



Broseley Town Council

Minutes of a Town Council meeting
held at the Birchmeadow Centre
at 7pm on Tuesday 13 February 2024.

Present:

Town Mayor Cllr. Andy Taylor, Deputy Town Mayor Caroline Bagnall, Cllr. Ian West, Cllr. Michael Burton, Cllr. Su Evans-Turner, Cllr. Roy Childs, Cllr. Simon Harris, Cllr. D Pollard and Cllr. Raymond Sergeant.

In attendance:

Jenna Munday, Acting Town Clerk

639/2023 Chairman's Welcome

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

640/2023 Apologies for absence

There following apology was received:

Councillor	Reason
Mark Garbett	Personal Matter

641/2023 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests

The following pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests were declared:

Councillor	Interest
Simon Harris	Festival Committee Member (Non-Pecuniary)
Ian West	Birchmeadow Management Committee (Non-Pecuniary)
Caroline Bagnall	Birchmeadow Management Committee Chair (Non-Pecuniary)
Roy Childs	Birchmeadow Centre Employee (Pecuniary)

642/2023 Dispensations

There were no dispensations requested.

643/2023 Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

644/2023 Co-option

Following the resignation of Cllr. Charlie Garratt one candidate had expressed an interest in being co-opted to fill the councillor vacancy. The Town Mayor invited the candidate to give a presentation as to why they would like to be co-opted to join the Council.

Following a vote. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Raymond Sergeant would be co-opted to join the Town Council.**

Raymond then signed his declaration of acceptance of office as a Town Councillor.

Members welcomed Raymond, and wished him the very best in his new role as a Town Councillor.

645/2023 Police Report

a) Members received the following written report from the Broseley and Much

Wenlock Safer Neighbourhood Team: Update to Broseley Town Council: 06/02/2024
Update on Police and SNT activity in the area. In addition to the Officers in the Safer Neighbourhood Team, there is a team of Response Officers based in Bridgnorth Police Station who attend incidents in the area. There has been an increased presence in the town as Officers from other departments have been targeting rural crime across the County and this has led to the seizure of a number of vehicles.

- Neighbourhood Matters. Neighbourhood Matters is an online messaging service operated by West Mercia Police. SNT Officers are sending Crime Alerts and other locally relevant information out to all those who join the service. Please encourage everyone to check out what is available by following the link - <https://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/>
West Mercia Police has signed up to the Local Policing Community Charter. The Council has outlined its three main Policing Priorities as:
- Anti-social Behaviour (ASB). There have been ten reports of youth related ASB, six involved a group of youths knocking on doors and running away, two involved a quad bike being ridden by a rider who appeared to be too young (face concealed). There was also a report of a group throwing stones and milk in the high street and another of a group being abusive.
- Speeding. There has been an anonymous report of a car being driven at a speed perceived to have been in excess of the 30-mph limit. The vehicle reported has not come to the attention of the Police before. SNT have noted the detail of the anonymous report.
- Drugs. Locations that have either been linked to drug related activity or to suspected drug dealers have been patrolled and a number of reports submitted regarding such activity.
- Anti-social behaviour (ASB). There have been ten incidents of youth related ASB, where there have been eye witness accounts, those involved appear to be a different group to the ones that have previously been causing issues in the town as the descriptions do not match. SNT Officers will be continuing to patrol when on duty.
- Burglary. A number of power tools were stolen from an outbuilding in the Linley area, a quad was stolen from an outbuilding in the Shirlett area, a car was stolen by offenders breaking into a house to steal the keys, there was an attempted burglary of a store and a Land Rover stolen from a farm was pursued and recovered by Officers, an arrest was made.
- Car Theft. A car stolen in the town was later found by a Tracker company and recovered. Officers were deployed to an address to recover some firearm cartridges following the sudden death of a firearms certificate holder.
- Criminal damage. There were two reports where vehicles were damaged by having their windows smashed, one in the town and one in the Jackfield area.
- Vehicle Seizure. Five vehicles involved in crime were seized by Police, one of which was completely burnt out. Two other vehicles were seized because they had no insurance or tax. A pair of registration plates for Land Rovers were found abandoned in a field and seized.
- Road Related. There was a report of a pair of horses being loose on the road.
- Domestic Incidents. There were two incidents relating to domestic abuse, Officers attended and dealt with both in an appropriate manner.
- There were five hoax/malicious 999 calls made, two made from the telephone in the square. Two other 999 calls were diverted to the ambulance service as they involved people reporting a mental health issue.
- There were four reports of concern for the welfare of people, Officers were deployed to three of these and one of our partner agencies was more suitable to deal with the fourth. Details from two of the incidents that Officers deployed to have been passed to our partner agencies for help in resolving the issues identified.

