BUDBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
Wednesday 2 April 2025 at 20h00
in the Budbrooke Community Centre

Present: Cllrs: Mike Dutton (Chair), Andy Thomas, Rhonda Treacy-Hales, Maggie Treacy-Hales, Michelle Nutt, Jan Matecki (WCC & WDC) and 4 members of the public.
Apologies: Cllrs: Paul McCloskey, Peter Phillips (WDC)

Abbreviations: Please see below under final Item

1. Public Participation

1.1 A member of the public enquired after the status of repairs needed to the path along Hampton Road from HotH down to the intersection with the Henley Road. The Clerk replied that a report had been made and that the reply received was that whereas some repairs had been undertaken, the remaining sections were not considered to be emergency ones and so had been postponed into the new financial year.

1.2 Another member of the public expressed concern at the speed limits when exiting HotH going down the slope to the junction with the Woodway that increases from 30 mph to 40 mph and that there had been a few accidents at the junction corner where the road bends uphill approaching HM. He believed that the soon to be introduced 20 mph restriction in HotH should apply throughout the parish, particularly noting speeding on Woodway Avenue since the completion of Hampton Trove. Cllr Matecki replied that drivers are required to drive at speeds that are appropriate to the local circumstances and that the speed signs were not a target speed. A 20 mph restriction will not stop speeding and the HotH 20 mph was unlikely to be extended. The resident referred to roads in Leamington Spa that have 20 mph and Cllr Matecki reminded the meeting that unless there was a current average speed of less than 24 mph, a 20mph will not be considered. Another member of the public noted that there were other 90 degree bends in the parish, like on The Woodway, where 60 mph applies. Cllr Matecki understood that 40 mph may not be acceptable on the bend in question and that the existing signs warning of a sharp bend could be revisited. The Chair mentioned that too many signs to be taken account of can distract drivers and drivers needed to drive responsibly. He had understood that that WCC Highways were to look at extending the 20 mph restriction. Cllr Matecki referred to the need for care with reduced speed zones as drivers unfortunately ignore it and that they are needed more specifically e.g. outside elderly care homes so that drivers observe the 20 mph restrictions. The original member of the public reverted to his concern with the bend at The Woodway junction of 40 mph. Cllr Matecki understood the concerns raised and mentioned the many roads in the parish that were like tracks where a speed limit of 60 mph applies that may not be appropriate but such a restriction was applicable as it was the national speed limit.

1.3 An email had been received from member of public who cannot attend tonight suggesting possible ways to use the red telephone box in HotH, This included having a shelf of books, a large map of the area, walking leaflets in a dispenser (with offers for walk leaflets and books from the Open Door) and an information board. **Cllr R Treacy-Hales to** action

2. Register, Apologies & Declaration of Interest & Dispensations - The register was signed by all present. There were no Dispensations or Declarations of Interest

3. Approve previous minutes - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5 March 2025 were approved. **Clerk to file**

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Horses & Riders Signs – The Clerk reported that this request had been turned down by WCC Highways as overuse of warning signs can dilute effectiveness and lead to a disregard of warning signs. There was no legal requirement to provide Horse & Rider Warning Signals and there was pressure on the WCC to reduce sign clutter in rural areas. The response also noted that drivers should always be aware when using rural roads of the probability of encountering deer, horse riders, pedestrians etc and so must drive according to such local road conditions. In response to an enquiry from the BPC if a reduction in the number of horse and rider signs requested around the parish would lead to a few signs being installed, the WCC response was that such an initiative would require an investigation that would need to be funded by the BPC with a minimum up front deposit of £500 that was unfortunately not approved by the BPC Councillors. **Clerk to** report back to the resident

4.2 Matters that Councillors wish to clarify / discuss from the PC Action List - The Clerk noted that the list contained numerous items that had been actioned/completed and were shown as being “to close” and these were confirmed.

5. Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) Projects Update

5.1 Community Centre – Summer 2025 Toilets Proposal – Cllr R Treacy-Hales had distributed the first quote received that the Clerk had raised a few queries on**. Cllr R Treacy-Hales** reported that she would secure replies to these queries as well as provide other quotes.

