

BUDBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday 5 February 2025 at 20h00
in the Budbrooke Community Centre

Present: Cllrs: Mike Dutton (Chair), Andy Thomas, Rhonda Treacy-Hales, Maggie Treacy-Hales, Michelle Nutt, Paul McCloskey, Jan Matecki (WCC & WDC), Peter Phillips (WDC) and 6 members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs:

The Chair proposed that Paul McCloskey be co-opted and this was approved.

Abbreviations: Please see below under final Item

1. Public Participation

1.1 A member of the public thanked Cllr Matecki for the clearing on the footpath along Old Budbrooke Road as well as the moving of the barriers between Mayne Close and Lloyd Close.

1.2 The same resident reported that there were trees that needed trimming at Montgomery Avenue but it was not clear which trees were being referred to and so the **Clerk will** seek clarification.

1.3 Tim Wade introduced himself as a future Reform Party candidate but that this would now be in the St Johns Wood, Kenilworth ward rather than in the ward that the Budbrooke Parish was located in.

1.4 In response to an enquiry from a member of the public about the fallen tree on the green at HotH, the Clerk confirmed that this had been reported and would be followed up. **Clerk to** action.

2. Register, Apologies & Declaration of Interest & Dispensations - The register was signed by all present. There were no Dispensations or Declarations of Interest

3. Approve previous minutes - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8 January 2025 were approved. **Clerk to file**

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Red phone box – Hampton on the Hill –Plaque - Cllr R Treacy-Hales proposed a plaque on the refurbished red box given that it is one of the few K6 models that are the oldest in the country, despite the potential risk that this plaque could expose the box to. A member of the public asked if only a plaque was to be installed and **Cllr R Treacy-Hales** confirmed that there were a number of ideas for what it might contain and **more details would follow** thereon. It was confirmed, in response to a query from the same member of the public that the base had been secured. In reply to Cllr McCloskey, it was noted that there was no electricity in the box.

4.2 New councillors – The co-opting of Cllr McCloskey was noted above whilst Cllr R Treacy-Hales was preparing a note to post onto Facebook.

4.3 Matters that Councillors wish to clarify / discuss from the PC Action List - The Clerk noted that the list contained numerous items that had been actioned/completed and were shown as being “to close” and these were confirmed.

5. Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Projects Update

5.1 Community Centre – Cllr R Treacy-Hales had sent plans for new toilets earlier this evening after she and Caroline Edwards had met an architect who lives in the village. Whereas it was originally thought that this would need walls to be taken down, that was no longer required and just a lintel would suffice. The details provided included a draft timetable and **Cllr R Treacy-Hales would revert** with costs. It was agreed that the BPC would contribute from CiL funds to the architect costs.

5.2 Play Grounds – Cllr Nutt apologised for sending an update just before the meeting and reported that there had been 55 responses to the consultation. There was support for a pathway around the Styles Close park as well as for a trim park and a scooter facility. The main elements in each of Styles Close and Montgomery Ave were supported. There had been a suggestion of a dog park at Styles Close and a facility at Montgomery Ave to enjoy nature. Whereas most suggestions can be incorporated into the plans, there were 3 matters requiring further discussion. Firstly, accessible play equipment at Montgomery Ave would need access pathways to the equipment that would need to be checked against the deed of the Centenary Fields. **Cllr Nutt to provide** details to the Clerk on the possible options to compare to the deed. The second was a mountain bike track at Styles Close that with the pathway and multi games area would mean that there was unlikely to be sufficient space. This had only been requested by one resident. The third matter was a request from 6 respondents for a dedicated dog park that would need to be fenced off to allow dogs to run without leads and would require poo bins that would attract a cost to empty. Cllr Nutt had found that nearly all such dog parks in the UK were privately owned with just a few public owned ones, that would need planning permission. These dog parks needed some more work to investigate and it was noted that these would take up space. Was the BPC happy to delay the project to investigate dog parks further? Cllr Thomas commented that this would need a lot of space whilst Cllr R Treacy-Hales believed that it would need nearly the whole of the Styles Close playground. Cllr M Treacy-Hales added that whereas this was a good idea in general, it was perhaps not suitable at Styles Close, **Cllr Nutt** said that she **would rework the plans** based on the survey along with costs along with consulting with WDC.

5.3 Benches – The Clerk had provided a paper to all for the meeting showing some options for wooden, recycled plastic or metal benches from suppliers suggested by Caroline Edwards in a previous year who he thanked, Cllr Thomas added that the benches must have sides and be able to have plaques attached and so he preferred teak e.g. the Westminster option. Cllr R Treacy-Hales considered the option of the metal benches in the Hampton Trove park as being too costly. Caroline Edwards suggested that residents may also wish to have and contribute to the cost of a bench. Cllr McCloskey enquired if hard standing was needed whilst the Chair asked about permissions. In response, the Clerk said that permissions would be sought once decisions had been made on the types of benches and their costs, Cllr M Treacy-Hales would send details to the Clerk of a plain (compared the Hampton Trove military styled) metal bench that only cost £500. The Chair wanted permissions to be obtained first as well as to provide replacements first. Cllr Nutt suggested a notice to residents offering the opportunity to make contributions to these benches whilst the Clerk believed that the BPC may need to know what benches are being bought to make such an offer to residents. Not all benches need to be the same and some can be different. Caroline Edwards reminded the BPC of funds from a 2 metre bench that was initiated to remember Covid that the **Clerk would investigate**.