NOTED

- b) Members CONSIDERED whether there were any policing priorities changes to be made. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to request the following:**
1. **Anti-Social Behaviour**
 2. **Drugs**
 3. **Theft – Farm and Dwellings.**

646/2023 Mayors Announcements

Members received and NOTED the following report from the Town Mayor, Cllr. Andy Taylor:

In terms of mayoral duties, the last month has been quite quiet. I was invited to the Pantomime but was unfortunately unwell on the day I was to attend.

BTC was contacted by 'Trailtale' who offered to include the town in a group of South Shropshire towns of a similar size in their mobile tourist app. A subset of the tourism group attended a presentation and were suitably impressed. The tourism group have agreed that we will put ourselves forward to participate. There is no cost to Broseley for 5 years as the initial funding is being provided by the National Lottery heritage fund. Other towns likely to be participating are Much Wenlock, Clun and bishops Castle.

Arrangements are progressing for the 'Celebrate Broseley' event on Sunday 3rd March 2024.

647/2023 Shropshire Council

Members received and NOTED the following report from Shropshire Councillor, Cllr. Caroline Bagnall:

I attended a meeting of the Strategic Licencing Committee in January as substitute for a colleague. The meeting was held to discuss proposed changes to regulations regarding the display of flags on taxis. This came about as a result of a complaint from a taxi driver who wished to display the Union flag on his vehicle. The committee agreed to amend the rules to allow this, provided the flag is no more than A4 size.

The Southern Planning Committee had a long agenda last month. Committee members are invited to attend site visits on the morning of the committee meeting and, although this makes for a long day, it is very helpful to see the locations relating to the planning applications. Site visits are attended by Planning Officers who can give further details to committee members.

I attended the Task and Finish Group on Bullying and Harassment. Recommendations from the group will go forward to the Transformation and Improvement Scrutiny Committee this week. Last week I attended the Police and Crime Panel which was held at Wychavon District Council offices in Pershore. We received the annual report from the Police and Crime Commissioner, John Champion. I pointed out that Broseley has been short of a full Safer Neighbourhood team for much of the past few years and that delays in replacing members of the team leave the town under resourced in terms of policing. I also pointed out that the delay in getting a response to calls to 101 are resulting in people not bothering to use the service. He accepted that there have been issues with this and improvements to the service are part of his plans for the coming year. I said that we, as representatives of our communities, will be asked to justify the increase in the precept for the police which forms part of our council tax and that this is difficult to do when the resources allocated to our areas appear to be minimal. The Labour Group on the council put forward their alternative budget last month. This included the proposal to bring services back in house, rather than paying outside contractors to do the work. These contractors often then sub contract the work to others and this increases costs. The group said that if social care services were brought back in house, workers would be paid £14 an hour – well over the minimum wage of around £11 an hour – and would yet save some £14million pounds a year. Following claims by Conservatives that this was part of a 'Marxist agenda', which were refuted by the Labour leader, Cllr Julia Buckley, the item made the Rotten Boroughs pages of Private Eye magazine.

I have chased up the need for gullies to be cleared in Broseley and several of the worst have now been cleared. I have also received calls from local residents regarding a range of issues and I am always happy to help where I can. I can be contacted by phone or email and at the monthly councillor surgeries.

648/2023 Minutes

- a) Members **CONSIDERED** the minutes from the Town Council Meeting held on 9 January 2024. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record providing that the date for the police report is corrected.
- b) Members **CONSIDERED** the minutes from the Extraordinary Town Council Meeting held on 23 January 2024. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** that the minutes be signed and **ADOPTED** as a true record
- c) Members **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** the minutes of the Finance Committee held on 20 December 2023
- d) Members **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** the minutes of the Planning & Transport Committee held on 21 December 2023
- e) Members **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** the minutes of the Estate Committee held on 8 November 2023
- f) Members **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 29 November 2023.

649/2023 Financial Matters

- a) Members **NOTED** the Income and expenditure to end of December
- b) Members **NOTED** the bank reconciliations to end of December
- c) Members **NOTED** the level of reserves
- d) Members **NOTED** the Payments to date
- e) Members **APPROVED** a recommendation from finance to move £75,000 from NHF to EMR 321
- f) Members **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED** the following grant request for payment: Cllr. Simon Harris didn't take part within the vote.

Organisation	Payment amount
Broseley Festival Grant – Event Security. To be paid from EMR 344	£2,500

Members also **NOTED** that the Town Council had received a grant offer of £12,562.96 for the council to facilitate an Easter, Summer and Winter play scheme within the financial year of 2024/25.

