

**Minutes of the Broadhempston Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Thursday 13 April 2023**

Present: Cllrs Wright (Chair), Goddard, Head Isaacs, Sutcliffe, Widger, White.

Also present: 8 members of the public  
Cathy Aubertin (clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Guy Sear.

Cllr Wright opened the meeting at 7.01pm.

**Chair's report from Cllr Nick Wright:**

Another busy and somewhat stressful year has passed as we approach the parish council AGM in May.

This year, as a community we have seen national celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and then sadly national mourning when her majesty died. We are about to see celebrations again at the coronation of King Charles III. We have had three different UK Prime Ministers, continued to witness the atrocities of the Ukraine conflict and are all living through a cost-of-living crisis, with high inflation, high energy costs and high food costs. I find myself again being so grateful for the thriving community that we are so very lucky to live in and be a part of.

Thankfully for the majority of people, the threat of covid at least has diminished to somewhere between a minor inconvenience and feeling poorly for a few days.

For the parish council's part, our agendas have been ticking over. We contributed toward the jubilee celebrations and commissioned local crafted commemorative mugs for all the primary school aged children of the parish. We have also recently planted a commemorative jubilee oak tree at headlands though it does not have an official plaque yet.

The village square continues to be a topic that slowly moves forward. We held a public meeting last year to ascertain people's opinion and it was nearly unanimous that you wanted us to continue to pursue creating a village square. We have had positive feedback from Highways and Devon County Council but have more hoops to jump through before it can finally become a reality. Alongside the square we are still working on a solution for displaced car parking though again we have more to do. At the same public meeting we also informed attendees of the Devon County Council's flood resilience program which was continuing from the previous year.

Our parish lengths-man has seen another successful year in helping keep flooding to a minimum by maintaining and unblocking bundles, verges and key road edges. Sadly, our original lengths-man, Mike Pearey, had to retire from the job but Ian Cumberlidge has taken over and is now finding his stride on the parish roads.

This year has not been such a big year for planning. We have considered 7 applications to do with trees and 11 applications to do with buildings. The local plan final draft consultation has just finished with the land next to Easterways being supported by Teignbridge as the potential housing plot.

The climate action group set up by the parish council has been finding a new direction and we are currently investigating any possibility of a community energy project though the electrical infrastructure of the national grid near us is making this look more difficult. The thermal imaging camera that the parish council purchased for the group has been doing the rounds in people's houses, helping them to identify where they may be able to make some changes to improve insulation and thus reducing heating costs. If you would like to hire the camera for £10, please email Cathy at [clerk@broadhempston.org.uk](mailto:clerk@broadhempston.org.uk)

On Remembrance Sunday the parish wreath was laid on the memorial and at Christmas the parish Christmas tree was purchased and put up with some help from volunteers.

The community orchard continues to be a successful and popular resource for the community to use and is for the most part left tidy and treated with respect. The hedges surrounding it have been laid with the hope that these will now thicken up and improve over the coming years.

Headlands continues to be very well looked after for us by the Headlands Committee and I'd like to take a moment to thank them for their continuing hard work. In particular I'd like to thank Roger Acton who is standing down from the Headlands Committee and Village Hall CIO this July. He has been the chair since 2019 and on the committee for Headlands since 2018 and a trustee for the village hall since 2016. Roger took over the Headlands chair from David Heath who is also stepping down from the CIO this year after around 15 years. David provided the initial impetus to develop Headlands into more than just a football pitch.

Whilst speaking about stepping down, the parish council very sad to be losing three long standing councillors in May and I think their dedicated voluntary service deserves a big thank you...

Jane Isacs has been sitting on the council now for 16 years. She attended a meeting about a planning application and effectively never left...until now. She has been a dedicated, well respected and highly valued member of the council and we will miss her.

Malcolm Head has been on the parish council for 22 years, including four years as chairman. Although overseeing many things while on the council. In particular Malcolm worked tirelessly to make the Kings close housing vision a reality during his chairmanship.

Lastly Simon Sutcliffe. Simon has had three terms of four years on the parish council from the late 60's till the early 80's, then his most recent stint on the council has lasted 28 years! I don't really know what else to say to such an incredible length of public service. That's 40 odd years of parish council meetings and service to Broadhempston. Not only that, but Simon also is, or has been, involved with many other groups and committees.

Jane, Malcolm and Simon, between you the council is losing 78 years of experience and knowledge. Thank you for all that you have given the parish over your time on the parish council as well as everything else you have done.

And just while on the subject. There are many fabulous people stepping down from various organisations, committees and groups, and those shoes need filling. The parish council has carried out a leaflet drop to everyone, asking for volunteers to step forward and I'd like to take this opportunity to reiterate this. We have a fantastic community with so many things going on, but again and again I see the same few people behind so much of it. Please, please, please, if you would like to get involved with any of the groups such as the village shop, village hall, headlands, parish council, orchard, school, church or anything else, please get in touch with them and volunteer. Without new fresh people coming forward, we truly risk losing many or all of these facilities. Joining them is rewarding and a great way to get to know our parish really well. YOU DON'T need special qualifications and YOU DON'T need to be from some big corporate background, and YOU DO matter, and You WILL make a difference and You ARE just what we need.

Nicholas Wright  
Chair of Broadhempston Parish Council.

### **Public Question Time**

Members of the public thanked Cllrs Isaacs, Head and Sutcliffe for their years of service to the community with a round of applause.

A member of the public requested an update on the village square, Cllr Wright advised that the PC is in discussion with DCC Highways about the square, who are supportive of the scheme but that there is further work to be done. The PC is also in talks with Teign Housing in respect of the possibility of providing alternative parking near the Village Hall.

It was noted that the work undertaken by the Parish Lengths-man had improved flooding issues in the village. Cllr White requested that anyone with concerns about drains, buddle holes etc contact him and he will liaise with Ian Cumberlidge, the Parish Lengths-man.

**Broadhempston Relief in Need Charity**

Cllr White gave an update, in his role as Chair of Broadhempston Relief in Need charity. The charity holds a trust fund for the needy of the village. Fortunately, there are few people in Broadhempston who are in need. The charity also has very strict criteria about what can be done with the money. Gifts are given out at Christmas to needy residents and those who have lost someone. Help is also given to the school with funding, for example, for trips for some children who would otherwise not be able to go.

Anyone in need can approach any of the trustees.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm.