

BUDBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Wednesday 8 May 2024 at 20h00
in the Budbrooke Community Centre

Present: Cllr Mike Dutton (Chair), Cllrs: Andy Thomas, Rhonda Treacy-Hales, Maggie Treacy-Hales, Michelle Nutt, Ian McCloskey, and 8 members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs: Jan Matecki (WCC & WDC), Peter Phillips (WDC)

Abbreviations: Please see below under final Item

These are unconfirmed minutes. Confirmed minutes are available on the website shortly after approval at the next APM.

1. Welcome & Opening

The Chair welcomed all present and thanked them for attending the three meetings tonight i.e. the APM the AGM and then the usual Council meeting.

Minutes of all three meetings would be available in the Parish Newsletter and on the parish website.

2. Council Plans for:

The Chair referred all to a 2022 document entitled Budbrooke Parish Council's Plan 2022-2027 that had been circulated to all residents at the time, that shows plans and costs. Paper copies were made available.

2.1 Budbrooke Community Centre

The Chair noted that the parish council is the trustee for the parish of the Community Centre that has a separate committee and is a charity that operates the CC on behalf of the council and residents. This committee performs an excellent job including having recently redone the room that this meeting was being held in.

Cllr R Treacy-Hales clarified that the CC committee had last year managed the replacement of the roof on this room as well as the installation of new lighting and a new ceiling. Cllr R Treacy-Hales confirmed that there would be further work on / in this room along with new flooring, a kitchen and windows. The CC building had evolved to suit the needs of residents over time

A resident noted water saturation alongside of their properties adjacent to Montgomery Park. The Chair confirmed that it would be fine to discuss the concerns of the resident but that it may not be a matter for the PC and if so, the PC was happy to assist the resident to point them in the right direction. This matter was however postponed and discussed as shown at 1.1 in the minutes to the ordinary council meeting this evening.

2.2 Children's Play Areas (Styles Close and Montgomery Avenue) and an Outdoor Gym in Styles Close

Cllr Nutt noted that when she had taken on the task of install play area equipment, she had soon realised the need to include both the playgrounds themselves i.e. Styles Close and Montgomery Avenue as well as consider maintenance.

The proposals for gym equipment were shown on the picture boards on display at the meeting. Feedback received previously covered a number of issues that included a path around the perimeter for walking and jogging, a skate park section, possibly reducing the football pitch, re-wilding schemes, provision for basketball and a picnic area. Proposals will be discussed with suppliers as part of the next steps to work with Caroline Edwards to convene workshops to invite residents to where they could indicate their priorities on the various options that had been suggested. These might include an adult group, a youth group and perhaps a school group to cover the needs of younger residents. Cllr R Treacy-Hales offered to refer the latter group to the head of the primary school.

Action Cllr Nutt

Sadly, the list of suggestions exceeds any potential budget and so over the next two months, costings will be secured for feedback to residents and then for feedback to council for decisions. The Chair noted that spending was time limited and so may also restrict what is achievable.

Action Cllr Nutt

3. Any Other Business

3.1 Footbridge over the A46

A relatively new resident to the parish enquired regarding ways to try to get across the A46 to go into Warwick town centre, by walk or by cycle. In response, it was noted that residents use the route along the path past Warwick Parkway and the canal that takes around 26 minutes to walk. A fellow resident of an attendee had mentioned three rights of way asking what had happened to these and who was responsible for them. It was reported that installing a footbridge over the A46 would be at a substantial cost of around £2M, as an alternative to the current gaps in centre of the A46 where there has been a refusal to install signs on the A46 to warn motorists of pedestrians crossing. The resident thought that it was strange that nobody is “fighting our corner” and asked if it was safe to cycle past the Parkway towards / into Warwick, It was felt that this was a safe route. The resident had found the council minutes very useful and informative but noted that the matter of this footbridge was only mentioned once in two years. The resident referred again to the same fellow neighbour mentioned above, who had apparently asked a number of questions hereon. The attending resident believed that there were detrimental effects of the 400 recently built houses in Hampton Magna that he thought included deterring walking or cycling into Warwick.

The Chair confirmed that there was a path to walk and cycle on already and he noted that public highways are the responsibility of the County Council. There had been work on the costings of a walkway across to the Henley Road and that the Parish Council can assist when asked to do so by residents.

An accompanying resident asked who does the lobbying on these types of matters and the Chair reaffirmed the assistance that the Parish Council can provide. The resident asked if anybody had performed a survey and it was repeated that such was a County Council / Highways matter.

3.2 Funding from Developers

The resident then made a request for information about the funding from the developers to assist the community. The resident believed that one of the two developers had apparently

reduced their amount of funding and wondered if it can be determined which developer had reduced theirs and by how much. It was believed that contributions were negotiated with the district council and that it may have been Miller Homes. The resident said that they would like to hear back on this reduced funding as the resident believed that this developer was reneging on their commitment.

The Chair concluded that the contributions from the developers to the Parish Council would not be sufficient to consider a bridge that would take years to plan and construct i.e. longer than the time restriction to spend the parish funding. However, the council will seek information to assist the residents.

Clerk to action

Abbreviations: BCA – Budbrooke Community Association / HOTH – Hampton on the Hill / HOTHRA – Hampton on the Hill Residents' Association / NALC – National Association of Local Councils / NW - Neighbourhood Watch / PC – Parish Council / PCSO – Police Community Support Officer / WALC – Warwickshire Association of Local Councils / WRCC – Warwickshire Rural Community Council / WCC – Warwickshire County Council / WDC – Warwick District Council / NP - Neighbourhood Plan / FB - Facebook / BVH - Budbrooke Village Hall / BBCC - Budbrooke Community Centre / CIL - Community Infrastructure Levy / DPI - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests / FB - Facebook