

Minutes of Meeting of Brocton Parish Council held by 'remote' means (zoom) on Wednesday, 3 February 2021, from 7.30pm.

Councillors who attended zoom meeting: Cllr R Bates (Chairman), Cllr Mrs L Smith (Vice Chairman), Cllr A Kenny and Cllr Mrs B Smith, who joined the meeting at 8.26pm. SBC Cllr A Cooper and SCC Cllr J Francis, who joined the meeting at 7.45pm.

1/21 Apologies: None

2/21 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

1 member of the public attended and raised the following items:

1. Increased volume of traffic/parking on Chase Road. The concerns of the resident were noted and it was resolved to bring these to the attention of SCC, in light of the ongoing car parking strategy on Cannock Chase.
2. Mountain bikes at Brocton Coppice – has seen tracks being dug out, with pick axes and shovels. Matter has been brought to the attention of Ian Marshall, AONB, Natural England are concerned, SCC have been made aware, but no action appears to have been taken. Resident agreed to provide photos and it was resolved to raise this matter further with SCC.

Resident left the meeting at 7.50pm.

Action – Resident and Clerk

3/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS There were no declarations of interest.

4/21 MINUTES APPROVED

a. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 were approved as a correct record.

5/21 MATTERS TO BE UPDATED

a. Chairman provided an update that the Public Footpath from Old Acre Lane to Sawpit Lane had been visited and there was no real evidence of horse manure, it had been agreed with the resident to monitor the situation for any further incidents and to consider appropriate action, at that time, if necessary. Resident in agreement with this approach.

6/21 REPORT FROM SCC COUNCILLOR

a. Cllr Francis advised that Amey have completed speeding checks, however results are distorted owing to the coronavirus, matter to be reviewed once situation returns to normal. Reduction in speed limit from Milford to Brocton, (40mph to 30mph), is now in the SCC Capital Programme of works for 2021/22. It was acknowledged that volume of traffic appears to have increased.

b. Cllr Francis noted ongoing concerns regarding Brook Lane and will be investigating why no action has been taken.

7/21 REPORT FROM SBC COUNCILLOR

a. Cllr Cooper advised that SBC is currently reviewing the budget for 2021/22, in light of the coronavirus impact upon resources.

b. Cllr Cooper will follow up damage caused to grassed area by Veolia at Sherbrook Close, to establish why no action appears to have been taken by them.

8/21 PLANNING APPLICATION

No Applications to note or consider.

9/21 CLERKS REPORT

Clerk provided an update on the following matters:

a. Village matters – a remote meeting had taken place with SCC about a number of concerns within the village, it was resolved that a short report will be provided to the SCC Cabinet member for Communities and Culture for her consideration. This will include car parking on Cannock Chase and in the village, Brook Lane, Old Acre Lane and Chase Road. A site visit will be facilitated, when possible, to review these concerns. It was agreed as important to maintain ongoing dialogue with the Parish Council.

Action - Clerk

b. Bat/bird boxes – Cllrs confirmed their agreement to the installation of these in the play park. It was resolved that Clerk will explore possibility of grant funding from the AONB to help with this project. Cllrs welcomed the support from the Staffordshire Bat Group.

Action - Clerk

c. Defibrillator – installation of new defibrillator and cabinet was noted. It was resolved to include an article in the Paperchase about the donations of £95.00 and the agreement of AEDdonate to offset these against the cost of the maintenance package, subject to the agreement of residents. If no response to the article received by 5 March 2021, AEDdonate will be advised accordingly.