6. Planning

6.1.1 Planning applications to report / consider – none

6.1.2 W/24/1558 Hilltop House, Littleworth (Warwick) Road, Budbrooke CV35 8HB – it was noted that when an objection was attempted, it was clarified by WDC that an objection was not possible on this matter.

6.2 Decision re Henley Road Travellers – It was noted that it had been agreed to present the same objection to inquiry as had been made to WDC planning.

6.3 South Warwickshire Local Plan – Preferred Options Consultation

It was noted that notices encouraging residents to comment in the consultation process had been included in the February Newsletter and posted on Facebook. In addition, a combined response from councils local to the Hatton development would be considered in advance of possibly adding the support of the BPC thereto.

Cllr Thomas commented that in an email received today from the Local Plan team, the consultation was in fact on all sites and not just the 36 main ones and so comments on the many small sites was also needed. Cllrs Matecki and Phillips were not aware of this email that the **Clerk would urgently forward** to them. Cllr Phillips suggested that the BPC write to the WDC Chief Executive of the need to extend the consultation beyond 7 March if it does indeed include all small sites. Cllr Nutt agreed and the **Clerk was** requested to action. Cllr Phillips understood that other councils were only looking at 36 sites and he was concerned at the lack of traction from residents that needed a large number of objections to be taken notice of. He added that residents in Hampton Magna and HotH needed to be aware that under the Local Plan, villages will all but disappear into greater Warwick, particularly with the two potential commercial sites adjacent to HM.

A Shrewley councillor Garry Rollason reported that Shrewley Parish Council were printing leaflets and referred to the public consultation at the Warwick Library on Saturday 8 February.

It was suggested that use be made of Facebook to alert residents to the interactive map including pointing out all the information available as suggested by Cllr Thomas. A member of the public reported that residents have wondered if giving feedback will make any difference. Cllr Phillips confirmed that yes, it will make a difference and even though it takes time to process all the feedback, the officers have to consider each and every one of the responses. Cllr M Treacy-Hales added that the BPC has to encourage involvement as failure to register concerns will merely lead to the plan going ahead unopposed. Cllr Phillips reminded all that this plan was about in excess of 54,000 homes that would have a major impact on all residents, that a member of the public endorsed referring to infrastructure and traffic.

Initially it was thought that no leaflet drop was needed and Cllr Phillips noted that Barford Council had distributed 11,000 leaflets. It was then agreed to produce leaflets to incorporate details discussed above including referring to the paper forms that can be used that are available from the Open Door. Cllr Rollason offered to provide details of the printers used by the Keep Hatton Station Rural group (KHSR) as well as revert to the Chair about the possibility of using leaflets of KHSR. **Cllrs M Treacy-Hales and R Treacy-Hales offered** to produce a BPC leaflet.

Cllr Thomas suggested that a public meeting was also needed to encourage residents to comment on the sites involved, both residential and commercial and to provide guidance and support on how to object. The **Clerk was asked** to determine when the CC main hall was available for a meeting.

7. Correspondence

7.1 NIL

8. Parish Maintenance/Playgrounds

8.1 The January 2025 Playground Report was noted.

8.2 Annual Playground Inspection – Following the external annual inspection of both Styles Close and Montgomery Ave on 22 January 2025, the external report had been provided in advance of the meeting. A reply had been received from the Martin Davies who attended the inspection and performs the monthly inspections. There was nothing critical to attend to with the Styles Close toddler multi-play requiring a repair and pressure wash of the matted area that was approved. At Montgomery Ave, the slide and swing needed repair and the repair of the swing seats and chains and a pressure wash of the mats was approved. However, the slide repairs would be too costly given the upcoming refurbishment, and so it was agreed to close the slide. **Clerk to action.**

9. Community Centre / Village Hall items

9.1 In connection with the CC, Cllr R Treacy-Hales reported that the annual insurance renewal for the CC had unearthed some issues. Whereas the BPC is responsible for the building, the CC committee manages it. When the CC became a CIO then a trust deed was needed to reflect the ownership by CC or a formal lease was required. The Clerk suggested that legal advice was required and the Chair suggested that the WCC legal department be consulted **by the Clerk.**

9.2 Whereas there were upcoming films at the Village Hall, these would be before the newsletters were distributed and so no events were noted.

10. Newsletter / Website / Facebook

10.1 Newsletter invoicing – The Clerk reported chasing a reply from WALC who have now forwarded our query to NALC about what could be advertised in the newsletter. **Clerk to follow up.**

11. Finance

11.1 Approval of payments - The payments on the list provided to councillors in advance of the meeting were noted and cheques were signed for these.

11.2 December 2024 Accounts – This had been distributed prior to the meeting and was considered and approved.

11.3 Bank reconciliations at 31 December 2024 – This had been distributed prior to the meeting and was considered and approved. In addition, the bank reconciliations as at 30 November 2024 that had not been signed at the last meeting, were now signed.

11.4 External Audit Report 2022/3 – A paper will be provided and actions taken. **Clerk to action**

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Allotment – The Clerk reported that Bellway have performed landscaping in advance of handover and an on-site meeting was being arranged for the 2nd half of February to be attended by the WDC, Bellway and the BPC. The BPC is currently reviewing and preparing governance structures so it was agreed that the **Clerk convene** a dedicated meeting to discuss these.

13. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5 March 2025 at 20h00 in the Budbrooke Community Centre.

The meeting ended at 21h20

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 / HM – Hampton Magna