

## **Brinkworth Parish Council**

Minutes of the Brinkworth Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 in the Brinkworth Village Hall Reading Room

**Present:** - Cllr P Clothier (Chair), Cllr O Gibbs, Cllr J Millard, Cllr G Greener, Cllr L Burois, Cllr O Burois, Cllr M Evans, Wilts Cllr E Threlfall, Mrs M Evans (Clerk)

**Apologies:** - Cllr A Parsons, Cllr J Clarke, Cllr W Hazlewood, Cllr M Moreton

The Public Open Session was attended by a local resident who has put in outline planning permission to develop his land. The resident delivered a presentation outlining why he should be permitted to build a new dwelling in his garden. The resident spoke about how the house will be future proofed and provide a 'forever' home. The planning was discussed by the councillors further into the meeting.

Fourteen Grittenham residents attended the meeting to raise their grave concerns regarding the appeal made by the travellers who have previously had their planning refused. The Grittenham residents are steadfast in their determination not to allow the travellers site which would be on land which is currently agricultural. Cllr Clothier assured the contingent that the BPC are equally outraged by the appeal, and any subsequent applications and will back the Grittenham residents in their stand against any further applications. Cllr Clothier is very aggrieved that the BPC views have been totally ignored by the planning department. The residents pointed out that a very expensive electricity system has been installed by the travellers along with evidence of further development which they feel has made a mockery of any planning application. It was reported that the bridleway is no longer accessible as the travellers keep their horses on the land and one can't get past them. One of the spokespeople said that it is imperative that everyone objects to any further appeals or applications, particularly as no comments can be carried forward. She went on to say that they would like the appeal hearing to take place in the Brinkworth Village Hall. It was pointed out that, even though the public would not be allowed to speak, the presence of a lot of people would show the depth of feeling towards this proposed, totally inappropriate development.

It was pointed out that Wiltshire has far more than its fair share of traveller's sites. One of the big issues is that permission made be given for two pitches but these are very soon developed into far bigger sites; examples of which are very close to Brinkworth.

The councillors went on to discuss **167/23 The Grittenham Appeal**. 167/23 Cllr Clothier reported that he feels very strongly that the BPC should be supporting the Grittenham residents and he proposed that the BPC should cover 25% (app£475) of the cost of employing LDPC to oppose the appeal and the re-application, the BPC voted unanimously to do so. James Gray is visiting Grittenham on Friday to discuss the planning issue with the residents.

**163/23 Declaration of Interest.** Cllr Gibbs raised the issue that at least four of the councillors were associated with the one of the Planning Applicants on the footpath group, but it was felt that this would not necessitate the need for abstention on any vote pertaining to his application.

**164/23 To approve and sign as a correct record of the minutes of the BPC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.** The minutes of the BPC meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023 were duly signed as a true and accurate record. As the author of the minutes, Cllr L Burois signed.

**165/23 Report from Wilts Cllr Threlfall** Wilts Cllr Threlfall reported that the government are bringing in more restrictions about what can go into landfill. There is to be a new campaign about what to recycle and what can go in the bin.

Wilts Cllr Threlfall has had a site visit to Lyneham Banks. One hundred metres of the road has gone and there is evidence of further subsidence. Talks are taking place to find the best way forward and despite constant work going on at the site it will still be months before the road is open.

Minety sub station has an application in for an extension of their battery storage facility.

Following numerous accidents at Callow Cross Road, Wilts Cllr Threlfall spoke about a speed limit review. This could be carried out along the whole of the village from Callow Cross to Causeway End. The cost would be £2500 with LHFIG paying a 70% contribution. A complete survey does not mean that one has to act on the recommendations. Wilts Cllr will pursue this.

Wilts Cllr Threlfall reported that she has been in communication with residents of Callow Hill who still have concerns regarding PaddleUp. It has been reported that the company is advertising Open Days every Saturday; the residents feel that this is in direct contravention of the conditions of planning. Wilts Cllr Threlfall will speak to the enforcement officer, Neil Smith, about exactly what the terms and conditions are.

It was reported that there have been two lorries parked in a field at Whites Farm which could lead up to it being used as a lorry park.

### **166/23 Planning Applications**

PL/2023/00598 Pittsland Farm, Callow Hill, SN155DZ Demolition of dilapidated hay barn and stables and erection of a new estate farm office. The BPC Supported this application.

