

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council

Chairs report for meeting to be held on 6.3.24

Since our last meeting on the 7.2.24, councillors and the Clerk have responded to a number of communications from parishioners and regular matters such as planning applications.

Last month is said to have be one of the wettest and warmest on records. As we know stretches of the A44 are prone to flooding and of course this has been a major challenge for all concerned. Our Lengthsman has nearly finished mapping and clearing runoffs and drains where it is safe to do so. (This has involved the discovery of ones that appear not to have been touched for some time). Jeremy will now follow a regular programme of checking, clearing and reporting as necessary.

WCC Highways also undertook a clearing and cleaning exercise along the A44. All of this of course helps, but there seems to be point when the present arrangements are overwhelmed, as we have seen in this wettest of February's.

Parishioners and Councillors will be aware of the Flood reporting arrangements. <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/environment/flooding/report-flood>

The Parish Council will continue to press WCC Highways to identify longer-term solutions, particularly in respect of the stretch of the A44 from Church Lane, Cotheridge to and beyond Lightwood Lane, as in our view these constitute significant hazards.

Our County and District Councillors have continued to press for a more proactive and coordinated response in relation to our concerns about speed limits, speeding and road safety. A senior council officer has agreed to meet with us and it is hoped this meeting will take place shortly.

During the month we were notified of the result of a number of planning appeals. The Parish Council is concerned in the instance of one decision in particular, to hear from both the District and the County Council as to whether there are any lessons to be learned, and if so what might change as a result.

The Parish Clerk has continued to progress our priorities and the hedges and overgrowth on Berryfields have been cut back. This will now be rolled into new contract arrangements which are currently out for tender.

A working group has reviewed the recent inspection report for the play and adult activity equipment, with a view to a tender being issued to obtain prices for the work required. It is hoped the working group will meet again to draw up some ideas for consultation about how this area might be best used in the future.

The Village Hall Management Committee held a most successful quiz night and are looking to organise further events over the year.

Finally, there remain a number of vacancies on the Parish Council, and we would very much welcome any interest. It is not the most glamorous or at times popular role, it is entirely voluntary, but it is a role that plays an important part in ensuring that we are not forgotten or overlooked.

Please do get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Contact the clerk for further information:

clerk@broadwascotheridge-pc.gov.uk

Richard Burrows

Chair

Broadwas and Cotheridge Parish Council.