



BROMSBERROW PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

7.00pm on Tuesday 30th January 2024 at Bromsberrow Village Hall

1. **Present:** Cllr Robin Launder (Chair), Cllr Chris Neville, Cllr John Stephens, with FoDDC Cllr Philip Burford, Cllr Gill Moseley (Gloucestershire County Council), also present: David Mills (Clerk).
Apologies received: Cllr Roxanne Shayle
2. **Declaration of interests:** As agreed at the 20th June 2023 meeting the Clerk duly granted dispensation to all councillors to enable discussion of Quarry activity matters, progress of the ROMP and Parish Council Responses of this agenda and at subsequent meetings covering the same topic for the next two years. No other items declared.
3. **Minutes of meeting 28th November 2023** – approved and signed with transcript as addendum.
Minutes of meeting 9th January 2024 - approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising:** Waste bin request to be placed by the Village Hall to be followed up by FoDDC Councillor Burford, Clerk to advise.
5. **County Council report by Cllr Moseley** - £600m budget being discussed with no predicted deficit. Public consultation is set to be carried out on proposed changes to the county council's adult social care fairer contributions policy. £87.9m pothole funding boost for Gloucestershire. Grants are available to households with limited broadband access under the Fastershire broadband project to enable superfast access.

District Council reports by Cllr Burford – Council have approved the Ethical Investment Policy, to only invest in financial products that are aligned with its social and environmental goals; and avoid ones deemed unethical. Review of the use of Publica services, the sale of assets are measures being considered to reduce the potential £3m deficit predicted over the next five years. Proposals for increasing parking charges and 'Biosphere reserve' have been dropped. Project to help protect neighbourhoods from effects of climate change has begun.

6. **Discussion items**
 - a. **Playground project feasibility study** plans include an agreed questionnaire to establish the level and nature of residents support for the project to see if there is sufficient interest in a play-park project. Residents are invited to take part in our questionnaire online or the A5 paper form during February 2024. Cost approved at 9/1/2024 meeting. **Action:** Cllr Shayle to progress with Clerk support.
 - b. Build Back Better bid for two village **Noticeboards** approved – **Action:** Finalised form to be submitted to County Cllr Moseley by Clerk.
 - c. **Grit bin and Snow warden** coordination – **Action:** Cllr Stephens to enquire about interest from residents. A Snow Warden could be the source of bags of grit for residents in areas not covered by the GCC gritting program.
 - d. **Annual Parish Meeting** workshop ideas – **Action:** Councillors to attend online workshop and consider invitations to village organisations to contribute.
7. **Parish council business**
 - a. Clerk presented the current year 2023/24 Accounts update.
 - b. Payments in January and February 2024 for Grass cutting and War memorial repair approved.
 - c. Biodiversity Policy for consideration, not adopted. **Action:** Chair Cllr Launder to provide replacement wording.
 - d. BPC Risk Management Strategy not adopted. **Action:** Chair Cllr Launder to provide replacement

wording.

- e. Clerk shared current bank account arrangements and in the absence of an appointed clerk for the next meeting will handover logins and access in single document. **Action:** Councillors to canvas residents. Clerk to post new advert to the GAPTC website and advertise in the local press.