5.2 Play Grounds – Proposal – **Cllr Nutt** confirmed that she was in conversation with suppliers and would distribute information to all. She mentioned needing to consider any restrictions at Montgomery Ave and the Chair referred her to the Centenary Fields.

5.3 Benches – The Clerk reported that Councillors been asked to confirm their 1st and 2nd preferences for the types of benches and that no replies had been received yet to the recent invitation to residents to sponsor benches. The Clerk suggested that the next steps were to await replies from both though one or two benches might be hastened in advance. The Chair suggested that the list of proposed locations would be made public to allow residents to consider e.g. in relation to possible noise. **The Clerk** suggested publicising the list after a reply had been received from WCC who had been asked to approve the proposed locations.

6. Planning

6.1. Planning applications to report / consider - NIL

6.2 South Warwickshire Local Plan – Preferred Options Consultation – The Clerk reported that forms from residents had been collected from the Open Door that were then scanned and emailed to the SWLP office, as was the case with the BPC response. Cllr Thomas noted that the joint submission had yet to be seen and requested a copy that **the Clerk would** ask for. The Chair noted that the total number of respondents was just over 6,000 who had submitted just under 24,000 representations that all had to be analysed. Cllr Thomas suggested that it was likely that it would be at least November before all replies had been looked at.

7. Correspondence

7.1 A concern had been raised regarding the high stile and dog unfriendly fence bars on the footpath below Whitehill Wood alongside of the M40 motorway. The Clerk noted investigating the requirements for the provision of footpath access by land owners and considering these with the relevant land owner. Cllr Thomas suggested that the resident contact the WCC to complain and report their concerns at their right of way. **Clerk to** action.

7.2 A concern had been raised about the recent vehicle accidents on Old Budbrooke Road at the foot of the hill on the bend just before Church Lane where there had been three accidents in last four months, requesting a 30 mph speed limit. There had been support from Councillors though there had been a caution that it would lead to speeding by impatient drivers and perhaps more evidence needed to be collected like a resident petition and or a log of speeding incidents. The Chair asked if in the case of a Road Traffic Accident, do the police always get involved? Cllr Matecki confirmed that they do as part of their statutory duty though Cllr Thomas noted that sadly, there need to have been lots of accidents before action is taken. It was agreed to monitor this situation.

8. Parish Maintenance/Playgrounds

8.1 The March 2025 Playground Report was noted. A councillor confirmed witnessing damage to the zip wire seat that had recently been repaired, at a significant cost, where the dog was off lead that allowed the dog free reign in the park. Cllr Thomas suggested that the problem needed a fence around the children's play area but that this would be difficult given the current and proposed layouts. It was suggested that if the seat was damaged again, it may not be replaced and the dog owner would be responsible. Cllr M Treacy-Hales said the BPC needed to stamp on dogs having a negative impact on kids playing in the parks with a fence as a minimum. Cllr Nutt responded that the current planned changes to the equipment across the playgrounds would mean that a fence will not be possible, particularly given the use of multi-use games space that may then be affected. The Chair asked if signs might help to which Cllr M Treacy-Hales replied that signs did not help at the Bellway playground/park. Cllr Nutt indicated that the new parks will not have fencing. **Cllr R Treacy-Hales agreed to draft** a notice for Facebook and the next newsletter.

8.2 Highways Community Action Fund – The Clerk reported a WCC grant source for road and pathway related works with a maximum grant of £25k that required matched funding. Cllr Thomas suggested reliance on funding for such items from the funds of WCC councillors though he added that maybe if the BPC matches the funding, a repair might be secured quicker. Cllr Matecki replied that WCC councillor funding is limited but that he was still trying to attend to dropped curbs in the parish. The Chair suggested making Slade Hill traffic free or repairing the path down Hampton Road and **Cllr Matecki offered** to obtain a cost for the latter.

8.3 The Chair asked if the WCC could enforce requests to trim overhanging vegetation in the parish to which Cllr Matecki asked for specific details. **The Chair offered** to provide addresses whilst Cllr Nutt mentioned the hedge along the Hampton Road path down to Warwick. Cllr Matecki referred to a new policy relating to obstructions to the highway and so whilst we can report these to the WCC website, he suggested that the BPC send instances to him to use to see how this new policy works.

