few replies, of which the majority were against due to the cost. Therefore councillors voted against the purchase.

Speedwatch – We haven't been doing speedwatch during the winter months due to the bad weather and lack of daylight. However, we will be starting again this month, and last year we found that the traffic slowed down while we were there, and out of 200 cars passing per hour, only 2 or 3 were caught speeding. So, the more we can do the better, and if you would like to join our team, please contact me on sue.leech1now@btinternet.com or 07891 467656.

Highways – In February I met Kathryn Gash from Highways for a Broughton Parish Council Walk and Talk, looking for things that needed fixing. She identified several blocked drains and has booked the drainage team to, hopefully, to come in April/May to unblock and jet wash them. I told her of the trouble the residents of Wykham Lane have with vehicles going the wrong way along the one-way system. She has requested additional one-way signs and asked for the one way arrows on the road to be repainted.

For things like potholes, I can directly report ones within the 30mph limit, but unfortunately, I can't do anything about ones outside the village, other than report them on FixMyStreet

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.

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 placed a new litter bin in 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. Our previous grass cutter has moved, so we got quotes for a new contractor, and one has been chosen. Having looked into managing the churchyard for wildlife, we found that this would be very labour intensive, and at this time there is no one willing to take on the management job for this. However, if this would interest you, please do not hesitate to email us at broughtonpc@btinternet.com

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. 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 two local businesses (West Bar 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.

The Parish Council would like to thank Martin Fiennes for continuing to allow us free access to the castle grounds. The sheep are back so dogs must be on leads again.

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 £7605.00 and expenditure was £8290.74. This left a deficit of £685.49.

Thanks was given to Richard Fletcher for carrying out the internal audit.

To receive any relevant correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

Open Forum

Fly tipping is on the increase along Sandfine Road and tyres in particular. There is a charge to drop off tyres at the local tip. Any incidents can be reported on FMS.

Work will be done to the yew tree in the churchyard and the hedge reduced by the car park in Wykham Lane.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting finished at 7.55pm.