

BRENT KNOLL PARISH COUNCIL

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Public Session

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of **Brent Knoll Parish Council** on **Wednesday 4th September 2024** at 7pm when the following business was transacted.

PRESENT

Cllr M Borland, Cllr R Filmer, (Chairman) Cllr J Gray Cllr M Kingscote. Cllr J Mathews, Cllr A Reason, Cllr J Rees, Cllr C Townsend, Cllr C Woodward and Hazel Brinton Locum Clerk. There were 3 members of the public at the start of this meeting.

72/24: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS GIVEN

Cllr A Holmes and Cllr D Knott gave their apologies due to work commitments and this was accepted unanimously.

73/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Filmer Other Registerable interest (ORI) on all matters relating to his role as Councillor for the Somerset Council. Cllr R Filmer declared and ORI relating to matters on the Parish Hall owing to his role as trustee of the Parish Hall.

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, Cllr J Gray, Cllr Mathews Cllr J Rees Cllr C Townsend Cllr C Woodward** and 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 meeting becoming non quorate. The shop has received a very high level of support as outlined in a public engagement exercise in November 2022.

74/24: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the July 2nd and August 17th meetings were unanimously accepted by the meeting.

There were two nominations for Parish Hall representative as follows

Cllr C Woodward proposed and seconded

Cllr John Mathews Proposed but not seconded

A vote was taken and Cllr C Woodward was elected by a majority of the Parish Council

76/24: To re affirm Cllr Reason as a member of the Buildings working group resulting from Cllr Townsend stepping down.

Cllr Reason was Proposed and seconded

Cllr Mathews was proposed but not seconded

A vote was taken and Cllr R Reason was elected by a majority of the Parish Council to serve on the buildings working group.

77/24: PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

07/24/00013: To Consider application 07/24/00013 to fell 1 Ash Tree (T1) TPO Ref No (T1 at 3 the Willows Brent Knoll

Response

This tree is on Parish Council's own land and therefore the Council considers that it is inappropriate to offer comments to the planning authority.

78/24: THE CLERK UPDATE

There were no matters to report other than those covered on this agenda

No attendees at the September 3rd Surgery

79/24: WORKING GROUP REPORTS

The Footpaths Team

(a) Upper part of stile broken at the far side of Bakers Field suggested a replace with gate rather than stile

(b) Brent Knoll Footpath very over grown permission has been given by land owner to flail hedge ongoing

(c) Footpath to Parish Hall is proving very uneven (Noted for hall attention)

Highways Team

The virtual pavement outside no 27 overgrown Clerk to contact GTH selling agents

The Green

(a) Known matters

Trench concerns
remedial work on surfaces to play area
Car Park needs attention once build is complete

1827

Benches all ok
Cllr A Holmes to be sent the appropriate documents for September inspection

The Staffing / Audit Working Group

Complaint responded to and any response from that awaited.

The Buildings working group

Regular meetings taking place each month between the contractor, project manager the buildings working group members of the shop management.

Key Points to report

- (a) The project is on time and budget
- (b) Works progressing to include soak away on Village Green
- (c) An amended planning application going forward post Solar Panel installation Paul Martin to Submit
- (d) Minor Changes to window heights to reflect Counter height provisions
- (e) Suspended Ceiling to be installed by shop fitters agreed with developer

The Somerset Council report

Accounts on budget for first quarter
Selling of assets continuing and ongoing
35 Million from reserves
Aztec West building part of asset disposal
crackdown on under age shop purchases of products with age restrictions
Children's services under pressure with an increase from 450 to 600 in Council care
Request for more foster carers

80/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS AND PAYMENT

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

81/24: To approve Statutory Payments for September 2024 Unanimous

Variable Payments for September 2024

Retrospective payment to Paul Martin in respect of project management fees	£1536.00
Parish Hall room hire	£158.50

82/24: To approve variable Payments for September 2024 unanimous

83/24: Other Financial matters

84/24: Detailed Cash flow budget to be drafted for October meeting Clerk reports that currently all matters are within appropriate limits.

85/24: NEW MATTERS OF CONSIDERATION (Decisions to be taken)

86/24: THE BUILDING PROJECT

Loans and Finance

1828

The last of the PWLB Drawdowns in September and all payments up to date with contractor together with VAT reclaims monthly.

87/24: Building Matters

All according to plans and budgets also the phone box is the subject of a planning application to tie in with change of location.

88/24: The Lease

A draft Lease and contract an ongoing issue and it is hoped for a meeting between the Council and Charles Fleming in due course there has been delays over summer due to various holidays and absence of solicitors however a full circulation of lease will be hopefully available pre October meeting in readiness for discussion and approval.

89/24: Other Matters

No other matters

90/24: PLAY AREA UPGRADES

Current quotes around 20k

The Parish Council has requests for quotes and possible grants although Valencia (formally Viridor) is no longer offering such grants. The Parish Council are looking at Go Funding from outside sources. Fundraising by the Parish Council is not possible however it is a feasible idea that any local groups who wish to fund raise and donate to Council community projects is allowed and to be encouraged.

91/24: HILL LANE CAR PARK QUOTES

The Council has received 3 quotes for of £1698.00, £1678.00 and £1577.00 a discussion was held about any opening and closing regime and by whom.

A resolution was approved unanimously to accept the quote of £1577.00 from Steve Pinn and to discuss in October the management of the closing and opening of the gates. It was raised as to whether there had been any overnight stays.

92/24: GENERAL CONDITION OF PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAYS

Cllr Filmer reported that many of the public rights of ways will no longer undertake the maintenance and therefore it will fall to landowners or the Parish Council to undertake maintenance. It was however raised that volunteers from the community could be recruited to assist in this process. There have been complaints from sources in the village on the general state of public rights of way. The clerk did indicate that landowners could not be compelled to undertake verge maintenance. A working party by members of the PC could be available to undertake such tasks.

93/24: MATTERS OF REPORT

Erratic Postal Deliveries

Dog Fouling
Signage Railway Bridge
Speeding on Burton Row

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

1828

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Next main meeting of the Parish Council will be on **October 2nd** at 7pm in the Jubilee room of the Parish Hall. May Surgery **October 1st 2024** 10am to 12 noon. A provisional meeting if required will be on **18th September 7pm** for urgent planning matters

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).