

**Notes of the BRADWELL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in the Methodist Hall
at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 28th April 2015**

Present:-

Parish Council Members

Cllr R Davies, Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr L Granger,
Cllr P Higgs, Cllr V Horstead, Cllr A Nash,
Cllr M Salvage, Cllr L Sowerby, Cllr R Stevens,

Mr S Lawless Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council

Cllr Mrs J Twigg Derbyshire County Council
Cllr C Furness Derbyshire Dales District Council
PC S Wolverston Derbyshire Constabulary
PCSO Derbyshire Constabulary

c. 15 members of the public attended

The Chairman introduced the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr K Lancaster,

2. Notes of Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2014

The notes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

3. County Council Report (DCC Cllr J Twigg)

Cllr Twigg gave her report which included the following information:-

- She has been very busy of late having to visit the 24 parishes in her division, and now wishes to present her report from the DCC.
- In June 2014, DCC provided £2.4M to address the problem of pot-holes in Derbyshire roads. This money was allocated across the county, but some has been spent on resurfacing Bradwell pavements at Hall Gate View & Springfield Road.
- Consultations are progressing regarding the withdrawal of funding for Community Transport.
- Education – A programme provided money around the county for capital projects in schools.
- In February 2015, c. £1.7M was provided to enable Leader Project initiatives to continue e.g. to help farm productivity.
- She is working, with Highways, to resolve the problem of HGVs causing disruption in Bradwell.
- She has provided £200 to Bradwell Pre-School for the purchase of story books.
She has a small budget of money for the 2015/16 year to award grants to deserving organisations in her division. Applications for this money are encouraged.
- During her question time, she was asked a) if the traffic priority at the bridge at Brough could be reversed - she agreed to progress this request with Highways; b) if she considered the reduction in library services to one half day per month was reasonable – she agreed to write to the appropriate department.

4. Parish Chairman's Report (Cllr Downing)

Your Parish Council has been very active again this year and it is worth recording that we have maintained a full complement of councillors throughout this year. I want to thank them all for their hard work, and feel it important to note that we were a team which was able to debate vigorously but remain harmonious. Sadly, Councillors Horstead, Davies and Salvage did not seek re-election and will be leaving us after today. They will all of course be missed because they have done so much for Council, and Reg. Davies has been a Councillor for 14 years so his experience will be sorely missed.

The Council year began with the **Newburgh development** planning hearing being finally scheduled for May, ending a seven year wait. We were ready to attend the meeting to formally object to the proposals, but at the last minute the application was withdrawn and we were not required. Although we did meet with Newburgh management again they would only tell us they had decided to sell the site. Recently we were approached by a planning company and possible developer for the site with outline proposals. Interestingly, because we have been working hard to develop a Neighbourhood Plan proposal for Bradwell Parish, we learned that the possible developer had been advised by Peak Park to contact us first, prior to any detailed discussions with them, to determine whether their plans might be acceptable for the village. It seems we had earned our place at the table.

Our decision at that first meeting with the potential developer was that the type of high level plan they presented would be broadly acceptable, subject to extensive clarification and more detail. We understand a meeting between the developer and Newburgh has taken place and we await the next steps. I have heard rumours that the Parish Council has "approved a plan for the site to be developed". Let me repeat; we have indicated to one developer that a certain type of high level plan could be acceptable based on all the feedback we had from residents during neighbourhood plan discussions. At the present time there is no detailed plan which we can either approve or reject. If a detailed plan is submitted then we would of course make sure the village was properly informed.

This leads me on to the **Neighbourhood Plan**. As you will doubtless know, Council has been working on this for a long time, and a LOT of work has been put in by Councillors Nash, Higgs and Granger (plus me). The stage we have reached is that Peak Park have discussed it and agreed that the plan broadly complies with their core strategy. They have now sent it out to their stakeholders for comment and we have, jointly with Peak Park, appointed an external examiner. The examiner will deliver a professional opinion on whether the plan can be put to a village referendum, and if the village then votes appropriately it will pass into law at some point in 2015. We had been hoping to have the referendum to coincide with the May elections, but as this is the first plan application to be submitted for an area entirely within the peak park they want to be sure they get it right and so are taking a little longer. One of the key enabling mechanisms for the housing policies in the plan is the formation of a Bradwell Community Land Trust, and I can report that a steering group to take forward this initiative was formed on 7th April. The CLT, once formalised and in operation, would give the village the ability to participate in and influence the development of housing in the village. The overall aim of a CLT is to create a body which can own assets and influence developments on a non-profit making basis, for the benefit of residents into the future.

