

**Notes of the BRADWELL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in the Methodist Hall
at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 26th April 2016**

Present:-

Parish Council Members

Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr C Furness, Cllr L Granger,
Cllr P Higgs, Cllr N Kirkham, Cllr K Lancaster,
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
Sarah Fowler PDNPA
PCSO A Boswell Derbyshire Constabulary
Andy Lee DFRS

c. 20 members of the public attended

The Chairman introduced the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr J Keeley (PDNPA)

2. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Your Parish Council has been very active again this year with a great deal achieved. We currently have a full complement of councillors, Vanessa Horstead having resigned during the year but we have gained Ngaire Kirkham. At the May election councillor Martin Salvage chose not to rejoin us due to work related difficulties, but I am pleased to be able to say that later in the year he was able to once again take up his duties and he has since been very active, including supporting the youth club. As I did last year, I want to thank all Councillors for their hard work, and once again I can state that we are a definitely a team which is able to debate vigorously but remain harmonious.

The highlight of our year has to be that our Neighbourhood Plan, upon which we had worked for a very long time, went through the examination process, was approved by Peak Park planning, went to referendum and received a resounding 85% YES vote from the community . The Plan is now part of planning law and is the first document to which PDNPA refer when considering planning applications within the parish. I'm going to ask Councillor Granger to say a few words about the Neighbourhood Plan.

There have also been major developments in relation to possible development of the **Newburgh site**. A prospective developer is negotiating to acquire the site, and has developed plans which would build a new, smaller facility for Newburgh, plus build a mix of open market and local needs housing, plus small industrial starter units. Of significant interest is the fact that the recently formed **Bradwell Community Land Trust** might be gifted a number of houses as part of the negotiations, which would give the village a significant number of houses for use by local people. The current status of this venture is that your Parish Council plans to speak in favour of the development at the May committee meeting of Peak Park Planning and it is hoped that the proposals will receive planning approval. Council believes that this development offers the best possible option for the village, given that these discussion have been going on for several years and given that eventually something would have been done with the site. We believe we have won significant concessions from all parties involved and that these proposals will be very good for the village. A quick summary of the plans are:

- 12 local needs housing for the community. Most significantly it has been agreed that these houses can be owned by the newly formed Bradwell Community Land Trust, giving the village a significant influence how they are operated and managed
- 43 open market houses to bring new people and business to the village
- 3 starter business units which, coupled with the new faster broadband speeds some of us are enjoying now, should attract new businesses and opportunities to the village
- possible change of use for the old Newburgh gatehouse and antiques building, which will make it possible to convert them into retail outlets

Moving on to other areas during the past Council year we have:

- Maintained the playing fields, including spending quite a lot of time and money on management of trees
- Kept the youth club going
- Made progress in the project to convert the Legion site on Softwater Lane into a car park at an estimated cost of £20,000
- Organised and run another very successful carnival
- Carried out training for our four flood wardens and taken steps to obtain emergency supplies and equipment
- Continued to work with Highways to try to prevent HGV's from driving along village lanes and damaging properties
- Tried to counter the growing problem of parked vehicles on grass verges

Some quick comments on specific committee activities:

Carnival – Bradwell Carnival would not happen without the whole hearted involvement of a large number of village organisations, and Carnival Day itself could not happen without the support of a few dedicated volunteers from the village assisting the Parish Council committee. In 2015 the theme was Musicals and although there were fewer floats, more Queens attended and the field was full, vibrant with colour and crowds - until the deluge that arrived and caused stalls to pack away early.

Much preparation took place prior to the event itself and the earlier starting time for the parade and having the field open to the public plus a number of key helpers being absent created quite a challenge. Dogs were brought onto the field despite notices to the contrary and we had a few unpleasant confrontations as a result. But all in all this was another successful event which came in under budget.

Planning is already underway for this year's carnival with the theme of "Pantomime" to take place on Saturday 30th July. We will again be running a sunflower competition. The tallest and largest sunflower will win a prize, so get growing!

Members of Carnival committee also acted as marshals for the Well Dressing parade.

Playing Fields and Open Spaces - Despite the difficulties we continue to experience with recruiting adequate caretaking staff, the playing fields and other areas are kept in good condition by the excellent people we do have, providing a safe environment for our children. The committee regularly walks the village amenities, a weekly check is made on the play equipment, litter is cleaned up and a RoSPA inspection is carried out annually.

This year we have had the metal play equipment in Beggars Plot painted. Old materials have been replaced with new soft pour under the roundabout and swings, the youth shelter has been refurbished, trees along the side of the field have been pruned, loose paving slabs have been fixed and repair work undertaken on the boundary walls. Trees have been pruned in the Peace garden and a parish notice board sited in the bus shelter at Dale End. The Rose garden has been spruced up by cutting back shrubs and replacing worn concrete.

