



Broxton & District Parish Council Annual Report 2021–2022

Chairman's Report 2021-2022 Cllr. David Williams

Writing this report and looking back over the last two years, I am sure I would be excused for saying that it all seems somewhat surreal. The last chairman's report was written whilst we were all still in lockdown and I am sure that we can agree that we are now living in a rather different world.

It is easy to forget when living in such a beautiful area that change is occurring on a daily basis. Having been born in the parish and returning after living in many different locations both in the UK and overseas, I have seen great change to the community both in appearance and diversity of residents.

Recent changes have occurred within our council, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank those councillors who have stepped down for the work and input they have given during their time in office. Time is something I am sure we would all appreciate a little more of and to give some of what we have to the local community is worthy of praise.

I would also like to thank Councillor Steve Wild who has recently stepped down from the role of Chairman. Steve led the council during what was a tricky time for all of us. During lockdown, the council continued to hold virtual meetings and for someone who is not that technologically minded I think that he deserves all the praise for persevering to ensure that Councillors continued to hold discussion on local matters.

Although he has stepped down as Chairman, Steve will still continue as a Councillor, and I am sure will serve the community as he has always done so.

As Councillors step down, we welcome new members of the parish who have taken their seats. They bring with them enthusiasm and a want to see the community develop together. A combination of a lack of community meeting space and restrictions on how and where we can meet removed our ability to talk and share ideas which is so important in a small rural location such as ours.

I had the opportunity to meet our new Councillors at our last meeting. An invite was hopefully sent to all residents to attend this event which was held at Global Air Training in Burwardsley. We would normally hold our meetings within the parish but due to having no community space where we can provide alcoholic drinks, Di Worby, the Director of Global Air Training kindly offered us use of their wonderful facilities.

Thank you to all those that came along and shared with us the wine and nibbles whilst talking about local concerns. It was a great opportunity for us to all get together face-to-face in a relaxed atmosphere and I hope that it will be the first of many community get togethers yet to come.

We hopefully move forward with positivity and ideas to bring our community closer together. The council have a range of projects for the area which we hope everyone can be involved with and enjoy. Developing local amenities, organising community events, and giving opportunities to the younger generations who reside within the parish. This can only be achieved if we all work together, and I for one am excited to see these ideas come into fruition.

As a member of the council and acting chair, I am always happy to receive your emails, phone calls or to have a good old-fashioned chat about any ideas or concerns you may have.

Here's to an eventful year and I look forward to speaking to you all very soon.

David Williams



Past & Current Projects

We previously asked the parish to inform us on what their main concerns or projects were for the local area. We did this via the residents' priorities survey which was distributed in 2019.

Lockdown restrictions put a halt to some projects that we had planned, however, many points have been acted on in the background.

Below is an update on some of the main points raised and the progress that has been made.

Speed limits

In the previous chairman's report, we detailed the suggested changes to the speed limits on our local roads and the costs involved. As a council, we discussed in detail the need for these limits in the different locations as well as the costs to the community.

Following these discussions, we prioritised the options and implemented the changes, as many of you will have noticed. Feedback following the implementation of these new limits has been overall positive.

If you have any concerns regarding the safety of the roads in your area due to speeding, please report these to your local police officer PC Stephen Gardner stephen.gardner@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or report on 101 (always use 999 in an emergency)

Larkton Hill football pitch

Progress has been made with the old football pitch at Larkton hill. The site has now been cleared including the fallen trees. Thanks, must be given to Councillor Steve Wild for the time and work he has put into this project so far.

We wish to develop this into a community space with ideas ranging from a picnic area, space for children to play and potentially the starting point for a community walking route.

We welcome all ideas from the community for what you would like to see this location used for.

Footpaths (public rights of way)

A working group was established to look at promoting and improving the network of footpaths which run across the council area. This project was sadly put on hold during the pandemic. We hope to now reform this working group and move the project forward. If you would like to be involved in the development of local footpaths, please do get in touch to register your interest.

