

## **Update from the Parish Council**

**April 2020**

### **Continuity of the Parish Council**

We live in very unusual times at present and the Parish Council has made a decision supporting the government ruling to suspend all public meetings whilst the COVID 19 Crisis continues. There will be decisions that need to be taken during the emergency and in order to facilitate the important actions the Parish Council has resolved to approve a suspension of public meetings and delegating Council powers to the Chairman Vice Chairman and Clerk. These powers will deal with all day to day decisions including finance. Clearly it will be incumbent upon those with delegated powers to consult where appropriate with all members of the Parish Council and certainly with regard to planning decisions a majority view of the members will be sought on all applications before submitting a response from Brent Knoll Parish Council.

### **Recent Planning Applications**

#### **Application No 07/20/00002**

The Parish Council has decided to object to this planning application on the following grounds

- (a) Not in keeping with the rural nature of the location specifically 2.5 storey houses
- (b) The appearance of these properties would not match the local street scene.
- (c) The Design of the properties proposed would be entirely out of character to the rural location.
- (d) Environmental concerns with a potential for at least 61 additional people with cars and the associated generation of vehicle movements.
- (e) The road safety aspect of this site is a major concern and the exit from it would create significant hazards on an already dangerous road.
- (f) There is significant concerns about flood risk and the provision identified for surface water run off would not alleviate these concerns.
- (g) Considerable concerns over Privacy of neighbouring properties and the close proximity of 2+ storey homes would exacerbate this loss of privacy.
- (h) It is considered by the Parish Council to be over development on a 0.64 acre site.
- (i) The Parish Council took a view that the engagement with them was very poor and therefore did not have adequate opportunity to input the process.

The decision was by a **Majority to object** to this proposal with 7 members objecting on the above valid planning criteria as follows, **Cllr C Townsend, Cllr D Sturgess, Cllr M Borland, Cllr B Freestone, Cllr J Harper, Cllr C Trivett Bill and Cllr D Knott** 1 declaration of Interest **By Cllr R Filmer** and 3 members **Cllr A Hurkett , Cllr N Summers and Cllr W Camp** supporting the proposal on the grounds of affordable housing need. and in view of the majority the Parish Council would strongly request that this application be **rejected** by the planning authority.

#### **Application No 07/20/00003**

The Parish Council decided to make no observations to this application after a process of electronic communication and this was unanimous.

### **Brent Knoll Helping Hands**

Owen the Clerk of Brent Knoll has been establishing a support network during the COVID 19 crisis. We have had amazing response from the lovely volunteers in Brent Knoll who have already helped many people in the village including Berrow Road. It is expected that the longer this emergency exists the more demands will be placed on this great team of people in the village. If you need help give Owen a call on **07917 445215**.

### **A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR FELLOW RESIDENTS**

#### **The Village Shop**

There is a committed group of local people attempting to establish the opening of a Community shop in Brent Knoll. The surveys have been completed and are currently being analysed to decide on further action that can be taken after the lock down allows. In the meantime John Mathews is hoping to establish an emergency shop on the premises in order to provide villagers with basic needs at this difficult time. Clearly any such venture will require a number of people to assist the venture. If you feel able to offer any level of support I feel sure that John would be happy to hear from you.

#### **Future Meetings**

There are no planned meetings at present however the Council will ensure that when things return from lockdown there will be a resumption of normal Council activity.

Please do keep safe and do the right things to protect yourself and others in this Community.

**Owen J Cullwick**

**On behalf of the Parish Council  
April 2020**