In other areas during the past Council year we have:

- Maintained the playing fields, including improving safety at all the entrances to Beggar's Plot and have spent quite a bit of time and money on management of trees this year
- Kept the youth club going despite having our free premises withdrawn by Newburgh
- Kept looking for a suitable site for allotments
- Continued with a project to convert the Legion site on Soft Water Lane into a car park
- Organised and run another very successful carnival
- Appointed flood wardens and snow wardens to be available in the event of extreme weather
- Worked with Hathersage and other local Parish Councils to try to counter the erosion of our police and fire services
- We are now working more closely with DFRS re their issues, and have offered to help with their recruitment
- Kept the grit bins filled through what proved to be a more challenging winter than last year, with the associated increased cost of doing so
- Taken steps to try to prevent HGVs from driving along village lanes and damaging properties
- Tried to limit parking on grass verges, which damages the verges and is unsightly

Regarding **Financial Matters**, the chair of our finance committee, Rose Stevens, reports that Current expenditure is tracked at each monthly PC meeting followed up by quarterly scrutiny at Finance Committee meetings. It should be noted that the Local Tax Support Fund was reduced again this year, making our need to control finance even greater.

We are now beginning the third year of our Five Year Plan and are adhering to the four principles we agreed in 2012. We are reducing the planned precept increase from the 10% called for in the five year plan to only 5%. Our reserves are at satisfactory levels, the sinking fund for replacement of major equipment is on target and we have been able to reduce top up funding from £15,000 to £13,000 this year. Just to remind everyone that the estimated replacement cost for the play equipment on Beggar's Plot is between 60 and 70 thousand pounds.

We have been able to make additional savings by:

- re-negotiating favourable terms for insurance, grass cutting and grit bin salt
- not having a caretaker in post for some months (not a situation we would have chosen, but a fact nonetheless)
- in the event, and as you have heard, we did not have to hire a consultant to contest the Newburgh planning application

Overall savings this year are greater than usual, because the clerk continues to serve as financial officer.

But we do have some areas of new expense. We now have to pay for storage of Youth Club and Parish Council equipment due to lack of suitable storage space and are paying to rent the Bradwell Sports Pavilion as a base for the Youth Club.

You have heard that we have done a lot of tree work this year, and Council is responsible for a large number of trees. Safety work on them has been contracted out to a tree surgeon, a comprehensive report on the condition of all the trees has been produced, and a Tree Management programme has been implemented, with a full review every 3 years. So you can see that this will continue to be an expensive subject and we have had an overspend in this area this year. Bradwell also has two playing fields and a number of other areas to maintain, plus required annual RoSPA safety checks of all play equipment, which together adds up to quite a chunk of the budget.

This month marks the end of term for the current Council, and elections are due to take place in May. The current situation is that seven members of last year's Council have sought re-election, as has Chris Furness. As there are ten Council seats and only eight applicants it appears the election will be uncontested. It also appears we will be looking for two more candidates to fill the empty seats.

Our principal objectives for the coming year are to continue to follow the Neighbourhood Plan through to completion, make sure the Community Land Trust initiative is successful and to follow up a number of other key initiatives aimed at improving the village.

5. Bradwell Village Issues

Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Granger)

Cllr Granger gave an update on the present situation with the Neighbourhood Plan. After significant efforts by many people, but mainly by councillors Downing, Higgs, Granger and Nash, the NP has been subject to 6 weeks council-led consultation, and was passed to PDNPA on 30th December 2014 for it to continue the process. It initiated the second required consultation in March which is now due to be completed on 30th April 2015. The External Examiner has been appointed, who will audit that the due process in the development of the NP has been followed and that all the proposed policies are correctly worded. Once he is satisfied, the NP will be subject to a village referendum, probably in September, after the summer holiday period. All residents will be encouraged to vote on the important document at the referendum.

