

DOWNEND AND BROMLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

**HELD ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2017, 7PM,
AT THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIS OF LATTER DAY SAINTS,
DOWNEND ROAD, DOWNEND, BRISTOL**

Present:

Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Councillors: Mike Baker, Janet Biggin, Ben Burton, James Griffiths, Sharon Herniman, Jon Hunt, Kathy Morris, Colin Ogden, Martyn Poole and Raj Sood.

Angela Hocking (Clerk to the Council).

Apologies:

Cllr Sheila Ottewell, Stella Riley.

There were approximately 40 residents of the Parish present.

Prior to the meeting residents were given the opportunity to meet with Parish Councillors, whilst viewing the various displays provided by local group/organisations and Parish Council Committees. Financial records and accounts were made available for public inspection.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Parish Councillors introduced themselves to all those present.

2. To receive and confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2016

The Minutes were unanimously **AGREED** as a true and accurate record, and subsequently signed by the Chairman.

3. To receive brief reports from Parish Council committees and working groups

SPORTS PITCHES WORKING GROUP – Cllr Ben Burton explained that South Gloucestershire Council wished to pass the facilities at King George V, Badminton Road and Bromley Heath Playing Fields on to an interested group to manage and maintain in the future. D&BH PC commenced an information gathering exercise and whilst the initial transfer target was April 2016, this was postponed until 1 April 2017. D&BH PC now has full responsibility for the pitches and pavilions, although the childrens play areas and all the trees remain with SGC.

The Parish Council went out to tender for the grounds maintenance works and has now appointed Prestige Grounds initially on a 12 month contract. NSG Security open and unlock the gates. Whilst there have been a few initial teething problems, things are now starting to settle down. Residents are requested to let us know if there are any problems as the Parish Council wishes to deliver an enhanced service in the future.

Moving forward, an on-line booking system is now up and running. It is the Parish Council's intention that groups and organisations within the parish will have priority for use of the facilities. The on-line booking system will also help to promote the parks and raise the profile in these areas. Quotations and designs have been sought for remedial works to the pavilions.

Funding opportunities are being explored which, together with the Parish Council's reserves, could provide considerable opportunities. D&BH PC will further engage with the community, Downend School and the Friends groups to create a partnership with a positive attitude and positive thoughts.

PLANNING – Report from Cllr Baker as follows:-

During the Planning year from May 2016 to April 2017, there were a total of 24 meetings. Six councillors make up the Downed & Bromley Heath Parish Council Planning Committee – Councillors Martyn Poole, Sheila Ottewell, James Griffiths, Raj Sood, Colin Ogden and myself as the Chairman. A quorum of three members are required for each meeting. The Committee meets every fortnight at Lincombe Barn, 7pm and meetings are open to all members of the public.

The Parish Council is keen to encourage members of the public to attend the Planning Meeting to voice any concerns they have regarding any potential development that may affect them. Details of dates can be found on our website and also published on our Parish Council notice boards. If you have any queries regarding the planning applications that we have reviewed please contact our Clerk, Angela.

(Note totals as shown in open and closed brackets are planning application totals for 2016-2017). There were **24 (25)** Planning Application Review Meetings.

A total of **142 (156)** were reviewed-accessed, including **TPO's**.

121 (112) Approved with No Objection.

The majority were routine Planning applications for extensions to increase property size and living accommodation, also TPO's.

16 (22) Rejected due to overdevelopment of site, up sets the balance or not in keeping neighbour's properties / original style, or inadequate vehicular / pedestrian access etc

5 (13) Properties that were not in our Parish, and had no effect of dwellings within our boundaries, also the Planning Data was not available when reviewed etc.

There were 6 Major Planning Applications: -

PK2214/4921/F, 60 Bedroom Care Home.

Adjacent to and the side of 65 & 67 Cleeve Hill - (located on the left hand side looking down the hill, that will replace the lower Tennis Courts, that are now relocating to the grounds of Frenchay Hospital). **Note** There are 165 documents on the website and approximately 55 objections The Parish Planning Application Review Meeting took place on 27 January 2015. Approximately 50 local residents attended, also ten attended to review and discuss the revised plans at the meeting that took place on 17 March 2015. At both meetings concerns were raised regarding the proposed application - there are approx 30 objections on the South Glos Planning website, outlining various reasons behind the objections.

Both applications were reviewed and rejected by the Parish Council Planning Committee.