Brown Knowl "tidy up"

There were concerns on the general appearance and maintenance of the village and a "tidy up" was scheduled for 21 March 2020. This was sadly cancelled due to the pandemic and a new date will now be set at our next meeting for the community to meet and begin these works.

Sandstone Inn

The future of the Sandstone was one of the main issues raised in the residents' priorities survey. I am sure you have all seen that development is now taking place and we hope that we will soon see the reopening of our local public house. Fingers crossed that we can all soon once again get together and see each other in our local pub.

Broadband & Mobile

This is an on-going issue and the Council undertook a survey to identify the different levels broadband services/coverage, in different parts of the parish, currently we are discussing with Mike Dugine, CW&C digital Lead, to see what the options are.

Community Facebook page

Many Parishes and larger villages have community Facebook pages where they can share news, updates, opportunities, concerns and new/old pictures of the area. We are currently in the process of creating this for our parish and would like to invite you all to share any pictures new and old that you may have of the area.

We hope to see this launched within the coming weeks so please do feel free to send me your images and ideas via my contact details below. Please note we also have a Council Facebook page where information is posted including planning applications, publication of agendas and minutes as well as other community information.

Cllr David Williams

davidwilliamsuk@hotmail.co.uk

Meeting Dates 2022-2023

Monday 30th May 2022

Monday 25th July 2022

Monday 26th September 2022

Monday 28th November 2022

Monday 30th January 2023

Monday 27th March 2023

Meetings are normally held the last Monday of every other month from 7.30pm at Brown Knowl Methodist Church .

Summary of Accounts 2021-2022

Opening Balance 2020-2021	9,720.00	Payments	
Receipts		Salaries	2,680.00
Precept	5,520.00	Admin, Postage & Room Hire	1117.00
Rental	240.00	Insurance	269.00
Vat Rebate	129.00	Repairs - Phone box & Shelter	400.00
		Defibrillator Battery	186.00
Total	£15,609.00	Poppy Wreath	50.00
		VAT	191.00
		Total	£4893.00
		Opening Balance 2022-2023	£10,716.00

The Council's full accounts and audit information can be found at
Finance & Audit — Broxton & District PC
(broxtonanddistrict-pc.co.uk)

Precept

The Precept is the money raised by the Parish Council to cover its running costs and is agreed in January each year for the next financial year. The Precept is collected by Cheshire West and Chester Council in your Council Tax bill and is then paid to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council agreed a precept of £5921 for the 2022-2023 financial year which is a 5% increase the previous year's Precept. As such a Band D property in the Parish Council area will pay £22.26 for the year, around 43p per week.



Planning

Parish Councils do not decide planning applications but we do have influence over planning decisions.

We have the statutory right to be notified of applications our area. Cheshire West and Chester Council (CW&C), who do decide planning applications, treat Parish Councils as statutory consultees, they notify us of applications which we can then comment on.

It should be stressed that anyone has the right to comment on a planning application or to report a planning enforcement matter to CW&C, where you think something has been built without the necessary permissions.

During the 2021-2022 Council year, which starts in May, the Parish Council was notified of 13 planning applications over 7 of which were for extension and alterations to existing buildings. At the start of the year there was an application for a 3 year consent for the Christmas festival at Bolesworth Castle. There have also been applications to demolish existing dwellings to create new ones and to split dwellings into 2 and more recently an application to reinstate a dwelling damaged by fire.

The Parish Council maintains a planning register of all applications received which is published with our agenda, we also post information about applications when they are received on our Facebook page @broxtonanddistrict. You can also keep up to date via the CW&C website (cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) just search for Planning.



Stand up & be counted!

In May 2023 Broxton & District Parish Council will have all out elections, which means all the Councillors have to step down and if they wish to continue on the Council must stand for election.

There are 10 seats on the Council, if 10 or less people, stand for election they will be classed as elected but there will not be an election/ voting, and if there are any vacancies after election the Council may co-opt to fill the remaining seats.

If 11 or more people stand for election there will be a contested election, yes that means voting.....democracy in action!

So why should you stand to be a councillor?

