

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Broadhempston Parish Council
Thursday 20 October 2022

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

Also present: 18 members of the public
 John Galt, DCC

Cathy Aubertin (Clerk)

No	Subject	
1	The Chair will open the Meeting and receive apologies.	Cllr Wright opened the meeting at Apologies were received from Cllrs Sear and White.
2	To declare any interests at this meeting.	None.
3	To consider the future use of the village square, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether to install seating, planters etc. • Feasibility of providing additional parking. • Disabled/ wheelchair access to the Church. • Costs. 	<p>Cllr Wright explained that there had been a trial use of eliminating vehicles from the square last year, and additional seating was provided.</p> <p>Having discussed briefly with DCC, there is an option to licence the land from Highways. Initial costs would total approximately £6,000 simply to obtain the licence. The ongoing licence fee is likely to be reasonable and affordable. There is a need to ensure that, whatever the future, access for vehicles is not worsened.</p> <p>A safety report would probably indicate the area of land that could be used as a village square whilst allowing enough space for traffic to pass, eg possibly making the square slightly smaller than the space currently taken up by parked vehicles. It was noted that access to the Church must be maintained for all.</p> <p>Re the possibility of creating further parking near the village hall, this has been agreed with the Village Hall should the scheme proceed. However, the cost of this is quoted as being £15-20,000, although the PC is hoping parking could be created for less than that.</p> <p>Should additional parking be provided it would be worthwhile installing EVC for use by parishioners and visitors, with the income going to the Village Hall. Such parking would replace the lost parking on the square, but the PC may need to consider providing additional parking as there is already a need for it.</p> <p>A member of public who lives on the square noted that she would prefer to park outside her home rather than elsewhere but was also supportive of the proposed improvements.</p> <p>The layout of the square may result in better access for vehicles, but this would need to be considered carefully.</p> <p>It was noted by a shop representative that losing the parking spaces last year did not have any adverse financial impact on the shop. In fact, it was felt that, if the area was made more attractive than it was as a temporary feature, it could be a real asset for the village and the shop.</p> <p>It was noted that the desire to have a square is to provide a focus for the village and a place to allow people to enjoy refreshments and relax.</p> <p>Concern was raised about the future of the pub and whether it will continue to be a pub as this may have an impact on the use of the square. It was felt that having a pub in the centre of the village is an asset and having a seating area outside would make it more viable for the future.</p> <p>At this stage, the pub can keep a street café license for one more year, but there are no guarantees that the scheme will continue after October 2023.</p> <p>The safety of children coming out of school was raised and not having parked cars on the square would make it much safer for children.</p>

		<p>A member of public noted that 30-40 years ago, teenagers used to gather in the square and not having vehicles parked there may encourage this again, giving young people a place to meet.</p> <p>Further detail about the cost of the process to initiate a licence was given.</p> <p>It was noted that this matter has arisen many times and, if no action taken this time, it will come up again in the future, and costs are not going to decrease!</p> <p>A member of public advised that they moved to the village during the trial period and felt the area was very welcoming and was somewhere they could sit and meet people.</p> <p>It was felt that improved signage would be required to discourage parking on the road and to point motorists in the direction of the council's car park.</p> <p>It was suggested that the scheme should only go ahead if additional parking can be provided and access for large vehicles can be improved.</p> <p>Everyone present voted unanimously that the PC should proceed with the initial steps to make changes to the square.</p> <p><i>It was RESOLVED to go proceed with the project, commencing with a meeting on site with a DCC officer.</i></p> <p>Clerk to contact DCC.</p> <p>Members of the public were asked to let the clerk know if they would wish to be involved in a working group to progress the project.</p>
4	To offer thermal imaging surveys of homes to help residents in making decisions about how to reduce heat loss.	<p>ClIr Wright advised that the PC has a climate action group and one of the actions of the group was to purchase a thermal imaging camera, which will be available to any parishioner who wishes to take thermal images of their homes. There will be a voluntary contribution of £10.</p> <p>ClIr Wright also offered help with using the camera to anyone who may need it.</p>
5	To consider the offer of flood resilience measures to some homes from Devon County Council.	<p>John Galt, from DCC, gave a brief presentation on this issue and requested that residents contact him if they are concerned about flooding at their homes at floodrisk@devon.gov.uk</p> <p>He further advised that it is anticipated that installations to be completed by March 2024.</p> <p>The deadline for responses to letters sent to residents is approximately two weeks, but John advised that people won't be turned away if they miss this deadline.</p> <p>A question was asked about insurance premiums for homes, but John advised that having flood measures installed should not result in an adverse impact on the cost of home insurance.</p>
6	To consider the repainting of lines in the play area, including court lines and games.	<p>This item continued the discussion from the previous meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the clerk has made an FOI request to DCC for information on whether the licence has been transferred to the Academy or if it still remains with DCC, and a response should be received by 8 November.</p> <p>It was noted that there will be a need for the PC to make a decision at the next meeting.</p>
7	To note the date of the next meeting: Thursday 10 November 2022.	<p>This was noted and the meeting closed at 8.58pm.</p>