

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 20th February 2024 at 7.30pm In the
Church Room

Present: Cllrs, J Davys (Chair), S. Robson, D. Fisher, G. Gilgrass, R. Neilsen; S. Jackson; J Debney

In attendance: G. McEvoy (Clerk), G. Sillcott

1.	Apologies for Absence Apologies received from Cllrs Baines, Harding, Manning (SODC), A-M Simpson (SODC), P Sudbury (OCC)						
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2024 The minutes of the meeting held on 16 th January 2024 were approved and were signed by Cllr Davys						
3.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary/Personal Interest None declared						
4.	Public Participation 1. Mr Sillcott advised that the bus stop refurbishment was progressing well.						
5a	County Councillor's Report Sent his apologies						
5b	District Councillor's Report Sent their apologies.						
5c	Clerks Report – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the meeting the Clerk had distributed the 'Letter of Understanding' detailing the grass cutting arrangements between the Cricket Club and Parish Council. It was agreed that we could now go ahead with issuing the 2024 grass cutting contract with Scofell. • It was felt that we did not have sufficient need to hold an IT clinic at this time. The Clerk to contact CreativeHaus to obtain email passwords for Cllrs Robson and Jackson. • The Clerk notified the meeting that an order for a new handrail for the small bridge between the Recreation Ground and Mackney Lane had been placed with Arrow Fencing. • A new contract for telephone and broadband had been agreed with Talk Talk (with a lower tariff than previous years). • The Clerk advised the meeting of annual leave on 11th, 12th and 13th March. In order to meet statutory requirements the March meeting agenda will need to be agreed and published by Wednesday 6th March. 						
5d	Planning Report There were no new planning applications for consideration this month						
5e	Agree Payments for approval <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Payee and reason</th> <th style="width: 20%;">£ total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk's Salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">721.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stewart Village Hall (Room Hire for NP meeting)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">44.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All payments were agreed.</p>	Payee and reason	£ total	Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk's Salary	721.27	Stewart Village Hall (Room Hire for NP meeting)	44.00
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6	Joint Local Plan Cllr Debney attended one of the 'In-Person' meetings held in Crowmarsh. There was some discussion about a possible reclassification of Brightwell-cum-Sotwell from a 'small' village to a 'large' village and the potential consequences of this reclassification. It was unanimously agreed by the meeting that the Parish Council would oppose any reclassification and it is in BcS best interests to remain a 'small' village. There was a discussion about greenfield sites being used as 'solar farms'. The meeting agreed unanimously that this would be a policy they would not support.						

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7.	<p>SOHA Community Environmental Projects</p> <p>Email correspondence between Steve Capel-Davies and Sue Robson was distributed prior to the meeting. The Environment Group had had contact with SOHA and discussed environmental projects to enhance land owned by SOHA within the village. Whilst the Parish Council would be supportive of any environmental projects SOHA may identify it was felt that this was a matter for SOHA and their residents. Parish Council involvement was not required.</p>
8.	<p>Pavillion Project</p> <p>Cllr Neilsen reported on the Pavillion meeting held on 19th February in which there was a unanimous consensus for a refurbishment project rather than a rebuild. Cllr Nielsen proposed corresponding with the architect, Michael Simpson, and instruct him to carry out the necessary surveys to create a concept design for consideration. This was seconded by Cllr Gilgrass. At this stage Design and build and finance and admin groups had been identified to progress the project.</p> <p>Cllr Gilgrass asked, assuming the Stewart Village Hall and Pavillion projects did not clash that Village Hall users should, where possible, be allowed to use the Pavillion. A reciprocal arrangement was deemed to be in everyone's interest.</p>
9.	<p>Brightfest Permissions (8th June 2024)</p> <p>Following a request from the Brightfest Committee it was agreed that the annual Brightfest could be held at the Jubilee Pavillion and the Recreation Ground on 8th June 2024. The Clerk will write to the Committee to confirm permission.</p>
10	<p>Road/Verge Maintenance</p> <p>Cllr Davys expressed concern about the overgrown verges forcing pedestrians into the middle of the road and effecting sight-lines for drivers. There were discussions about a 4-year old agreement with OCC to pollard some of the larger tress which, despite clear and concise discussions, had never been implemented. With regard to the shrubbery this is part of the Verge Maintenance undertaken by the Parish Council and usually managed by Forget-me-Not. An offer from Stuart Hill and members of the Plymouth Brethren community had been made and it was agreed that Cllrs Debney and Davys would identify areas for urgent attention.</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to contact OCC about meeting their responsibilities with a view to some action in the Autumn/Winter as the bird nesting season had begun.</p>
11.	<p>Date for 2024 AGM</p> <p>A preliminary date of 7th May 2024 was agreed. Clerk to check availability of Stewart Village Hall.</p>
12.	<p>Matters for reporting and items for inclusion on March's Agenda</p> <p>Speed measuring signs Charging Point – R. Todd School Eco-Classroom Project</p>

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 19th March 2024 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 8.30pm