PL/2023/00382 The Mount, School Hill SN155AX Outline application for the sub-division of a residential plot and the construction of a self-build dwelling with associated infrastructure. The BPC discussed this application at length and concluded that access is a major and worrying concern with School Hill already noted an area of concern with speeding traffic. It was also noted that The Mount was originally built as a three bedroom bungalow, suitable for a family, but has since been reduced to two bedrooms by previous owners. It was felt that granting outline permission will cause a precedent with other over development. The encroachment on Green Field sites and contrary to proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan (currently in draft format) may also encourage applications for other such developments. The BPC voted unanimously not to support this.

### **167/23 Grittenham Appeal Covered**

**168/23 BPC Sub Committees** Carry over to next meeting

**169/23 Highways** Cllr Evans attended a LHFIG meeting and raised the question of the continuation of the footpath. Wilts Cllr Threlfall and Cllr Evans will have a site meeting with Steve Hind to discuss this.

Cllr Evans has requested signs for Grittenham as it is signposted in Brinkworth but not located. A decision needs to be made about where to place them as Grittenham is such a difficult area to signpost.

Cllr Evans reported that the SID on The Street will be moved to School Hill. The SID on Barnes Green is proving to be very effective and will remain in situ. Cllr Evans has spoken to Steve Hind about

putting a SID on the 40 mph stretch near Bellamys Lane. This would cost £2585 inc vat. plus circa £500 inc. VAT for the post installation.

Bin Stickers Carry over

**170/23 Village Hall Car Park** Cllr Gibbs reported that he has found an architect who could produce plans for the proposed car park; this would cost £2,650 - £2900 +vat. Cllr Evans suggested that the BPC has allocated funds for the car park and the plans should be drawn up as soon as possible so that progress on securing grants can be made. The councillors were in agreement with this. Cllr Greener said that the Village Hall committee may be able to help secure a grant. It is hoped that the VH committee and a BPC sub committee join together to take this forward. Cllr Evans will lead this and speak to the VH chair. Cllr Clothier proposed that the BPC votes to employ Dolman architects; this was unanimous.

**171/23 Flood Plan** Carry Over

**172/23 Church Notice Board** Cllr Gibbs reported that the Church has ordered a maintenance free notice board which will be installed shortly.

**173/23 Parish Steward** Cllr Gibbs reported that the Parish Steward has been taken off normal duties to cover gritting and potholes. This could go on until March. The Brinkworth sign at Stoppers Hill is ready to be re-installed as soon as the PS is back on regular duties.

**174/23 Cemetery Memorials** Cllr Gibbs asked the Clerk to check that the recent memorials in the cemetery have all have the necessary permission and made the correct payments. The Clerk will check. Cllr Gibbs also commented that two of the recent graves need building up; he will speak to the funeral directors.

**175/23 Callow Hill Litter** A resident who lives on the Callow Crossroads made a complaint about the amount of litter along the B4042. Cllr Gibbs was going to report this but before he had a chance to do so it had all been collected. It is not known who collected all the rubbish but a note will go onto the website to thank them for their fantastic work. The bags of rubbish need to be collected.

**176/23 St Michaels Close Hedge.** Cllr Evans reported that the Clerk was approached by the owner of the hedge on St Michaels Close advising the BPC of his intention to remove the dead hedge. Cllr Evans checked the hedge which was indeed just being held up by brambles. The hedge is on the owner's land and there was no reason for him not to remove it. It was agreed by the BPC however that a natural native hedge would have been preferable.

**177/23 BPC Web Providers** Carry Over

**178/23 Neighbourhood Plan** There is to be a presentation of the draft Neighbourhood Plan in the Village Hall on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. It is hoped that local residents will go along and speak to the NP group.

Cllr Gibbs would like recorded very grateful thanks to Cllr Greener for his incredible work over the last months in producing the plan. The councillors would also like to record their thanks to Cllr L Burois for all her support with the plan.

**179/23 Village Hall Lease** Cllr Greener reported that he has received communication from the Diocese giving him their assurance that they have every intention to extend the lease on the VH and the Car Park for a further 25 years. With this assurance it will now be possible to seek Car Park grants.

**180/23 Coronation Mugs** Cllr Gibbs asked if the BPC was going to present the children of the village with Coronation Mugs. Cllr L Burois suggested that we purchase enough to sell to anyone who would like one. The Clerk will source these mugs.

#### **AOB**

Jubilee Tree. It was feared that the Oak Tree had fallen victim to the severe drought but on inspection it appears that it has survived. Cllr Clothier has ordered the tree guard so we can now arrange to place the plaque.

The April meeting will be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The May meeting will be held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023 which will also be the BPC Open Meeting

Date of the next meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023