650/2023 Appointment of Committees

Members **CONSIDERED** and **APPROVED** that the new councillor would be given the opportunity to attend a finance, estate and staffing meeting so he can understand the requirements should he decide to take one of the vacant seats.

651/2023 Meeting Schedule 24/25

Members **CONSIDERED** the meeting schedule for 2024/25. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED** to accept the below schedule and to move estates to the Library building from April 2024.

DATE	TOWN COUNCIL	PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE	ESTATE COMMITTEE	STAFFING COMMITTEE	FINANCE COMMITTEE	ANNUAL TOWN METING
2024	<i>Tuesday 7pm</i>	<i>Thursday 7pm</i>	<i>Tuesday *Wednesday 7pm</i>	<i>Wednesday 7pm</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>
May	14	23	*15	22	28	
June	11	27			25	
July	9	25	16	24	23	
September	10	26	17	25	24	
October	8	24			22	
November	12	28	19	27	26	
December	10	19			17	

2025						
January	14	23	21	22	28	
February	11	27			25	
March	11	27	18	26	25	
April	8	24			22	
May	13	22	20	28	27	23

652/2023 Fairfield

Members **NOTED** that the Acting Clerk had liaised with the estate agent and should any changes come forward then they would approach the town council.

653/2023 Mayor's Awards

Members **NOTED** that the plans for the Mayor's Tea event are well underway. Invitations have gone out, the caterer has been booked, and the entertainment is now being finalised. **It was then AGREED that delegated powers be given to the Acting Town Clerk to spend within the agreed budget line of 4650/170, and that a final expenditure report would be brought to council in March for retrospective approval.**

654/2023 D-Day 80, 6 June 2024

Members **CONSIDERED** a written report from the Acting Town Clerk and **It was unanimously APPROVED to keep the 80th anniversary of D-Day to a small celebration. The Acting Town Clerk would contact Rev Lynda Lilley to arrange a small remembrance service within the late afternoon of 6 June.**

655/2023 Street Lighting Upgrade

Members received a written report from the Acting Town Clerk on the progress made and the final expenditure of the scheme. **It was then PROPOSED, SECONDED and APPROVED that the following be paid:**

- **Tender contract invoice £53,263.10 + VAT EMR 323**
- **Annual Service Contract £5,500 + VAT.**

Members then gave thanks to Peter Smith, Cllr. Ian West and the Acting Clerk for their efforts making the project a success.

656/2023 Correspondence

Members **NOTED** the following correspondence received:

- Town, Parish boundary review
- Red Church Annual Report
- Letter from a Resident
- Annual spring clean (litter pick to take place on Sunday 24 March)

657/2023 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Members requested the following agenda items for the next meeting:

- Mayor Awards
- Nominations for Town Mayor
- Police Update
- Town Talk
- Climate Action Group Update
- Tourism Group update
- D-Day.

658/2023 Date of Next Meeting

a) Members **NOTED** that the next Councillors Surgery will take place on **24 February 2024 at Broseley Library, with Cllr. Caroline Bagnall and Cllr. Roy Childs and Doreen Pollard in attendance.**

b) Members are asked to **NOTE that the next Full Town Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday 12 March 2024.**

562/2023 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the above Act it was **PROPOSED, SECONDED** and **AGREED** that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press should not be present.

659/2023 Staffing

a) Members received a verbal update on the Town Clerks absence:

- The most recent update between the Clerk and the Town Mayor’s telephone welfare call was **NOTED**
- Members considered discretionary pay. **It was AGREED that this be denied as this could set a precedent for other staff going forward**
- Members **NOTED** that the contract between BTC and T&W had been terminated, and a refund of £389.55 + VAT was accepted
- HR have given advice on the next steps to manage the absence. **It was then AGREED to follow HR advice and that the documents be sent to the clerk**
- Members **AGREED** the proposed expenditure for OH be accepted a cost between £175-£378.

b) Members received the following a verbal update on other staffing matters from the Chair of Staffing:

- Grave digging has been taking much longer due to the amount of rain fall we have had, so we have required K Carter to help with external digging. **Members then agreed the expenditure of £250 per dig to be paid at a total cost of £750 for three recent burials.**
- Applications for the Head Grounds Keeper post are starting to come through, and shortlisting will begin after the closing date of 23 February 2023
- Members **AGREED** to advertise the Grounds Post with indeed also.

660/2023 Birchmeadow Centre

Members **CONSIDERED** a recommendation from the estate committee to approve the proposed expenditure, for JC Electrical to undertake the LED lighting upgrade that is required within the Birchmeadow Centre. **It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to accept the quotation of £2,450 + VAT.**

The meeting closed at: 20:55

Signed:_____

Date:_____

Chairman