

Minutes of the Meeting of Brewham Parish Council held at Brewham Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th November 2024

Present: Robert Jackson (Chair), Eddie Harper, Christopher Saxton, Patricia Stainton and Councillor Tom Power.

In attendance: Sue Price (Clerk) and four members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence:**
Apologies for absence had been received from Richard Hiscock and Councillor Lucy Trimnell.
2. **Declarations of Interest:**
There were no declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th September 2024:**
The minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024 were unanimously approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
4. **Matters Arising:**
There were no matters arising that would not be dealt with elsewhere.
5. **Financial Business:**
 - i. **Financial transactions:**
The Clerk advised that since the last meeting there had been no income and expenditure of £970.82, as listed below.

The financial transactions for the period 10th September-11th November 2024 were as follows:

Bank balances brought forward on 10 th September 2024	£6,067.28
<u>Income</u>	£0.00
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Third mowing of the Burial Ground – N Payne	500.00
Mowing of the Common Land for the 2024 season – D Dabinett	300.00
Annual subscription to the Somerset Association of Local Councils	130.82
Information Commissioner's annual fee	40.00
<u>The Fund balances on 11th November 2024 were therefore:</u>	
General Fund	£2,942.03
Burial Ground Fund	404.43
Burial Ground Wall Repair Fund	250.00
Reserve Fund	1,500.00
<u>Represented by Bank a/cs:</u>	
National Savings Bank Investment a/c	£859.03
Lloyds Bank Treasurers a/c	4,237.43

Creditor

Cremated remains plot – Mr & Mrs Turner	£80.00
Bank balances to include creditor	£5,176.40
Bank balances carried forward on 11 th November 2024	£5,096.46

ii. Payment of invoices:

The Clerk requested authorisation to pay the invoice from The Royal British Legion for the two Remembrance Day wreaths when received. This should be in the region of £40. **It was unanimously agreed** that this invoice be paid when received. Later in the meeting **it was unanimously agreed** to make a donation of £30 to Citizens Advice Somerset.

6. **Planning Applications**

i. **Decisions on applications already considered by the Parish Council:**

- a. 22/01688/FUL - Land OS 0006, Gladwill Farm, North Brewham, BA10 0JS – Application for change of use of agricultural hard standing to allow for siting of a mobile showman’s wagon trailer conversion for holiday let accommodation. Decision awaited.
- b. 3/00864/FUL - Lindum Farm, Bruton Road, Brewham, BA10 0JF - The erection of steel framed agricultural machinery storage shed. Decision awaited.
- c. 23/01518/COL – Lavender Bank, Street Lane, Brewham, BA10 0JS - Application for a Lawful Certificate for the proposed erection of a garden room workshop within the boundary of Lavender Bank. Application withdrawn.
- d. 23/01410/FUL – Land opposite Jerrards Farm, Hammer Street, North Brewham. - the erection of a new dwelling for agricultural occupancy for a family member. Decision awaited.
- e. 24/01687HOU – Border Lodge, Hammer Street, Brewham BA10 0JQ – New plant room to house utility services and new greenhouse. Change in design to previously consented replacement windows. Application approved.

ii. **Application received since last meeting and considered by email:**

24/02267/LBC – Charcroft Farm, South Brewham, BA10 0LG – replacement of windows and doors on all elevations of dwellinghouse. Councillors had no objections and supported this application.

iii. **Any new applications received:**

No new applications had been received.

7. **Burial Ground, Churchyard, Common Land and Village Amenities:**

The Chairman reported that Nigel Payne will be mowing the Burial Ground one more time. Nigel Payne has indicated that he would be happy to continue the maintenance of the Burial Ground for the 2025 season and David Dabinett confirmed that he too would be happy to continue mowing the Common Land. **It was unanimously agreed** that the Clerk would write to Nigel Payne and David Dabinett confirming the continuation of their contracts for £1,500 and £300 respectively for the 2025 season.