Cllr Baker made reference to the demolition of 67 Cleeve Hill (PK15/2032/F), the concerns raised and that the application was called in by Cllr Biggin. In summary, the application was passed to the Secretary of State. The application was subsequently refused.

Update on the 20 April 2017 - A new application was raised PK16/2577/0 for a development consisting of 8 detached properties and 4 x affordable housing. The application was approved by both the Parish Council and South Glos. Council. No work has started as yet.

PK14/271/F, 76 Bedroom Care Home, now known as Avonmere. Adjacent to the Shell Garage on the Badminton Road, (that was an Old Builders Yard). Application reviewed on 2 September 2014, rejected by D&BH PC but approved by SGC. The premises are due to open in the autumn of 2017.

PK14/2834/F, for the erection of 9 new dwellings to the west of 339 Badminton Road that will back onto the residents of no 6 & 8 York Close, also 10 Redcar Court. All 9 houses are now built and occupied.

PK15/1304/F 32-34 Buckingham Gardens.

Demolition existing empty/rundown buildings, replaced by 7 Town Houses – There are now five new houses built on the site. The last remaining block is to be converted into two dwellings.

PK15/1304/F 4 new dwellings erected at the top of Peache Road.

For years the land has not been developed. There are now four new houses built and occupied. The houses blend in very well with the surrounding homes.

PK15/1621/F 9 new dwellings being built on what was the Badminton Road Methodist Church car park. The dwellings are now all built and occupied. Work has also started on refurbishing the inside/exterior of the Church. Completion due end of May 2017.

ACTIVE SENIORS – Report from Cllr Poole as follows:-

The Parish Council supports many senior groups in our parish by distributing twice yearly grants. I take this chance to publicise the grants we distribute. We know there are many volunteer groups in our Parish who would benefit from a small grant; despite all the advertising we have comparatively few groups who come forward and benefit. With our Parish Clerk now based in the local Library it gives a chance for the Seniors to call in and tell Angela our clerk their Parish concerns. As an example two retired ladies approached Angela about how dangerous it is crossing the road between Sainsbury and the Huntsman Pub. Many people need to cross to allow them to shop as their homes are the other side of the road.

After consultation the parish council identified a need for a ladies group based in the Library and a group for men doing practical work. It was decided the Ladies group would be Knit and Natter. What a success it has turned out to be. From small beginnings it has regularly over 20 members. They knit what groups require. As an example knitting for the Baby Unit at St Michael's Hill and knitting for wards at Southmead Hospital where they have patients with dementia. Patients with dementia find it comforting to have something to fiddle with so the group knitted muffs with small bits such as buttons sewn on as requested by the Sisters of the wards. Recently the order of the day was Easter chickens - this was a fund raising event for the guides and scouts; add a small Easter egg to the chicken and to our surprise they were so popular we could not keep up with the demand. We are currently knitting hundreds of poppies for Remembrance. In Downend we have the only War Memorial for Scouts. To recognise this we want to drape the memorial with poppies this November. This will be a dry run for 2018, 100 years after the 1st World War. To give the needles and fingers a rest, outings are arranged. The cost of hiring a vehicle is expensive so the Bus Pass comes in very handy. Our last visit was to Weston with a very nice fish and chip lunch. We welcome new members but it is hard for some elderly people to leave their home and join a group. I recently had a visitor at my door. The visitor explained that his Dad had recently died and his Mum was finding it hard to adjust, especially as they had done everything together. He introduced me to his Mum and I assured her that we would make

her very welcome. We expected her the next Monday but the lady did not arrive. I rang the son that evening and he told me his Mum could not face leaving her home. I do so hope that her son can persuade her to come.

Man and His Tools - The men's group operates from the pavilion in King George V. To store machines and timber a shipping container is sited in the car park. The container is old and when it rained it leaked like a colander. The team from Man and his Tools soon fixed it, adding a new roof. The group is so popular making and repairing things for people in our parish, all we ask is the cost of the materials we use.

The Parish Council is now responsible for the pavilion but up until recently the Parish Council paid the letting fee so it could be used for Active Seniors. The Parish Council have also kindly added the members to their insurance saving considerable money.

I thought you would like to know some of the things we have done to date.

