

BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 10th December 2024 at 7.30pm In the
Church Room

Present: Cllrs J Harding (Chair), S. Robson, J. Debney, J. Davys, D. Fisher, S. Jackson, R Nielsen and A-M Simpson (SODC) [Part]

In attendance: G. McEvoy (Clerk), J. Gray

1.	Apologies for Absence Cllrs. H. Baines and G. Gilgrass
2.	Minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024 The minutes of the meeting held 19 th November 2024 were approved and signed by Cllr Harding.
3.	Matters Arising from Previous Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Debney confirmed that the Parish Council’s response to the Croudace Planning Application had been submitted. • Cllr Nielsen stated that the name and password for the Valda Account (Pavilion electricity suppliers) had been given previously and he did not have any further information to share. • The Councillors expressed their consternation on hearing that the recently placed logs along the verge in Bell Lane had been stolen along with the signage. It was unanimously felt that this was blatant theft as the person(s) who removed the logs and signage had not approached the Council to justify their actions. It was agreed that a post would be placed on Facebook informing the community and requesting information regarding the log theft. It was agreed that any further placement of temporary protection would be futile and it was agreed that the erection of 2 foot posts, as advised by Highways, should be carried out with urgency. Cllr Debney suggested that Ben Lawrence should be approached and asked to submit a quote with lead times to carry out this work. Cllr Debney to liaise with Ben. The Clerk confirmed that Arrow Fencing had been approached following the last meeting but indicated some reluctance due to the possibility that utility services may be compromised by the work. • The Clerk advised the Council that she had received a thank you letter from the Citizens Advice Bureau thanking them for the £300 donation agreed in November’s meeting.
4.	Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary/Personal Interest None
5.	Public Participation None
6a	County Councillor’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Pete Sudbury was not in attendance.
6b	District Councillor’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Simpson’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting. She stated that the Council Plan was now with the Government Inspector.
6c	Clerks Report The Clerk requested clarification regarding a tree in Wellsprings which had been identified as needing removal. Cllr Debney indicated that the tree (the last of 3) had a TPO and Dave Cottrell was approaching the correct authority to gain permission to fell it. There was some discussion as to who bears responsibility for the tree and the Clerk was asked to write to Highways to obtain their advice on how to proceed.
6d	Planning Report The Council had been notified of an amendment to Planning Application P24/S2875/HH, 1 Sotwell Manor. Cllr Debney was concerned that the comments given by the Conservation Officer was contrary to the Design Code of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Debney will write to the Conservation Officer regarding cladding.

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6e	.Agree December Payments for approval	
	Payee and reason	£ total
	Gabrielle McEvoy – Clerk’s Salary	862.88
	OALC (Effective Agendas and Accurate Minutes) Training Nettie	60.00
	McAfee Subscription	109.99
	All payments were agreed.	
7	Precept 2025/26	
	Following a discussion relating to the 2025/26 budget Cllr Harding proposed raising the precept to £45,000 – the motion was agreed unanimously.	
8.	Grounds Maintenance Contract	
	An amended copy of the Grounds Maintenance Contract had been distributed before the meeting. It was agreed that the car park surface should be sprayed twice yearly. Clause “f” regarding use of herbicides should be removed and the use of weed-killing spray on the tennis courts and the path leading to them, plus the climbing net on the mound at Kings Meadow should be added with 2 x treatment per annum. It was agreed that the number of cuts per year was satisfactory. The Clerk will forward this to Scofell and ask for a quote for the 2025 season.	
	The Clerk was asked to contact OCC regarding the S101 agreement as the swale and other parts of Little Martins had now had its ownership transferred from Kingerlee to OCC.	
9.	Pavilion	
	Cllr Robson reported that the Pavilion has a Co-Op bank account and the treasurer is in the process of transferring the banking from Lloyds.	
	The roofer has attended and made the necessary repairs including round the Clocktower.	
	Cllr Nielsen shared recent architect’s plans/elevations which reflected the changes discussed in the September meeting. The proposed colour scheme was unanimously agreed. It is envisaged that detailed drawings, ready to be submitted for planning, would be available in January. The January Parish Council Meeting should take place in the Pavilion giving the parishioners the opportunity to view the plans and make comment. The Clerk will need to book the Pavillion form 7 p.m. on the agreed date.	
10.	Coppicing	
	Cllr Debney stated that he was awaiting a quote from Dave Cottrell for the coppicing of the hazel at Kings Meadow. Cllr Davys indicated that further coppicing was necessary at Sotwell Common. Cllr Debney stated he would visit the site and advise further.	
11.	Matters for reporting and items for inclusion on January’s Agenda	
	Pavilion	

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on Tuesday 21st January 2025 at 7.30pm. There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 9.10 pm.