

**A MEETING OF EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD ON MONDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2012 AT 7.30PM IN THE EAST BRENT VILLAGE HALL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. Bowden, E Champion (Chairperson), A. Gilling, S. McGreavy, Y Roscorla, L Spokes, B. Walker J. Webb, G. Willoughby, B. Woodward, together with the Clerk B Strachan were in attendance.

**APOLOGIES:** V. Clapp, B. Filmer

**Mobile Phones:** E Champion requested that everyone including Parishioners turn off their mobile phone.

**Opportunity for members of the Parish Electorate to speak:**

Mary Harris spoke with regard to **traffic problems at Church Road, East Brent**. She stated that she is the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for that area and advised that the turning area at top of Church Road is being continually blocked by parked cars. Advised that after contacting PCSO Pauline Dixon she obtained cones which worked, however someone needs to put them up and clear them away. Stated that Chris Betty had been out and advised that "H" signs could be put outside every house - however MH aware that matter had been discussed at 5<sup>th</sup> March PC meeting.

MH stated that there is also a parking problem opposite Church House where parked cars are causing a dangerous situation.

She wants 2 "H" signs outside Mr. Grant's house and 1 "H" sign at the turning point. In addition a "No Through Road" sign at entrance to Church Road. She asked that PC support these requests. She left copy of letter to Somerset County Council.

**Orchard Close** - John Smith exhibited a newspaper article and advised that situation in relation to Michelle Platt had recently deteriorated.

Tony Close reported that Michelle Platt's partner (Lee Crawley) had been back on numerous occasions despite a Restraining Order. He exhibited a statement he had produced in June 2011 and advised that nothing had been done.

A lady Parishioner reported that she had been verbally abused by Lee Crawley and was subject of foul language. She advised that her daughter is scared to go to school.

Tracy Hughes reported that she has been subject of abusive language from Michelle Platt when her 12 and 6 year old children have been present. TH advised that she has been arrested for hitting MP. TH advised that many children are afraid of MP.

Clare Sunley advised that she has been subject to abuse and intimidation and that her 3 children feel intimidated by MP's children. CS reported that she is being continually told by Homes in Sedgemoor that something will be done but nothing has. She stated that the Orchard Close area is a very unpleasant place to live and she is considering taking her 3 children out of school. She stated that the language from MP's children is disgraceful and after being abused once at the school, she was scared to leave the school and had to be escorted to her car by a teacher.

Another lady Parishioner advised that her children had to run into a stranger's house to escape MP. She stated that she ended up in trouble with the police for her reaction to this incident.

A male Parishioner stated that Homes in Sedgemoor gave him forms advising that they would be private. He stated that his address was given to MP who came to his house. He advised that his children are terrified of Lee Crawley. He stated that families are scared to let their children play on the Green.

John Smith advised that Weston-super-Mare does not want to rehouse MP.

John Smith advised that he has given a file to Kerry Rickards, Chief Executive, Sedgemoor District Council to see if he can assist.

Several of the residents stated that Homes in Sedgemoor has lost resident's statements.

E. Champion thanked the residents for coming.

**2203: MINUTES:** The minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 19th March 2012 having been circulated were taken as an accurate record and were signed by E Champion.

**2204: PLANNING** (brought forward as applicant in attendance):

The following planning application was discussed and decision given as shown:

Ref. No. 24/12/00012/LE

Proposal: Change of use of part of office building to residential dwelling

Location: Land at, Brent Holm, Mendip Road, Rooksbridge, Axbridge, BS26

Applicant: Mr R Jenkins

Site visit by J.Webb, B. Woodward, and. Y. Roscorla. J.Webb advised that as someone will now be on site, it will help security and be a big improvement. It was Proposed by J.Webb and Seconded by B.

Woodward that the application be fully supported as -

No detrimental impact on traffic generation and Road Safety.

No detrimental effect on the landscape.

No detrimental impact on neighbours through overshadowing or loss of privacy.

Complies with national, regional and local planning policy and guidance.

No detrimental impact upon character and appearance of area.

No detrimental impact upon other environmental issues such as noise.

The planning application was fully supported unanimously.

