

BRENT KNOLL PARISH COUNCIL

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Public Session

MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of Brent Knoll Parish Council on
at 7pm when the following
Wednesday 8th January 2025
ng business was transacted.

PRESENT

Cllr R Filmer, (Chairman) Cllr J Gray, Cllr D Knott, Cllr A Reason, Cllr C Townsend Cllr C Woodward, and Owen Cullwick Clerk. There were 3 members of the public at this meeting.

176/24: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES AND REASONS GIVEN

Apologies received from Cllr M Borland, Cllr A Holmes, Cllr J Rees Cllr M Kingscote (*Long term absence agreed December 4th 2024*) and Cllr J Mathews these were accepted unanimously

177/24: DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Filmer Other Registerable interest (ORI) on all matters relating to his role as Councillor for 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, Cllr J Gray, 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. Further Declaration was made by Cllr C Woodward on planning application 07/24/00020 as a neighbouring property.

178/24: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the 4th December meeting were approved unanimously by the meeting

179/24: PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Cllr Woodward left the meeting having declared an interest on the application no 07/24/00020

07/24/00020: Application for outline planning consent with all matters reserved for the erection of 1 dwelling **at 159, Brent Street Brent Knoll TA9 4BE**

Response: The Parish Council objected to the above application unanimously on the following grounds

- (i) Outside of the development Boundary
- (ii) Issues with sewerage Capacity
- (iii) Reduction in Privacy for neighbouring properties 157,159,161,163 and 165 Brent Street
- (iv) Increasing traffic
- (v) Additional access
- (vi) Subject to a rejected planning application in 1997 and enforcement process
- (vii) The removal of a wall will diminish the value of existing Street scene

Cllr Woodward returned to the meeting after the discussion and decision on application 07/24/00020

07/24/00021: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 07/20/00015 (Change of use and conversion of two traditional agricultural buildings to private dwelling with garden curtilage , parking and garaging. Demolition of other buildings, alterations to access and formation of new access to amend plans listed in schedule. **At Somerset Farm Harp Road Brent Knoll TA9 4HQ**

Response:

No observations Unanimous decision

180/24: THE CLERK UPDATE

- (a) Consideration with the Parish Council in formalising Clerks Working times
- (b) Request to Parish Hall for Filing storage in room at the back of Jubilee room

181/24: WORKING GROUP REPORTS**The Footpaths Team**

- (a) Style at Windy Ridge new Gate requested to Chris East Somerset Council Land owners to be contacted about the gate installation.
- (b) Handrail Knoll Footpath now repaired however the rail further down the footpath now needs a similar refurbishment.
- (c) Knoll Footpath Hedge in poor state/ Action Councillors to contact owner when weather improves however before the nesting season in March
- (d) The lower Kissing gate is damaged
- (e) The Horse gate in Crooked Lane still open
- (f) The Grit bin at the top of hill Lane overgrown with Brambles
- (g) Windy Ridge Path has a tree down laying across the path

- (h) Jason to be requested to remove a further tree nest to the one removed during storms
- (i) The Parish Council to look at the re siting of rubbish bins around the green / car park
- (j) Ongoing work behind the Church for water flow reductions this is separate from matters concerning the Church who are dealing with their own issues at the rear of the churchyard.

There are a number of gate issues and Chris East Has been contacted about providing both large and small gates for placement in the village. Outstanding highways and footpath summary sheet attached to these minutes.

182/24: Highways Team

The issue between Brent Corner and the Cider farm with damaged kerb stones breaking away to be reported to SCC

183/24: The Green/ Car Park/ Surrounds

Cllr J Rees has provided a detailed report on the green and surrounding areas during the month of December.

- (a) Very wet as often the case at this time of year
- (b) Damaged fencing where the tree was removed after the storm (Photo provided)
- (c) Car Park and toilets were all in a satisfactory condition during the reported period

Cllr C Woodward will undertake the green inspection during the month of January and a the appropriate document sent for this purpose.

