

BRENT KNOLL PARISH COUNCIL

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Public Session

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of **Brent Knoll Parish Council** on **Wednesday 5th June 2024**
at 7pm when the following business was transacted.

PRESENT

Cllr Borland, **Cllr Filmer, (Chairman)** Cllr D Knott, Cllr A Reason, and Owen Cullwick Clerk. There were 4 members of the public at the start of this meeting.

Cllr Filmer invited a 1 minute silence in respect of the recent passing of the late **Cllr Brian Freestone** who served this Council and the Community for many years 2002-2022

Chairman's Statement

The Chairman raised matters specifically related to Social Media over the past week or so in particular. The comments on Social media made by an existing member of the Parish Council were contrary to our recently readopted Council Social Media Policy. The comments contained accusations of "*Nifty word work*" and "*Bias reporting*" neither comment is acceptable and are in breach of clauses within our policy. The Chairman further pointed out that any comments made a Councillor on Social Media and aimed at undermining Council decisions are not appropriate. He reminded members that as Councillors they are bound by the agreed policies of the Council whereas members of the public are not. Our adopted policy clearly states that Councillors " will not adversely affect the Council or its business nor be damaging to the Council's reputation and credibility or otherwise violate any Council policies" should show respect to all should avoid guesswork exaggeration and colourful language and should not criticise council policies or personnel. The use of Social Media by elected Councillors is more restricted and must be in line with our adopted policies in order to avoid the Parish Council being brought into disrepute. The Chairman said that he will be writing to all Councillors to remind them of the Social Media Policy.

25/24: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS GIVEN

Cllr C Townsend , Cllr A Holmes and Cllr J Gray apologies were received and accepted

26/224: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Filmer Other Registerable interest (ORI) on all matters relating to his role as Councillor for the Somerset Council.

The Clerk under delegated powers agreed under a resolution in **October 2022** under minute no **91/22** grants a dispensation on **DPI, ORI or NRI** to the following members of the Parish Council

Cllr R Filmer, This dispensation will allow full participation in all matters appertaining to the Community shop on this agenda. This dispensation is granted on the grounds of interest to those persons living in the community and in the interests of providing a community benefit. It also removes the possibility of a Council.

Cllr D Knott also declared a DPI On application no 07/24/00005 as work had been undertaken with the applicant

27/24: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the 1st May APCM 2024 were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

28/24: PLANNING MATTERS

07/24/00005: Variation of Conditions 2&4 Planning Permission application 07/23/00012 (Erection of 1 dwelling with creation of access and parking) to amend the approved plans listed in schedule A and to amend parking and turning arrangements. **at Uplands Hill Lane Brent Knoll TA9 4DF**

No Comments were offered on this application and no discussions held due to the meeting being non Quorate as one member declared an interest.

07/24/00007: Crown raise 1 Horse Chestnut (T1) (TPO Ref T1) to 5.2 m above ground level all around and crown thin by 5% at **Pethercombe Station Road Brent Knoll TA9 4BH**

No Observations were made to this application.

29/24: THE CLERK UPDATE

The clerk updated the meeting on the following matters

- ◆ The Clerk updated on Surgery matters as all no going considerations
- ◆ Failure to give receipt of meeting papers by 1 member
- ◆ Insurance Policy updated

30/24: WORKING GROUP REPORTS**The Footpaths Team**

Knoll footpath fencing and locked gate issues due to land owner actions. A suggestion made

this will be considered and actioned.

National Trust Steps now a health and safety matter and further contact to be made with the National Trust.

Highways Team

No Matters raised

The Village Green / Car Park / Toilet

The Green

Equipment

Swings need greasing,

Slide and equipment need cleaning and painting.

Surrounding area is ok, recently mowed.

Base under the round a bout is cracking, worse area needs attention, there is potential for a child's foot to get caught

Benches and tables looking ok.

The multi goal and basketball area are in need of a clean-up, well used, grass is short enough.

Grass and field

Grass recently cut and is in reasonable condition.