**2205: MATTERS OF REPORT** (brought forward):

**Orchard Close:** E. Champion reported that Angela Brennan Reporter from Bridgwater Mercury Group had been in attendance during "Opportunity for members of the Parish Electorate to speak". She has advised that she will contact EC tomorrow for a comment on this matter

A.Gilling stated that court hearing for anti-social behaviour will be held between 28th May and 8th June 2012 which may lead to possible eviction.

E. Champion stated that he had spoken with Paula Swain, Homes in Sedgemoor and got the impression that Homes in Sedgemoor feel that case may not be strong enough.

J. Webb stated that it would be helpful if school got involved for benefit of children's safety.

*J. Bowden arrived at 8.25 pm*

A.Gilling stated that he will contact Paul Coates, Paula Swain's line manager. AG expressed disappointment that he had not been informed of recent events.

After discussion it was agreed that Clerk contact Roger Tolley and advise that it has been reported that Lee Crawley has returned to East Brent and request that he looks into the matter.

It was also agreed that a meeting be called without delay to endeavour to bring this matter to an early satisfactory conclusion. The clerk to invite Paul Coates, Roger Tolley, Tessa Munt MP, Dr Wendy Kingdom (Chair of School Governors), Representative from Somerset County Council, Children and Young People's Directorate, John Smith, Barbara Woodward, Edward Champion, Andrew Gilling and Judith Webb.

#### **MATTERS ARISING:**

##### **2206: PROPOSED PLANNING APPLICATION BY BROADVIEW ENERGY/Sub**

**Committee:** E-mail 23<sup>rd</sup> March from Chris Facey, SDC advising "if you want to poll the views of the parish it is possible to call for a parish poll and the approx. cost of this would be about £1750. However in conducting a parish poll there is no provision for postal or proxy voting nor poll cards. The polling station would only be open between the hours of 4 pm to 9 pm and of course the results are not binding in any way, they would be just an expression of the electorate. You would not be able to use the Electoral Register to mark papers for an informal referendum as there would be a risk of the voter's choice being identified. If you wish to call for an official parish poll there is a criteria to follow and I could send you the notes re this if required". It was decided not to conduct a straw poll. B. Walker advised that the Sub-Committee had nothing to report since last meeting.

**2207: FLOODING AT BRENT KNOLL INN:** E mail from Transport Development Group, SCC 6th March advising it appears the forecourt of the inn is public highway but has been remodelled by the owners of the inn to formalise parking. The works were done without first stopping up the public highway and are of a quality that is already problematic, being damaged by traffic. TDG has noted the Parish Council has observed the works have also introduced new hazards on the highway which can no longer drain through the gully on the forecourt, a concrete kerbstone is lifting and the surface is breaking up with large potholes forming. TDG been asked to take steps to rectify the situation and requests PC's views. It was agreed that the problem should be rectified and a gulley put in to drain the water off the road.

**2208: NEW VILLAGE SIGN:** E-mail from Chris Betty, Senior Traffic Engineer advising he does not hold any images of typical village nameplates. He advises that they will usually take the appearance of the standard rectangular plates you see around all of Somerset's towns and villages, (Not the now obsolete blue backed ones) occasionally with a circular speed limit roundel above it, where they are installed at the start of a speed limit. CB advises to contact Gary Warren or himself (0845 345 9155) who should, after a site visit, be able to provide an estimate and design. It was agreed that Clerk contact Val Clapp to enquire if she will contact CB or GW.

**2209: PARISH MAGAZINE:** J. Webb advised that she has contacted Bob Filmer who edits Brent Knoll magazine. BF has advised that he publishes 550 copies and all costs covered by advertising - no donations required from Parish Council. JW waiting for Molly Richards to produce Business Plan.

**2210: POSSIBLE PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE (brought forward):** B. Walker advised if Parish Council had website, the magazine could be available electronically.

BW stated that Nigel Lloyd-Jones has purchased domain name of East Brent Parish which BW feels NL-J would pass on to PC. BW supplied information from a website provider, Moonfruit. E. Champion advised that he knew someone who could provide a website. S.

McGreavy stated that it would be better to go to an independent provider. J. Webb stated that Active Web Design provide her with a good service. After discussion it was agreed that BW could purchase domain name from NL-J and the matter to be progressed at next meeting.