184/24: The Staffing / Audit Working Group

There were no meetings this month of the Audit staffing group

185/24: The Buildings working group

There were no Buildings group meetngs during this month

186/24 Updating Council Policies

There were no Policy updates for January 2025

The Somerset Council report (Cllr R Filmer)

- (i) Somerset in contact with landowners pre cursor to Somerset local plan in the future
- (ii) The fostering campaign continues as there is a shortage of foster care providers
- (iii) Information that Eastover in Bridgwater will be closed in the short term for repairs
- (iv) Boundary Commission reviews with the number of Councillors 96 reduced from 110 provisionally proposed.
- (v) Redundancies leading to a new staffing structure from April 1st 2025

187/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS AND PAYMENTS

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

188/24: To approve Statutory Payments for December 2024 Unanimous

Variable Payments for January 2025

Office Expenses and Allowances for October to December 2024	£ 392.17
Steve Pinn footpath maintenance (Handrail)	£ 888.00
Steve Pinn Install Gates to Car Park Hill Lane	£ 1160.40
Holley and Steer Build Legal fees	£ 3025.70
Holley and Steer (Deed of variation) Solicitors Fee	£ 993.00
Outstanding 2023 Training Invoice SALC	£ 50.00
Decision Power annual Invoice	£ 630.00

(All reclaimable vat included in the total figures)

189/24: To approve variable Payments for **January 2025** unanimous

190/24: Other Financial matters

191/24: A final build budget showing a very small deficit on the over all budget of just £1000.00 however to putting it into context of a £290,000.00 build cost this was a remarkably accurate outcome

192/24: A summary statement of finance linking the accounting software the bank and the financial statement are balance and evidence of Council finances back on track going towards the end of year

193/24: A full budget summary with forecast to year end was provided in hard copy to members and this will be updated each month going forward

194/24 Small grant awards 2024/25

The Parish Council were presented with a list of applicants to this local scheme and the following grants were unanimously agreed

- (a)** The Cure Parkinson's Charity the sum of **£250.00**
- (b)** The Weston super Mare Samaritans the sum of **£250.00**
- (c)** Meet and Greet Brent Knoll **the sum of £240.00**
- (d)** Citizens advice Somerset **£100.00**
- (e)** Re engage Brent Knoll the sum of **£100.00**

This was a total of **£940.00** for the current year grants

195/24: DOG BIN CONTRACT 2025/2026

Somerset Council has recently revised their contract prices for 2025/26 and these revisions indicate a significant increase on previous years. Currently the Parish Council contract 5 bins to a twice weekly collection at a rate of £2.86 per visit. This has risen to £6.50 per visit. There are limited alternatives and the Parish Council therefore decided to reduce the visits to one

per week which would cost £1690 per annum an increase of £203.00 per annum. This decision was taken on a trial basis to determine the effectiveness of new arrangement.

195/24: NEW MATTERS OF CONSIDERATION (Decisions to be taken)

196/24: THE BUILDING PROJECT

(a)The Council has now concluded this project which has been an outstanding success both for those who volunteer and the village community.

(b) One further decision taken by the PC Is to grant permission to the shop for the installation of signage above the front door which was a unanimous decision to approve.

(c)The build project can now be removed as a standing item on the agenda and any forthcoming discussion and decision will be added as need arises.

197/24: PLAY AREA UPGRADES

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The Parish Council has now submitted a purchase order the new play equipment and will be able to discuss installation in the coming weeks.

198/24: LITTER PICKING KIT

The clerk will source some litter picking kit over the next week to assist members who wish to participate in tidying up at Hill Lane car park

199/24: DOGS ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

Concerns raised about dogs being allowed on to the village green and inadequate signage needs to be replaced with new stronger signage which we will obtain quotes for. these would be at least Va3 In size. We will make contact with Arien signs to obtain pricing. In addition a proposal has been made to deter dogs from entering the green from the patio area entrance of a fencing and gate structure to be installed thus separating the patio from the green. This matter will be raised with the Parish Hall committee. quote and ball park cost will be requested with Steve Pinn as a first step

200/94: HILL LANE CAR PARK LOCKING

Times suggested and proposed are 8am -4pm between November 1st and March 31st and 8am- 9pm between April 1st and October 31st. The adjacent land owner has indicated an interest in being involved in this opening and closing process and will be approached

201/24: MATTERS OF REPORT

APM In April consideration to a question time format as per 2023 which was successful Clerk to contact possible participants. Feb agenda item

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Next main meeting of the Parish Council will be on **February 5th at 7pm** in the Jubilee room of the Parish Hall. **Surgery February 4th 10am to 12 noon.**

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).