Action - Clerk

d. Pool Lane – condition of grass verges, following completion of work by Cadent, was discussed. It was acknowledged that the recent poor weather, vehicles driving onto verges, people walking over the verges and the deer in the village had all contributed to a decline in the condition. The matter had been raised with SCC Highways for advice, as well as Cadent. Situation remains ongoing. Further marker posts will be installed and arrangements have been made for SCC Highways Officer to visit the site to determine appropriate locations and to provide a cost for purchase of posts and installation.

e. Speed sign – site for installation of final post has been established on Pool Lane, SCC Highways will provide details of cost for purchase and installation shortly.

f. Book Swop – the Cllrs acknowledged that it was lovely to see the Book Swop being so well used, however, concerns over general tidiness and the selection of items being left was discussed, it was resolved to include an article in the Paperchase, requesting residents do their bit to keep it tidy and to only leave books, not magazines. Cllrs have visited the Book Swop and tried to tidy up over the Christmas period. The ongoing support of the volunteer is much appreciated. It was resolved to investigate the installation of a hand sanitiser and the display of Notices in the Book Swop to remind users to keep it tidy and to only leave books. Clerk to liaise with the volunteer.

Action – Clerk and volunteer

10/21 PLAY PARK

a. Inspection Reports for December and January 2021 were received and noted.

b. Moles – it was resolved to re-engage the mole catcher.

Action – Clerk

c. Use of play park and equipment, in particular the basketball post was discussed, including covering over the signage on the back board. The Cllrs resolved not to take any action, but to continue to monitor the situation. Use of the park was welcomed as being important for general well-being; restricting access by locking the park at night was considered but rejected as not necessary or practical – it was felt that users would simply climb the gates to gain access.

Action – all Cllrs.

d. Quotes for work to safety tiles were received. Clerk to arrange further site visit and establish guarantees for work. Matter to be reviewed in March.

Action – Clerk.

11/21 COMMUNITY EVENTS

a. Cllrs noted that the Christmas 2020 event had been well received within the village, with a lot of positive comments. It was resolved to review the house judging arrangements if decided to run house decorating competition in 2021.

b. Easter Egg Hunt to be held over weekend of 2 and 3 April 2021. Cllr Mrs B Smith to co-ordinate event, details to be publicised in the February Paperchase, with event being finalised in March.

Action – Cllr Mrs B Smith and Clerk

c. It was resolved to hold a community Christmas 2021 event, details to be discussed at future Parish Council meeting.

12/21 FEBRUARY PAPERCHASE

a. Support from volunteers to help with delivery was noted and welcomed. Cllr Kenny advised he will not be able to support with delivery, Cllr Mrs L Smith agreed to update delivery rota and collect printed copies when ready. Articles about parking on grass verges, Book Swop and Parish Councillor vacancies to be included.

Action – Cllr Mrs L Smith and Clerk.

13/21 MEETING DATES FOR 2021/22

a. The following meeting dates were agreed:

2021 - 7 April; 21 April (Annual Parish meeting) *; 5 May (Annual Council meeting, followed by Parish Council meeting); 2 June; 7 July; 1 September; 6 October; 3 November and 1 December. 2022 – 5 January (only if required); 2 February and 2 March.

*provisional date, subject to government restrictions – details to be provided on website and in Notice Boards.

14/21 FINANCE

a. Receipt of training donation of £10.00 from Ingestre with Tixall Parish Council was noted.

b. The following payments were approved:

Accounts for payment – The meeting approved the payment of the following accounts:

Paid to:	Details:	Net Amount	VAT	Total Paid
Clerks salary and expenses	Period covered 1 – 31 January 2021	£413.48	£5.74	£419.22
Society of Local Council Clerks	Membership fees - 2021	£112.00	Nil	£112.00
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association.	Training – Effective Representations	£30.00	Nil	£30.00
HMRC	PAYE for the period 6.12.20 – 5.2.21	£181.00	Nil	£181.00

15/21 CORRESPONDENCE

a. Ofcom response regarding mobile phone coverage in the village – it was resolved to contact our MP, bring the concerns of poor coverage to her attention and to explore what action, if any, she can take to improve coverage for the village.

Action – Clerk

b. Staffordshire Police – Your Police, Your Voice Survey – it was resolved that the Clerk will respond to the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action – Clerk

16/21 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

a. Easter Spring 2021

b. Christmas 2021

c. Planning training presentation – Cllr Mrs L Smith

Meeting ended 9.35pm