8. Planning

- a. **Land Grab** has been reported to the GCC Highways PROW officers and to FoDDC Planning Enforcement. The drafted letter to be withheld awaiting outcomes from further meetings between Cllr Stephens and GCC PROW Officer. **Actions:** Clerk to inform complainant/s of progress. Cllr Stephens to advise on progress.
- b. P1580/23/FUL - 2 Woodend Street, Bromsberrow Heath, Ledbury, Gloucestershire.
Erection of a single storey side extension to provide new kitchen – No comment.
- c. P0066/24/FUL - Yew Tree Cottage, Bromsberrow Heath, Ledbury, HR8 1PG.
Variation of condition 01 (approved plans) of P0066/23/APP to allow for the removal of the rooflight in the east facing roof slope - No comment.
- d. P0058/24/FUL - Fernlea, Chasend Hill, Bromsberrow, Ledbury.
Erection of detached double garage and workshop – No comment.
- e. **Quarry activity & ROMP:**
 - Cllr Moseley reported from an internal briefing that the ROMP is a “long way from completing the conditions” and GCC Planning state the screening process is not automatic and there are “misunderstandings of the requirements” for environmental statements. It is acknowledged the ROMP process is too cumbersome, takes too long and is too costly for the applicant.
 - Cllr Moseley reminded BPC of previous advice not to proceed with the complaint to GCC as there could be “unintended consequences”. GCC Planning has advised “as the complaints process has now been activated there will be no advice given until resolved” effectively holding up any progress on the breaches of planning conditions or the ROMP conditions.
 - Cllr Launders responded that as there had been little progress or responses to the many meetings, emails and documents shared over the last few years, what else was the Parish Council to do?
 - Cllr Launders advised the references for three complaints:
 - Our reference BPC-ILR-Eldisciplines
 - Our reference BPC-ILR-
 - Our reference BPC-ILR-SKIP OPERATIONS
- f. Two new suspected breaches of conditions have taken place within the last month:
 - 1. **Suspected Breach of Planning Control re sale or topsoil.**
 - New, large, advertising hoardings on the site and outside advertise topsoil for sale from the Bromsberrow Sand and Gravel quarry. The Company's website also offers topsoil for sale and the quarry is their only open premises. Accordingly, the Company indicates that it is selling topsoil from the site.
 - Under C1209, C1209/A and C1209/C, topsoil and overburden are to be retained on site for restoration purposes. A certificate of lawful Use DF867/F/LDC) permits “storage and distribution of sands, gravels and “aggregates” but specifically restricts this to “Primary Aggregates”, which topsoil is not. Accordingly, the activity of selling topsoil is not permitted and contravenes existing planning conditions.
 - 2. **Suspected Breach of Condition (d) of G1209/A**
 - There are new excavations in the zone covered by G1209/A up to the highway boundary (Wood End Street) and at a steep slope right down to the quarry floor towards the water table.
 - Condition (d) specifies: “The excavations to be carried out at a slope not exceeding 1in 1”
 - The new excavations are suspected of breaching the Condition (d).
 - Excavations steeper than 1in 1, and in breach, should be stopped.

- Excess excavations under a 45 degree angle from the excavation limit of Condition (c) should be calculated. Condition(c) states "No excavation to be carried out within 30 feet of the highway boundary..."
- The volume of sand so won in excess of Conditions should be balanced by equivalent volume by way of reductions in the winnings proposed in the current Review of Mineral Permissions such that, under the terms of the Act (see below), there will be no net 'restriction' 'as compared with the effect of the conditions ...of the planning conditions... immediately prior...' The Act is the Environment Act 1995/25. The quotes are from Section 10(2).

Any such activity should be stopped, and the topsoil and overburden retained, as per existing Planning Conditions.

Action: Cllr Launder to contact GCC Planning enforcement with regard to the new suspected breaches of conditions.

Action: Cllr Moseley to establish clear confirmation from the GCC Planning Officer that the issues of responsibility of responding to all breaches in conditions are total with the County Council and are not apportioned to the District Council under whose jurisdiction they would normally fall. The County Council is therefore totally the responding authority for Quarry issues.

9. AOB None

10. Date of next meetings

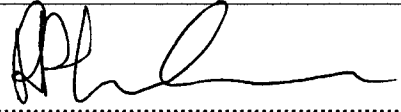
Tuesday 26th March 2024

Tuesday 28th May 2024

Tuesday 30th July 2024

Tuesday 24th September 2024

Tuesday 26th November 2024

<p>Signed: </p> <p>Date: <u>26 March 2024</u></p>
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