**2211: CARS PARKING AT LAY BYS IN EAST BRENT:**

**Land opposite Methodist Church - possible use as a Car Park:** E-mail from Liam Gill 27<sup>th</sup> March advising that as there is currently no formal vehicular access from the highway to this land, this would first need to be constructed under a highway licence.

LG also advised that planning permission may also be required for this, so the Planning Office at Sedgemoor District Council should be contacted in the first instance. LG requested that let him know if a highway licence application pack required and he will send one out. It was agreed Clerk to request licence application pack if it is free of charge.

**2212: NEW PARISH CLERK:** E. Champion advised that there has been a reasonable response to adverts. EC will arrange a date for Sub-Committee to meet (after applications closing date) to discuss applications and prepare short list. EC advised that Owen Cullwick, Brent Knoll Parish Clerk has agreed to take Minutes at PC meetings until new Clerk appointed.

**2213: AFFORDABLE HOUSES EAST BRENT - DIVIDING FENCE NOT IN**

**PLACE/HARD-CORE MOUND:** Mary Chorley, SDC has advised that with regard to the dividing panelled fence between the scheme and the adjacent bungalow Phil Yorke would happily erect a fence for their privacy but the fence would be on the border/bank of the ditch and unfortunately the Drainage Board will not allow this.

MC has advised that with regard to hard-core mound, SWHS has contacted Halsall, the contractors to ask if they can remove the spoil. Requested let her know if nothing has happened by the end of April and she will chase

**2214: ROAD SURFACE AT THE CORNER AT EDINGWORTH ROAD SUBSIDING:**

Highways has advised that site has been inspected and they will arrange some verge reinstatement in the new financial year.

**2215: PARKING PROBLEMS OPPOSITE CHURCH HOUSE, EAST BRENT:** Chris Betty, Senior Traffic Engineer has advised that "H" Parking sign is not supported or needed.

In view of Mrs Harris' comments (Opportunity for members of the Parish Electorate to speak) it was agreed to request a "Cul De Sac" sign at the entrance to Church Road, and an "H" sign at the turning bay. Copy of SCC letter to be sent to CB, and Mrs. Harris to be advised of PC actions.

**2216: QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE:** E-mail from Came & Company 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 advising that a Risk assessment should be carried out in writing prior to any event planned.

In addition if PC is participating in the lighting of a beacon then Came & Co need to be notified a minimum 14 days prior to the event, and receive a copy of the risk assessment. E. Champion advised that he will carry out risk assessment. J. Webb advised that a flyer has been delivered to every house in the Parish asking if their child (under 16 years old) would like a Jubilee mug. JW advised that there will be a tug of war, skittles and other events on the day.

With regard to insurance for picnic, a booking form to be completed for SDC and fee of £6.43 required - JW will attend to this. With regard to Beacon, JW advised that this will be done in conjunction with Brent Knoll. JW has visited site and E. Champion has contacted National Trust who advised that English Heritage should be contacted - JW stated that she will do this.

E. Champion thanked J. Webb for her efforts to date.

**2217: LOCAL CHOICE EVENT:** It was agreed that Clerk should obtain disc for next meeting and J. Webb will show on her Laptop.

**2218: PLAY AREA NEXT TO VILLAGE GREEN:** Harley Cook has advised that SDC has to appoint an architect to arrange and overall see the work due to lack of staff resources in the park's development section. However SDC will aim to spend the £26,539 that is available in the RLT2 fund for East Brent.

Letter from HC 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 confirming £26,539.41 available until 2014. Application Form and information provided by HC. Does PC wish to spend full £26,539.41? J. Webb advised that she has a play frame she purchased for £4,000 and is willing to sell it for £200 (the main cost will be in deconstructing and then reconstructing it). It was agreed that Parish Councillors should consider how the money should be spent and this will be discussed at the next meeting. Clerk to advise Louise Court who raised the matter.