Community Land Trust (Cllr Higgs)

The requirement to have a CLT was defined in the Neighbourhood Plan. Six weeks ago a public meeting was held when the village formally decided to proceed with the CLT and since then other meetings have appointed a committee and the key officers. A Steering Group has been established that will drive the initiative forward.

The objective of the CLT is to be the key recipient of resources (e.g. money, houses, and land) and to manage these for the benefit of the parish in perpetuity. The CLT will be a legal non-profit limited company.

Cllr Higgs highlighted the present situation in that there are presently 103 affordable dwellings in the village, but none were owned by the village.

Soft Water Lane – Car Park (Cllr Granger)

Cllr Granger gave an overview of the history of this site and the progress so far made in establishing the car park. The site has been owned by the council for many years but no significant use has been made of it. A planning application to establish a car park of 13 bays was submitted to PDNPA and this has been granted, with conditions attached regarding the use of post/chains between bays. The council is presently in discussion with PDNPA about alternative approaches to securing each bay. The quotations received for construction work are twice as much as the grant money received from DDDC, so a Business Plan has been drawn up to ensure that the scheme is viable. Residents will be kept informed of progress in the Bradwell News.

Bradwell Youth Club (Cllr Downing)

Cllr Downing presented a report from the YC committee. The YC was restarted on Monday evenings in November 2014 in the Sports Pavilion following the move from Newburgh Hall. The services of a professional DCC Youth Leader have been obtained and she has been supported by a local Youth Assistant and a number of volunteers. The sessions have been enjoyed by members and attendance is typically 15 members per session. Typical activities include use of the MUGA for football and other games and cooking pizzas and pancakes. It is planned to hold two more sessions before the summer shut down. Once the YC sessions re-start in the autumn, any help on Monday evenings would be very welcome.

Derbyshire Constabulary (PC S Wolverson)

PC Wolverson introduced himself and gave some background to his experience with Derbyshire Constabulary. He described his current role in the Safer Neighbourhood Team that covers Bradwell. He, together with his colleagues, is responsible for many parishes and covers a large geographic area.

During his question time, he was asked a) after the Police Station in Bakewell is closed, where he expects to be based – he replied that this was presently unknown, but is expected to be still in Bakewell; b) when the Police response team was called, it had difficulty in locating the location - he replied that cars now had SatNavs installed and response delays were being monitored (the use of an OS grid reference was suggested as well as postcodes); c) although attempts have been made to help facilitate sharing of resources with other emergency services, why have the Police have not engaged with the council – he agreed to escalate these comments to his superiors.

6. Presentations by Village Organisations

Bradda Dads (Peter Wallis / Stuart Rook)

Peter and Stuart gave an overview of the Bradda Dads activities over the past year. They stated that it had been a very busy year with the main activities being organising two Fell Races, two Duck Races, the village Bonfire, the pensioners Christmas Lunch and entering the Carnival float. The Fell Races were the main fund raising activities, especially as the money raised mainly came from outside the village. Many different people helped with these races, for instance in giving access to land and donating prizes. In addition, the group helped the Pantomime group install lights and scenery, helped with organising the Bradwell Hill-Billy Cycling Sportive and with erecting marquees for the Church Fair. The membership of the group is slightly down, but this is not considered to be a problem, although new recruits are always welcome.

The group has a problem obtaining adequate storage for its equipment and in obtaining reasonably priced insurance for the Bonfire.

The group has some money available to donate as grants to local worthy causes.

Wells Dressing Committee (Helen McCloud)

Helen gave her report on the present situation with the Wells Dressing committee. She reported that volunteers were needed for the committee and especially to take on the roles of officers. The group organised the planning, petalling and display of four wells every year in the village.

Besides the need for new volunteers, the need for reasonably priced insurance was also a problem.