8.4 HotH tree – Cllr M Treacy-Hales repeated an offer to cut and remove the tree that fell in a recent storm. The Clerk thanked her for the offer though **the Clerk** reported that this had already been partly cut and pictures taken to re-report the matter to the WCC that was not causing any obstruction.

9. Community Centre / Village Hall items

9.1 Village Hall- nothing to report.

9.2 Community Centre – nothing to report.

10. Newsletter / Website / Facebook – nothing to report.

11. Finance

11.1 Approval of payments - The payments on the list provided to councillors in advance of the meeting were noted and cheques were signed for these.

11.2 February 2025 Accounts – This had been distributed prior to the meeting and was considered and approved.

11.3 Bank reconciliations at 28 February 2025 – This had been distributed prior to the meeting and was considered and approved.

11.4 Re-Appointment of Kenneth Dunn as internal auditor for the year ended 31 March 2025 was approved.

11.5 Moving funds to higher earning call accounts – The proposal to move funds into call accounts was approved. This involved £100k into a 95 day call a/c earning 3.46% p.a whilst £150k would be moved into a 32 day call account earning 2.15% p.a. **Clerk to** action.

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Allotments – The Clerk reported chasing the WCC legal team for advice sought on the legal structure whilst we still awaited documents from Bellway re the land transfer. Cllr M Treacy-Hales enquired if any additional framework was being sought and what the timeframe might be for the commencement of the allotment to which the Clerk replied that these were pending the advice from the WCC as well as the hand over from Bellway.

12.2 APM Contents – I response to a request for suggestions for the contents of the meeting, Cllr Nutt suggested reporting on work in the past year regarding hedges, dogs, speeding etc. Cllr Thomas noted that this meeting was a forum for residents to raise their concerns. A member of the public referred to dog mess that was merely picked up and placed to the side rather than taken home to which Cllr Nutt replied that there was no enforcement. Cllr M Treacy-Hales suggested that Cllr Nutt report on the top ten comments from the playground survey last year. Cllr Nutt suggested the speeding criteria and related signage whilst Cllr M Treacy-Hales suggested concern at drivers looking at their mobiles and encouraging residents to report instances to the BPC to send to the relevant authority. Cllr Nutt added reflecting on the recent SWLP and what the BPC expects i.e. awaiting November 2025. **Clerk to** liaise with councillors to prepare for this meeting as well as post an agenda to be posted on notice boards and the website. The Chair suggested a minimum of matters to be considered in the normal BPC meeting on the same evening.

12.3 AGM Arrangements – **Clerk to** post an agenda on notice boards and the website

12.4 The BPC expressed very many thanks to the WCC/WDC Councillors for all their hard work to represent residents of parish in the past financial year.

12.5 Cllr R Treacy-Hales proposed and Cllr M Treacy-Hales seconded the co-opting of Adam Thomas as a BPC councillor and the Chair welcomed Adam to the BPC.

The meeting with members of the public present ended at 21h08

13. Exempt Information

13.1 The March agenda had given notice that the public and press would be excluded from the meeting before discussions take place on Exempt Information the grounds that, if the public and press were present during the transaction of such business, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information described in paragraphs 1. 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

14. Next Meeting - The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 May 2025 at 20h00 in the Budbrooke Community Centre.

The meeting ended at 21h17

Abbreviations: BCA – Budbrooke Community Association / HOTH – Hampton on the Hill / HOTHRA – Hampton on the Hill Residents' Association / NALC – National Association of Local Councils / NW - Neighbourhood Watch / PC – Parish Council / PCSO – Police Community Support Officer / WALC – Warwickshire Association of Local Councils / WRCC – Warwickshire Rural Community Council / WCC – Warwickshire County Council / WDC – Warwick District Council / NP - Neighbourhood Plan / FB - Facebook / BVH - Budbrooke Village Hall / BCC - Budbrooke Community Centre / CIL - Community Infrastructure Levy / DPI - Disclosable Pecuniary Interests / HM – Hampton Magna