8. **Roads:**

a. Outstanding matters:

The Highways Department are repairing potholes in the parish but there are always new ones appearing. The Clerk and others have reported a very deep one on the Hardway opposite Hardway Cottage and Patricia Stainton advised that the pothole at the junction from Strap Lane is getting much worse as is the uneven surface of the road on Strap Lane. A crack to the bridge by the Old Stores in the middle of the village has also

been reported. Nothing further has been heard from the Council about Osip's incorrect address.

b. New matters:

The road on Druley Hill has a lot of potholes and the Clerk will report this to the Clerk of Kilmington Parish Council or Wiltshire County Council.

Christopher Saxton noted that the Newt have removed a dead tree at Copplesbury Farm but nothing has been done to the hedge making exit from Hassocks Lane difficult although one on the lane towards Batcombe has been cleared. The Clerk will write to them again.

9. **Footpaths & Bridleways:**

Outstanding matters:

The Clerk was pleased to advise that the footpath at Swanton Farm was unblocked on 1st November after some eight and a half years. However, on 2nd November she was sent photographs showing that it had been blocked at the gate from Street Lane with the debris that had been cut to put in a small new bridge and gate with a brush wedged on the other side. This was removed on 6th November and the Clerk walked across the path to discover an electric fence halfway across the field the other side of the driveway and the gate at the end of the field had been blocked with pieces of wood and a blue feed bin. She has written to thank the Council's Rights of Way department and pointed out that the electric fence is not currently insulated with tubing.

Repairs needed on other footpaths in the parish are also outstanding.

10. **Report from County Councillors:**

Councillor Tom Power highlighted the points in the November newsletter which he had just circulated:

The highways upgrade of the A358 between Ilminster and Taunton has been shelved by the government. Somerset Council passed a motion to oppose the changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance as Somerset has 110,000 older residents. They also pledged to raise awareness about Pension Credit so all eligible pensioners receive the support to which they are entitled. The Council has submitted proposals to update the Mendip Local Plan which identifies 9 sites capable of delivering 569 dwellings by 2028. A series of recommendations have been made by the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board following the death of a resident and 50 more foster carers are urgently needed. Wells Christmas market, with over 100 stalls, will take place on 14th December. Some parts of the county have been part of a national trial whereby plastic bags and wrapping are being collected for recycling. Highways partner Kier are working to keep the county's roads safe this winter and Councillor Power will ask if a gritter can come through the main part of the village when the roads are particularly icy/covered in snow. There is evidence that more young people are using disposable vapes which it will be illegal to sell from June 2025.

A letter had just been circulated from Councillor Bill Revans, Leader of Somerset Council, reflecting on his first year in office. He highlighted that Somerset Council is currently going through a significant and transformation programme to create a financially sustainable Council. The recent rise in the National Living Wage and increases in employers' NI will increase costs. They will not receive details of the draft financial settlement from the Government until late December and he urged Town and Parish Councils to build contingencies into their budgets to be able to take on services that Somerset Council may not be able to continue. Luckily Brewham does not have many amenities such as playgrounds and toilet facilities.

Christopher Saxton asked about the proposed development on Brewham Road in Bruton and Councillor Power confirmed that he has asked for this to be deferred until a traffic report has been completed. Most planning applications are still taking a long time to be decided, there are too few staff and a number do not stay in post for very long. He has written to the CEO and Leader of the Council asking for changes to be made.

11. **Report from the Police:**

The Clerk had had not received a report from the police.

12. **Dates of future meetings:**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 14th January 2025 and the final meeting of the current financial year on 11th March 2025.

13. **Open Forum:**

The Clerk had received a letter from West Monkton Parish Council asking if the Parish Council would like to have a small plaque erected on the newest Commonwealth War Memorial to be erected in Taunton. It was agreed not to do this. She had also received a letter from Citizens Advice Somerset asking the Parish Council to consider making a donation. **It was unanimously agreed** to send a donation of £30 which will provide one telephone license for a volunteer to provide advice by telephone.

It was noted that Matthew Brady has replaced an old wooden shed in the field opposite Osip with a new brick building which has a concrete base. The Clerk will send photographs to Councillor Power who will check whether such a construction should require planning permission.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.58pm.

These minutes were unanimously approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman at the meeting of Brewham Parish Council on Tuesday, January 2025.