- Made steps for the elderly so they can easily step in and out of their homes
- Made flower beds for a local school where the children have learning needs
- Repaired and repainted the parish notice board at Lincombe Barn
- Made planters, all types and sizes for people in the parish and as a joint venture with Downend & Bromley Heath in Bloom
- Made the large planters that are sited in the parish Community Garden, the cost of materials were from our Parish Council
- Bird boxes to suit all types of birds that visit our gardens
- Bat boxes
- Bird tables designed so larger birds cannot take the feed. These are very popular and always in demand

People have various skills and regardless of your skill level there is always a job you can do. If you are interested give us a visit on a Tuesday morning. We have had so many offers of tools that are very welcome but it is so sad when the people giving them to us say they can no longer carry out the work that required their tools. At least they can come along and join in the banter.

What is next for Active Seniors I do not know but if you have any ideas how we can make Downend and Bromley Heath a better place for Seniors to live, please contact Angela our Parish Clerk.

4. To receive a report from the Chairman of Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council – report from Cllr Biggin.

Once again this has been a very busy year for your Parish Councillors.

Choosing to use Downend Voice as our mode for Parish articles has been a great success, as it reaches so many of our residents here in the Parish, as well as extra copies to be found in our libraries, which keeps everyone up-to date with the local news here in Downend and Bromley Heath. We are always very pleased with any feedback you may wish to make – email, phone, attending any of our parish meetings and, the new Parish Office...

In consulting with library personnel here in the authority about the possibility of having an office within Downend library, we moved this along very swiftly, following the news that our parish Clerk was moving house last December. Angela is very pleased with her new space and normally works Monday > Friday except Tuesdays. Anyone wishing to visit the Parish Office can do so on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9.30 and 12 noon. We feel this is a very positive step towards keeping our library open, in having the parish office within the building. Angela has been quietly surprised at the number of people who have already

visited her in our new office and as always our finance records are available to look at - just call in to the parish office and our clerk will be happy to let you see them.

As you may remember, we raised the precept last year, knowing we would need the finances for maintaining both KGV and Bromley Heath Playing Fields and have now signed the paperwork with SGC, with a designated website for booking the pitches, so we will be monitoring our new acquisitions very closely. As KGV playing field abuts Downend School, we have been meeting with them in wishing to do some joined-up thinking as regards fundraising and working together for the benefit of the sporting teams, eg, when we come to decide how to move forward on the pavilion. So, work in progress...

We have one vacancy on the Council, so if anyone wishes to find out more, please make contact with Angela, our Parish Clerk.

Our Parish Council Committees and working groups have all had another busy year. My thanks go to them all, following on from a very challenging year, in engaging with so many groups in getting to this point with taking over the playing fields and all that has entailed....

The Future?

- Continue to build on the solid foundations already laid down.
- Continue to raise the profile of the Parish Council, both locally and in South Gloucestershire generally.
- Continue to represent & support our residents & local organisations to maintain a good quality of life.
- Encourage more people to volunteer to help our local organisations.
- Continue to use funding raised through the precept to improve the area in which we live.

As some of you know, we had a defibrillator installed in Downend last year, having decided we needed one to cater for any emergency – which has not yet been required. So, this year, rather than have a nominated charity, it was voted that we generate funding for a second defibrillator, which will be installed in the near future.

So, ladies and gentlemen, we have had a testing, challenging, but amazing year in carrying out all that is required of us and finally I must thank you, my fellow councillors for all their hard work and commitment during that time. My thanks also go to Angela Hocking, our Parish clerk, for all her determination and hard work, along with her unfailing cheerfulness as well as her help, guidance and support to us all on D&BHPC....

5. Parish Champion Awards

Three Parish Champions were identified and Certificates presented by Cllr Biggin:-

- Bromley Heath Scout and Guides (voluntary category)
- Cleeve Wood Pharmacy (business category)
- Graeme Riley (posthumous award – individual category)

6. Questions and Answers

Elizabeth Shepherd praised the Parish Council for the creation of a very commendable Business Plan. In addition, she asked the Parish Council

- a) if they would be supporting the local events – Heathfest, C in the Park and the Lincombe Barn Spring Fair

- b) if some attention could be devoted to Hill House Park. The Friends Group are naturally disappointed at the lack of information from SGC and, as there is S106 money available, the Friends would be keen to be informed of any long term plans.

In reply, D&BH PC will be supporting Heathfest with an information stall. A decision has not been made on the other events as this will be subject to enough volunteers being available.

Chair:

Date: