

Draft Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 9th May
2024 at Britford Memorial & Community Hall

The meeting started at 7pm

Present: Cllrs D Finnis (Chair), J Ranaboldo (Vice Chair), T Bonallack, N Cole

Also present: Jay McGowan (Clerk), Low Carbon Team plus 16 members of the public.

Agenda

1. Welcome from Chairman. Cllr Finnis opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. To receive and accept apologies for absence. One. Apologies were received from Cllr Alston. Resolved: Apologies were considered and accepted.

Apologies both Cllr Sturgeon and Clewer had been delay and would arrive shortly.

3. Low Carbon Team (Beech Tree Solar Farm). The Team gave a short presentation of the changes made to the original planning application which was presented a year ago. This included a smaller site and after further consultation better works traffic access, this should reduce the number of heavy vehicles on the A354. Further hedgerow and vegetation to encourage the natural wildlife would also be planted. Currently the application is still being considered by the planning team, but it is hoped it will go to Spatial Planning within the next month. Cllr Finnis asked if there would be some funding for the Parish ie Bio-diversity grant etc, the Developer would be open to this, further information will be sent to the Clerk. The Engagement Team will keep the Parish updated on Progress.

4. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Parish Council.

Cllr Finnis thanked the Britford Community for pulling together and showing great resilience in the flooding event earlier in the year. The support and help shown by all residents was both encouraging and much needed by the 9 homes that flooded.

A special thanks goes to Cllr Cole in his role as Flood Warden, who took on the task with much needed enthusiasm, encouragement and support for the role both day and night. He still continues to help those residents with property damage and hopes to set up a subcommittee to help residents with forms etc.

The Parish also showed great support in objecting to the proposed planning development on Britford Field. The sites are still being assessed by Wiltshire Council. However, Cllr Finnis warns that the Parish is still at peril, should the site be approved the Parish Council will object, if the site is not considered the developer

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may go it appeal, either way as a community we will need to pull together again both emotionally and financially to save the field from development.

The Parish Council would like to thank Jon Gould for taking on the task of installing and monitoring the two speed indicator devices on High Road. Earlier data shows they are having a positive effect with drivers adhering to the speed limits.

An action plan in the Parish is needed to avoid future flooding, Britford must not flood again, action needs to be taken and implemented by the summer to avoid the same extent of flooding and damage to homes. Plans are being prepared by Mr James Dennis and will be presented in the next few weeks. With very little offer of outside funding the Parish Council may need the support of parishioners to tackle the water concerns surrounding the Village, the Parish Council anticipate an approximate cost of £80,000 to implement the village flood resilience. Cllr Finnis reiterated the sympathies to those that have suffered flooding in their homes and as a community we should not have to endure the suffering again. He hopes we will all continue to pull together and accept change to the benefit of the Parish. Britford Water Committee are working tirelessly behind the scenes to put into action a plan to prevent future flooding.

Finally, thank you to all Councillors and Clerk for all you do for the Parish, with particular thanks to Cllr Richard Clewer, Wiltshire Council Leader who attends all meetings.

5. Open Forum

Flood Grant Subcommittee. Cllr Cole together with the valued input of Susanna Nolan would like to put together a group to help the residents fill out their application forms. Wiltshire Council are offering a grant to all property owners that suffered flooding from storm Henk however these applications need to be submitted by 3rd June 2024. There is an option to cluster the grants together to benefit the whole community pending recommendations by a survey carried out by Atkins. If anyone would like help with these forms, please contact Cllr Cole.

Sewage tanks. Wessex Water are now looking at the possibility of mains drainage within the Parish, this may have an effect on residents which were told Wiltshire Council may pay for installation of new tanks.

Defibrillators. A Parishioner asked if the Parish Council would consider installing a defibrillator in the Parish. **Resolved:** The Council will investigate the process, funding, and locations.

PC Evans update. PC Evans apologised for not being able to attend the meeting in person, however he would like to highlight a 'courier scam' which is in operation in a neighbouring Village. He has asked residents to be vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour immediately. Further details of the scam and helpline will be published in the next edition of News & Notes.

With no further business to discuss Cllr Finnis closed the meeting at 8pm.