**2219: CHILDREN'S SAFETY CROSSING BRENT ROAD TO GO TO THE PARK:** E-mail from Chris Betty 28<sup>th</sup> March advising that SCC is undertaking a sign de-clutter exercise and last year removed over a 1000 signs. Before considering this type of warning sign SCC look at the history of accidents, the actual speed and volume of traffic, the forward visibility of the potential hazard, the volume of pedestrians crossing, before considering the use of additional signs. CB notes that visibility is generally good, traffic speeds are low, the playing field is in view on all approaches and that a safe crossing point exists. CB advises that the children warning sign may be used to warn of the likelihood of encountering children in the road ahead going to a school or playground. However, bearing in mind the facts above, he is not proposing to place additional warning signs on the highway at this time. CB advises that appropriate warning signs can greatly assist in road safety, to be most effective, however, SCC aim to use them sparingly.

SCC will continue to monitor the situation. Clerk to pass information to Helen Fareham.

## **2220: PLANNING:**

**Decisions from previous planning applications are given as follows:**

Ref. No. 24/12/00003/LE

Proposal: Use of land to site a mobile home for 6 months of the year

Location: at, River Yeo Farm, White House Lane, Loxton, Axbridge, BS26 2US

*Withdrawn (after registration)*

Ref. No. 24/12/00008/CG

Proposal: Retention of single storey extension to south elevation to form plant room and retention of porch to north elevation.

Location: Bedroom Annexe at, Rookery Manor, Edingworth Road, Edingworth, Weston-Super-Mare, BS24 0JB

*Granted conditional planning permission*

**The following planning application was discussed and decision given as shown:**

Ref. No. 24/12/00010/RM

Proposal: Conversion of loft to living accommodation including raising the roof height by 1.2m  
(AMENDED DESCRIPTION)

Location: 10 Prospect Close, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4JW

Applicant: Mr S Dalton

Site visit by J. Webb, S McGreavy, and B. Woodward. J. Webb advised that roof to be raised by 1.2 metres, and although not overlooking anything she felt it did not look right. S. McGreavy stated that as the other 3 houses are all in different styles, he did not see any problem with proposal. Following discussion it was Proposed by S. McGreavy and Seconded by B. Walker that the application be fully supported as (no planning grounds to object). After a show of hands (6 for and 4 against) the planning application was fully supported: -

No detrimental impact on traffic generation and Road Safety.

No detrimental effect on the landscape.

No detrimental impact on neighbours through overshadowing or loss of privacy.

Complies with national, regional and local planning policy and guidance.

No detrimental impact upon character and appearance of area.

No detrimental impact upon other environmental issues such as noise.

**2221: FINANCIAL MATTERS:** A copy of the receipts and payments until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 was issued to all Parish Councillors present. This is the year end.

The balances in the Bank Accounts were reconciled and signed as being correct by L.Spokes. Clerk advised that VAT refund of £690.60 received.

The Clerk advised that these are the year-end Accounts.

**The following payments were unanimously approved for payment from the Current Account** :( Proposed by L. Spokes and Seconded by B. Woodward)

R. Strachan paid Newsquest Somerset Account (Advert for new Parish Clerk):£513.72

East Brent Village Hall Committee - Annual Hire Charge: £204.00

East Brent & Rooksbridge News - Initial part of Donation: £375.00

British Legion Poppy Appeal - Donation: £25.00

Highbridge Area Foodbanks - Donation: £25.00

Somerset Association of Local Councils - Annual Affiliation Fee: £286.49

Community Council for Somerset - Annual Subscription: £35.00

Sedgemoor District Council - Insurance for Picnic 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2012: £6.43

Brent Knoll News - Parish Clerk Advert: £24.00

**The following payments were unanimously approved for payment from the Cemetery Current Account** :( Proposed by J. Bowden and Seconded by L.Spokes

R. Strachan paid Bristol Water Account - Period 09/09/11 to 27/02/12: £20.40

David Criddle - Creating area to receive dirt: £531.67 (J. Bowden reported that the Invoice higher than quote as it was agreed that specification changed to 8' gate)

The transfer of £1,000 from the Capital Reserve to the Current Account was unanimously approved. Proposed by L.Spokes and Seconded by G. Willoughby.

**East Brent Village Hall Committee** - E mail from H. Mackay 10<sup>th</sup> April advising that the widening of the gate project is going ahead and requesting Parish Council contribute to the project - by way of covering the fees of £379.00. Also giving PC 21 days notice of project. After discussion J. Bowden Proposed and S. McGreavy Seconded that PC donate £379.00 to project. This was unanimously agreed. Clerk to confirm that pedestrian gate opens in toward Village Hall

**2222: CORRESPONDENCE:**

**SCC - Planned Works in Sedgemoor week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012:** Circulated

**RSN Online - 5<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012:** Circulated

**RSN April 2012 Rural Opportunities Bulletin:** Circulated

**SID Results A38 Rooksbridge - 28<sup>th</sup> February to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012:** Circulated

**The Planning Inspectorate - Order Decision 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012: To record a bridleway running between Purvin Row Lane and the A370 Weston Road in the Parishes of Lympsham and East Brent:** Circulated

**Change to Police Management in SDC Area:** Circulated

**National Grid Project News - February 2012:** Circulated

**APSE Solutions - Somerset County Plan - Deconstruction Report for Unison:** Circulated

**Hinkley Point C, News from EDF Energy - March 2012:** Circulated

**St John Ambulance - Access to a Defibrillator:** Circulated

**Somerset Waste Strategy Development Plan Document - E-mail 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012:** Circulated

**E-mail from Richard Parker on behalf of SAAP and supporting Parish Councils - Comments on National Grid Version 3 Consultation Strategy:** Circulated

**National Grid Hinkley Point C Connection Project - Letter 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012:** Circulated

**SDC News Release - Bring Banks across Sedgemoor District Council:** Circulated

**Avon & Somerset Police Authority Newsletter - March 2012:** Circulated

**SDC Coastal Cluster Group - Minutes of Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012:** Circulated

**Somerset County Council, News Release 5<sup>th</sup> April 2012 - Quantock land protected:** Circulated

**Avon & Somerset Police - Year end Performance:** Circulated

**Came & Company Parish Matters, Spring 2012 - Cemetery Risk Assessment:** - It was agreed to place this matter on Agenda for next Cemetery meeting.

**Letter from Tessa Munt MP - Work Groups:** Clerk to contact TM and advise of work to be done at Cemetery. Matter to be placed on Agenda for next Cemetery meeting.

**E-mails form Compton Bishop Parish Council 12<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012 - Hinkley C Connection Group Representative:** It was agreed to give Chris Ambrose a clear mandate to represent PC on the Hinkley C Connection Group.

**2223: MATTERS OF REPORT:**

J. Bowden reported that lock has seized on Cemetery gate. He advised he will repair it free of charge.

A.Gilling reported that he offered East Brent PC **support for Lengthman** scheme when this was discussed at recent Cluster Group meeting. He advised that information will follow from SDC.

A.Gilling reported that **slow Broadband speed** was also discussed at recent Cluster Group meeting. He advised that Tessa Munt MP has been invited to a future Cluster Group meeting to discuss.

B. Woodward reported that Parishioners have commented that the **grass at the Cemetery is too long**. Clerk reported that Greenacres had contacted him to advise that due to very mild March, grass was exceptionally long when it was time for the first scheduled cut and it was going to take at least 2 cuts before it was back to a manageable state. J. Bowden stated that he had appreciated that Greenacres had advised the PC of the problem.

B. Woodward reported that Bob Bees has advised that **Hill Lane is still a mess** at road works. It has previously been reported that Highways has stated that they will ensure all is OK when work is finished.

J. Webb reported that the **pond adjacent to her property needs drained** (looks awful and lots of mosquitoes). She has had complaints from Parishioners. E. Champion (Drainage Board) stated that he will look into the matter.

J. Webb reported that a **sign "To the Knoll"** would be useful. B. Walker advised that he had matter in hand.

J. Webb reported that the **Village Green should look tidy for Jubilee celebration**. Clerk to contact Dave Aggett at SDC to arrange this.

**Caravans at Paddocks:** Clerk advised that V. Clapp has reported that there are now less than 5 caravans on site.

**Traffic Lights, East Brent:** E-mail from Chris Betty 15<sup>th</sup> March. Stating that loops to be re-cut and positioned near the stop line in the road will be the only solution. He has therefore identified a budget to do this from his new financial year's programme. The work will be ordered after April 1<sup>st</sup>.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at 10.15 pm.

**2224: DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting of the East Brent Parish Council will be on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7.30pm in East Brent Village Hall, East Brent. This will be the Annual General Meeting.