Well it's all about **#MakingAChange**, gone are the days when Parish Councillors could meet Vicar of Dibley style.

Parish Councils have a huge range of powers and the ability to do good for their communities, but the need active, enthusiastic councillors to drive projects.

So what do Councillors do?

- **Serve the community—help solve problems and come up with ideas.**
- **Represent the community.**
- **Work with others including the principle authority, CW&C.**
- **Make decisions and make a difference.**

How do you find out more?

Well you've made a good start your reading this!

You can contact the Clerk or Councillors, you can attend our meetings and get involved now. There is also a lot of information available on-line:

www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england

www.local.gov.uk/be-councillor

www.nalc.gov.uk/our-work/local-elections



CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES



NEEDS YOU!

MAKE A CHANGE
BECOME A COUNCILLOR

There has never been a better time to be a Parish Councillor and get things done!

You can become a councillor as long as you are:

- British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union
- At least 18 years old
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election.

You can't be a councillor if you:

- Work for the council you want to be a councillor for, or for another local authority in a political restricted post
- Are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- Have been sentenced to prison for three months or more (including suspended sentences) during the five years before election day
- Have been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court.

If you are in any doubt about whether you are eligible to stand as a councillor, you should contact the electoral services department at your local council for advice.



Broxton & District **Parish Council** **Clerk and RFO¹** **Vacancy**

Broxton and District Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person to be employed as the Clerk and Responsible Financial officer for this small rural parish Council.

The post will provide the right candidate with an interesting, challenging and rewarding position allowing them to make a real difference in the community.

To be successful you will need to be:

- be a good communicator, who can develop positive working relationships;
- be able, and confident with administrative task, keeping minutes and preparing accounts;
- have a good sense of humour.

The role is for 3.5 hours per week and will be paid based according to the SCP points, taking account of qualifications and experience.

The clerk will be required to attend Parish Council meetings which take place at least 6 times per year and any extraordinary meetings called.

The clerk will be responsible for the following duties:

- Management and advertising of Council meetings including preparation of agendas, minutes etc. in accordance with Parish Council procedures and regulations;
- Researching and providing advice to Councillors;
- Implementation of Council decisions;
- Responding to queries from the public;
- Working with other bodies including Cheshire West and Chester Council;
- Preparing Council Accounts, making payments and preparing for the Audit each year;
- Posting regular information on Facebook and Nextdoor and maintaining the Council's website.

For more information or to apply for the position please email
clerk@broxtonanddistrict-pc.co.uk

¹ Responsible Financial Officer

Meet your Parish Councillors....

Derek Bell

Phone: 07852 436277

Email: belldek@live.co.uk

David Houghton

Email: david@dswbhforensic.com

Hayley Muddiman

hayley.muddiman@hotmail.fr

Helen Rogers

Email: Helenclyford87@hotmail.co.uk

Steve Wild

Email: stevewild65@outlook.com

Mark Booth

Email: markbooth14@gmail.com

Ed Gretton

Email: edgretton@gmail.com

Simon Poole

Email: intmintmint@gmail.com

Tim Vaughan

Phone : 01829 782121

David Williams

Phone: 07846 504 951

Email: davidwilliamsuk@hotmail.co.uk



Broxton and District Parish Council: a JUBILEE LEGACY

To mark the Platinum Jubilee, The Parish Council is launching a project to create a series of

JUBILEE WALKS

in and around the three parishes of Broxton, Duckington and Harthill.

To do this we need **YOUR HELP and IDEAS** to:

- Identify potential routes
- Survey the footpaths
- Ensure the walks are clearly marked
- Promote responsible use of the walks.

For further details and volunteer your help please contact:

Cllr Derek Bell:- Email belldek@live.co.uk; Mobile: 07852 436277

For more information contact the Acting Clerk:

Ann Wright, 62 Well Street, Malpas, Cheshire, SY14 8QH

01948 861 035

E mail: clerk@broxtonanddistrict-pc.co.uk or visit www.broxtonanddistrict-pc.co.uk