

Britford Parish Council
Minutes for Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Jay McGowan – Clerk

Britford Parish Council members met on Thursday 8th February 2024 for an Extra Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at Britford Memorial & Community Hall.

Present: Derek Finnis (Chairman), Jane Ranaboldo, Enid Alston, Tim Bonallack, Nat Cole, Martin Sturgeon,

Also, present: Jay McGowan (Clerk), Councillor Richard Clewer, plus 13 members of the public.

The Meeting started at 7.30pm

Public Session

A Parishioner asked the outcome of the meeting held with Environment Agency, Chief Executive, Mr P Duffy to discuss water issues in Britford. Cllr Finnis explained the meeting went well, with the water concerns highlighted to Mr Duffy. A walk round the Village then took place with visits to homes that suffered internal flooding at the beginning of January. As a result of the visit communications have started between Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council and Britford Parish Council. The EA have also been in communication with surrounding landowners. Work behind the scenes continues with the hope a survey will be carried out soon, the Parish Council hope the Environment Agency will use Mr C Onions, Consulting Civil Engineer who has also consulted with the Parish Council. The Right Hon, John Glen MP is also working with agencies to resolve the situation.

A query regarding surrounding landowners and their involvement to help solve the concerns was raised. Again, Cllr Finnis explain the surrounding landowners were aware of the water concerns with correspondence exchanging between them and the Parish Council. A recent meeting with Longford Estate confirmed the Estate were working on a 10year plan to tackle the flood issues which would include Britford water management.

Residents would like to thank Cllr Cole for all his time and efforts to help everyone in the Parish and for his continued support during and after the flooding.

Agenda

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the recent flood event of January 2024 in Britford Village.

23.07.01 Apologies for Absence. To receive and accept apologies for absence. One. Apologies were received from Cllr Alston. **Resolved:** Cllr Alston's apologies were considered and accepted.

23.07.02 Vacancies in Council Office: One

The vacancy has been advertised and no election was called.

23.07.03 Declaration of Interest: Councillors to disclose their interests in matters to be discussed and to decide requests for dispensation. None.

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23.07.04 To consider any urgent matters raised in the public session, and any other urgent matters or items from councillors. (For discussions only, no decisions can be taken). None

23.07.05 To agree any items on the agenda that are to be dealt with following the exclusion of the press & public. None.

23.07.06 Flooding. The items to be discussed:

- a) Concerns and Feedback from Members of the Public.
- b) Compensation for internally flooded properties.
- c) Main Rivers (EA).
- d) Village ditches and drainage.

Cllr Finnis invited Mr J Dennis, Construction Engineer, and Britford resident to discuss a possible 'prevention' plan for future water surges. Mr Dennis recently met with Mr Whittle regarding the flooding in the Village. The outcome of meeting resulted in a proposed plan to build an effective, natural defence system to protect the surge of water coming into the Village. Cllrs and residents agreed with the proposal to use and rebuild the existing drainage channel that have been in place for many years. These channels will need rebuilding and clearing. **Resolved:** Mr Dennis in conjunction with the Parish Council, Mr Whittle and Mr Onions will look at the proposed plans further and see if they are visible.

Resolved: To conclude Cllr Finnis summed up the steps needed to help solve the flood issues:

Restore the banks

Clear the Navigation of overgrown vegetation

Consider dredging

Have a better sluice management system.

23.07.07 Finance:

Payments to be approved:

a) Edenvale Young Associates: £1,680. **Resolved:** Approved

b) Proposed fund for future Britford Field Advice from Edenvale Young Associates: £1,000 + VAT. **Resolved:** Approved.

23.07.08 Items to be carried forward to the next meeting. None.

23.07.09 To note date of next meeting.

- 7th March

23.07.10 To close the meeting.

With no further business to discuss Cllr Finnis closed the meeting at 9.10pm