Bradwell Sports Club (Chair's Report)

Cllr Downing presented the Sports Club report. The main points included:-

- Bradwell Sports Club has had a very busy year once again and the MUGA has continued to be a very well used facility and enjoyed by many of the children in the village.
- The kitchen has been completely renovated after receiving a grant and this has made a huge difference. We hope this will encourage more people to hire the Sports Club.
- We have welcomed the Youth Club to our facilities every Monday in term time and also have a lace group using the rooms on a Tuesday in term time as well.
- The facilities are still used by the Guides, Brownies, Rainbows, Trefoil Guild, Allsports, as well as the Bowls section and the Senior and Junior Football Clubs on a regular basis and also the Long Tour event run by Bradda Dads every year. The Preschool also launched the Bradwell Hill-Billy event last year and will once again use our facilities this year.
- We are still hoping to extend the Sports Club to update the changing rooms and add more space and are currently looking at funding options.
- Our fundraising throughout the year includes a successful Festival of Football, Disco, Chinese raffle and Sports Relief Day. We have continued to run the 100 club lottery again this year and will produce the Gala Programme as usual. We have a further Festival of Football booked for 5th July this year and are hoping to hold a themed casino night in Wakes Week.
- Bradwell Sports Club wish to thank all the people who so kindly help with events and fundraising because the facility would not be what it is without the help and support of the village.

Bradwell Community Orchard Group (Christine Taylor)

Christine is the new Chair of this group and is pleased to report that the group is doing very well.

The trees planted in 2011 (cherry, apple, pear, plum) are doing well and it is hoped to have a good crop this coming year. Regular events are organised throughout the year and all are welcome to join in these activities. These activities include regular working parties to maintain the orchard, picnics, tree planting, Carnival stall and managing the bee hive.

A problem occurred during the past year in that all the fruit (both ripe & unripe) was stolen from the orchard by what looked like an organised & planned theft.

The group presently has c. 35 members and has retained the membership subscription at £5 p.a.

Bradwell Schools (Headmaster's Report)

Cllr Downing presented the Infants School report. The main points included:-

- Ofsted has released its Data Dashboards for schools and Bradwell Infant School has been placed amongst the highest achieving schools nationally for Reading, Writing and Mathematics. This data confirms that the school is building on previous success and achieved its aim of getting all pupils to the expected level in all subjects. There were also excellent results for the higher achieving pupils, who comfortably surpassed national figures for attainment at the highest level. The school is a very small school which allows the staff to focus individually on each pupil and track their progress closely. The school knows its pupils well and enjoys enthusiastic support from its families, Governing Body and the local community.
- The Headteacher, Geoff Wharton said "We strive to get the best from all our children. Our school is a happy place to be for both children and staff, and we foster a climate of learning with rewards for success. We are proud of our school and it is gratifying when the hard work of everyone involved in our school is recognised in such a public manner. These results were particularly pleasing as we have more boys than girls in school, and a number of children with additional needs. In some schools these factors can be seen as barriers to learning, but we have high expectations of all our pupils and children work hard to meet their individual targets."
- This data corroborates that published in RAISEonline, which showed the school to be attaining at levels significantly above national attainment in all subject areas. The school has an open week beginning Monday 18th May, when you are welcome to bring your child and see us in action. You can visit both classrooms and talk to children and staff about the work you see us doing.

7. General Q&A (Cllr Downing)

The issue of burning of bracken / gorse on Bradwell Edge was raised. It was reported that there had been a large number of separate fires and some appeared to be in danger of becoming out of control. When the fire services were contacted they reported that the fires were 'controlled burns' and had been approved by PDNPA.

The matter of encouraging more (younger?) village volunteers to take responsibility for village organisations was discussed. The older volunteers were now standing down after serving their terms but replacements are proving difficult to recruit. Two comments made were a) that the number of different organisations was a sign of the success of Bradwell as an active community and b) to increase the pool of potential recruits the village needs to increase the number of younger families, implying the need for more jobs and houses in the village.

8. Thanks & Close (Cllr Downing)

Mr S Bradwell said a few words at this point. He suggested that the trees on Towngate Green might benefit from some attention from the tree surgeon. He also expressed his warm thanks to all councillors for their hard work over the previous year.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9:30 p.m.