Trench works still raised, needs rolling. Grass is starting to recover but could do with help to recover. There are a few stones but not significant, no rocks. The hump could in some areas be a trip hazard, but its appearance is the major point.

Fences and surroundings

Building works fences seem reasonably secure and are in place.

Far end fence right hand side temporary fence is loose and is at risk of being pulled down.

Access can be gained behind the fence through the unsecured side.

Some over-grown bushes starting to encroach the field and will in due course require some attention along the right hand fence.

The Car Park / Toilets

Toilet Block Under demolition and car park partially sealed off agreed for Cllr D Knott to arrange a heavy roller on the green after the summer. Clerk to chase GB Sports re general maintenance of the Play Equipment.

The Staffing / Audit Working Group

No meetings took place during this month

The Buildings working group

A joint meeting between shop and buildings groups took place 22nd May however this meeting was arranged and chaired by Architect and was primarily for internal fit out matters for the shop.

The Shop Working Group

As above

Somerset Council member report

Cllr Filmer reported on the following matters

This report by Cllr Filmer concentrated primarily on the staffing/ redundancy issues currently under way within the Somerset Council plans. These matters will become public in due course once negotiations and decisions are agreed.

31/24: FINANCIAL MATTERS AND PAYMENTS

Statutory Payments Listing for **June 2024** approved by the Parish Council unanimous as agreed for the current year 2024/2025 under minute 241/23 March 6th 2024.

32/24: To approve Statutory Payments for June 2024 Unanimous

(a)	Westcott Financial Services (Retrospective approval	£348.00
(b)	Wells Cathedral Stonemasons	£1680.00

33/24: To approve variable Payments for June 2024 unanimous

To approve a forthcoming payment to Clear Insurance un specified sum up to £1200.00 agreed by the Parish Council unanimously

34/24: Other Financial matters

35/24: Budget pre circulated

36/24: NEW MATTERS OF CONSIDERATION (Decisions to be taken)**37/24: Building Project Matters**

38/24: PWLB Loan update the Clerk confirmed that two payments of £40,000.00 have now been drawn down and placed into interest bearing reserves fund until payments to contracto is required_

38/24: Building Matters

The architect is currently over seeing this project as our appointed project manager and all insurances, Electricity supplies and water are now handed to the builder until the building is complete and handed back to the Parish Council.

39/24: The Lease

A draft lease constructed by Charles Fleming Council Solicitor is being considered by the shop management group and is an ongoing process. It is hoped to have a final document for consideration at the July meeting.

40/24: Other Matters

The Post Office has now informed us of a request to remove the existing Post Box located at the former Shop and we have been notified accordingly. The Parish Council agreed unanimously for us to apply to the Post Office for re location and to supply a new Post Box

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within the area of the new building currently under construction Chairman and Clerk to follow up.

41/24: The ANPR

We are in discussions with Trevor Simpson of Avon and Somerset Police regarding data flow from our ANPR to the Police this is an area of confusion at present and if we fail to get a satisfactory outcome we will invite the new Police and Crime Commissioner to a meeting .

42/24: Flood matters

There are ongoing discussions underway to seek a satisfactory resolution to the flooding and footpath matters behind the Church on the Knoll footpath.

43/24: Co-option Process Update

The Council has received a number of enquiries and applications for people wishing to be co-opted to the Parish Council to fill the two vacancies. The date of the next meeting is 3rd July when the co-option process will be completed.

44/24: MATTERS OF REPORT

There were no matters of report at this meeting

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Next main meeting of the Parish Council will be on **July 3rd 2024** at 7pm in the Jubilee room of the Parish Hall. May Surgery **July 2nd 2024** 10am to 12 noon. A provisional meeting if required will be on 19th June 2024 at 7pm

Note !!!

Councils cannot lawfully decide items of business that is not specified in the summons/agenda (LGA1972 Sch 12, paras 10(2)(b) and Longfield Parish Council v Wright (1918) 88 LJ Ch 119).