



**BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 @ 7.30pm In the Church Room**

**Present:** Cllrs R Nielsen (Chair), S. Robson, J. Debney, J. Davys, S. Jackson, G. Gilgrass, D. Fisher, A-M Simpson (SODC) C. Topping (SODC)

**In attendance:** J Gray (Clerk)

1.	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Cllrs. J Harding, H. Baines</p>
2.	<p><b>Confirm &amp; Sign Minutes of the meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting held 10th December 2024 were approved and signed by Cllr Nielsen.</p>
3.	<p><b>Matters Arising from Previous Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavillion; This is now being overseen by S Robson, (Chair) Bob Devey (treasurer) and R Gill (Pavillion booking Clerk)</li> <li>• Bell Lane Verge/Logs: Ongoing saga of the Logs which have re-appeared – residents are in favour of this.</li> <li>• Garden Maintenance quote from Luke Pearson, Scofell, has been chased and he ensures he will provide this to us for February meeting.</li> <li>• Coppicing/Mr D Cotrell – Email to be sent for quote – Cllr. J Debney &amp; J Gray (Clerk) to arrange</li> <li>• Little Martin; Cllr, J Debney to discuss with J Gray (Clerk)</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary/Personal Interest – Village Hall</b> None</p>
5.	<p><b>Public Participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A resident attended to discuss the Wellsprings tree and what should be done with it. He proposed that maybe the ivy could be removed and branches taken off, instead of totally felling the tree. The Tree has been surveyed by Mr D Cotrell and he states that it should come down due to being rotten from the bottom up. Cllr. J Debney will ask if the ivy and branch removal would be an alternative option to avoid having to take the tree down completely. Cllr R Nielsen mentioned that perhaps we should contact SSE and approach them regarding if they would be willing to cut the tree down due to the danger involving overhead cables; also, to Contact OCC to ask if they can assist. J Gray (Clerk) to obtain information from Cllr R Nielsen regarding how to contact SSE to approach them should the tree definitely need to be felled.</li> <li>• Cllr. J Debney suggested to the resident that we have 2 oak trees which we would like to offer to him to replace the trees lost from his land; he was very glad to accept this kind gesture. Cllr. J Debney to arrange delivery to the resident.</li> </ul>
6a.	<p><b>County Councillor's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The County Counsellor was not in attendance but did send an email via Cllrs. S Robson and J Debney to advise re crossing/lights:</li> <li>• Crossing has direct oversight from the Director, Paul Fermer, who recognises OCC have let us down horribly.</li> </ul>
6b	<p><b>District Councillor' Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government re-organisation; County Council want to give certainty to staff and planning regarding this re-organisation. See brief comment in A-M Simpson's email.</li> <li>• "The Government has already decided that local government reorganisation is going to happen. Delay will only bring uncertainty for residents and local businesses who depend on our services,</li> </ul>



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6c	<p>and for our staff who will be worried about their own futures. We owe it to everyone to move to a more stable position as soon as possible."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There should be a better indication by the end of the month</li> </ul>								
6d	<p><b>Clerks Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk requested that there be a Parish Council WhatsApp to enable easier contact with all concerned as well as still continuing to use Email. All were happy for this to be put in place. She also advised that contact had been made with Luke Pearce (Scofell) regarding the quote needed for Garden Maintenance; this will be with us for February meeting.</li> </ul>								
6e	<p><b>Planning Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr. J Davys stated there were just 3 planning applications which were all within the guidelines and no objections</li> <li>• Style Acre Lane was mentioned with regards to the orchard and credit was given to Cllr. J Debney. The play area was also discussed; it is not the Parish Council's responsibility it is the resident's responsibility. It would be a good idea to have posts to outline which part of the land is parish council's responsibility. Cllr. J Debney proposed that 5 posts would be ordered from Acorn and Cllr J Davys agreed this. It was decided that prior to doing this we would contact Deanfield.</li> </ul>								
6e	<p>Agree December Payments for approval</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="240 1108 1525 1254"> <thead> <tr> <th>Payee and reason</th> <th>£ total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>J Gray (Clerk)</td> <td>1093.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve Colam (Amazon Wildlife Camera)</td> <td>145.16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stationery/Tea Coffee supplies</td> <td>29.46</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All payments were agreed.</p>	Payee and reason	£ total	J Gray (Clerk)	1093.47	Steve Colam (Amazon Wildlife Camera)	145.16	Stationery/Tea Coffee supplies	29.46
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7.	<p><b>Pavilion Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr. S Robson and R Gill stated there were no new updates on the Pavillion</li> <li>• Cllr. R Nielsen raised the issue of the plans for the Pavillion improvements and, to arrange an open afternoon drop-in session for the public to be able to hear and see the new proposed plans; and for them to ask any questions regarding these plans. It was agreed that this would take place on <b>Saturday 1st March 2025 from 2-4 pm at the Pavillion</b> (hall booked by Cllr S Robson this evening). <b>Cllr. R Nielsen will do a short presentation</b> to the public to explain what is going to take place and show the plans. The public can then ask any questions after this. This meeting will be put onto the Facebook page by Cllr. S Robson nearer the time and will also be advertised in the Villager.</li> </ul>								
8	<p><b>VE day 8/5/25</b></p> <p>This was added to agenda at Cllr. G Gilgrass request; It was discussed and agreed that we would arrange for the Church to do a peel of the bells on this day (Cllr. J Debney spoke to vicar who will oblige with this at some point during that day). It was also discussed to approach The Red Lion pub to also arrange to do something to commemorate this occasion. A suggestion was also mentioned to light the candles around the village.</p>								



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9	<p><b>Review Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr. J Harding (absent) provided an email and spreadsheet with the accounts for all Councillors to review; these were approved by all.</li> </ul>
10	<p><b>Village Hall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr. G Gilgrass requested that a presentation be arranged regarding the funding for the Village Hall. Cllr R Nielsen stated that a sum of £100,000 was put aside from the CIL funds for these improvements. It was agreed that a half an hour slot at the beginning of February meeting would be a good idea to make this presentation by the Trustees of the Village Hall. It will be added to the Agenda for February and we will commence the meeting at the earlier time of <b>7pm</b> on that day.</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Posts &amp; Bell Lane Verge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After many discussions over the past few months, it was agreed that posts must now be put in place at Bell Lane verge. There should be sufficient spacing left between the posts to allow cars to park; this was a unanimous decision. Arrow fencing to be approached regarding their earlier quote (also to add on the extra 5 posts for Style Acre Land)</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>Wellsprings Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To formally thank the resident who assisted with the coppicing/Kings Meadow</li> <li>• To contact SSE to see if they can take this tree down as it is very near to cables; also, to contact the OCC regarding the removal of the tree</li> </ul>
13	<p><b>Matter for Reporting &amp; Items for Inclusion on February Agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sires Hill – 20mph speed limit – to contact County Counsellor to see when this will be implemented</li> <li>• Hole to be fixed at Hadden Hill due to several vehicle damages</li> <li>• Community Asset – The Red Lion – 5-year renewal – needs to be resubmitted. Cllr. J Debney does not wish to do this again and will show Cllr. D Fisher the paper work.</li> </ul>

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7.00pm.** There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at approximately 9.10pm.