The budget for tree work is £5,000 per year for the next 8 years.

Visits have been made to the quarry in an attempt to define the boundary with a view to selling this property.

The committee is currently investigating how to change the basketball area in Town Bottom playing field into a Toddlers' play area. The estimate for this work is £15,000.

Youth Club - is run by a trained youth leader from DCC, supported by Parish Councillors and other key helpers from the village. Our youth leader has been off poorly since January recovering from an operation. Without the support of our helpers the youth club would not be able to open and it is appreciated. If anyone is interested in helping on any Monday evening please let any council member know. You will be made very welcome.

The club Has been helped financially this year by donations from Bradda Dads, Hope Construction, Dales Housing, Bakewell Show, Bradwell Co-op, District Council and the Police – all of which we thank sincerely. The group meets at the Sports Club and key activities this year have included:

- a trip to Chesterfield to learn the art of archery
- an "Animal Magic" party to which we invited some of the year 6 students from the Junior school. The group were able to learn about and handle creatures such as tarantulas,

- snakes, baby meerkats, owls, skunks and lizards
 - decorating their own Christmas tree for the church festival, including pictures of their activities and hand-made decorations
 - an Indian night
 - eating pancakes, which was good fun and messy to say the least!
- In addition the young people have access to the MUGA plus full use of the kitchen area.

Regarding **Financial Matters**, the chair of our finance committee, Andy Nash, reports that we are just ending the third year of the council's five year plan. This plan was implemented to ensure that the council always had sufficient funds to meet its obligations and maintain its assets.

Behind the plan are four guiding principles:

1. The Financial Reserves should never be allowed to fall below the recommended national levels
2. The play equipment on both playing fields should be broadly maintained at its present level
3. The cost of refurbishing Beggars Plot play equipment should be included in the plan
4. In 15 years' time there should be sufficient funds to refurbish the Town Bottom play equipment

At the start of the five year plan we expected to have to increase the precept by 10% a year, as it had been significantly reduced in previous years. The good news is we have managed to reduce this to 9% in the first year, 8% in the second and 5% this year and next. We achieved this through careful management of the budget, with the largest savings by combining the clerk and RFO roles, reducing our insurance premiums and saving on grass cutting costs on the playing fields. We have also been fortunate to have mild winters, for which we thank powers greater than us, but which has saved the costs of restocking the council grit bins.

We are also having to cover extra costs due to the increasing number of trees requiring work as they age and grow. It is likely we will have to use professional contractors for much of this work and so we have allowed £5,000 a year for the next few years to bring them under control. While we can absorb this within present plans it has also meant we have had to review the long term ownership of the Parish quarry. This is not really used and for Council to retain ownership would require us to spend substantial sums. We are now in the process of selling it and hope to complete this year.

While we continuously review the spend we do plan to keep supporting the carnival which acts as a focal point for the year and brings in welcome funds for village organisations and businesses. This year we also hope to support a second Saturday event, which we expect to break even.

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.

The Chair now invited a resident, Dr. A. Hearsom, to address the meeting. Dr. Hearsom's report was as follows:-

Speaking up for Bradwell - the need for more parking

We have lived in Bradwell for 28 years and only seen the pavements cleaned twice in that time. The streets are only cleaned once a year before Gala week. Because of this there could be an accident where children walking on the pavement are hit with loose stones thrown up from vehicles. Bradwell is an attractive village primarily because of its situation in the landscape and the friendly nature of its people. Its beauty is not through planted flowers on verges but wild flowers in the meadows. Its architecture has developed through time without the need for modern planning regulations. It is attractive because its architecture is interesting, random, quaint and different. Bradwell has a history of a hard-working people and their struggle to make a living from natural resources, mineral extraction and lead mining. Car parking was never an envisaged problem. Parking in Bradwell is now a significant problem that needs attention well in advance of new signs welcoming visitors to Bradwell. Side roads in Bradwell are narrow and cause problems for farmers, emergency services and buses where parkers of cars need to think about other users before they park their vehicles. There is also some concern as to why the Soft water lane parking development is taking so long and why is it currently fenced off from temporary use? Bradwell has always attracted visitors, primarily walkers, and people interested in the layout and architecture of the village, although at well dressing week and open gardens day the village is flooded with visitors happy to make a contribution to village life. Temporary parking is provided at well dressings on the playing fields, part of those fields could now be safely sectioned off as un-paved surfaces using grass protection mesh, to provide permanent car parking around the edges of the field, adding value and parking use for residents and visitors.

In the main it is my view residents in Bradwell do not want to create another Castleton although we could learn a lot from their Parish Council with their linear parking and of course their massive car parking facility adorned by the futuristic architecture of the Peak Park Information Centre. The Bradwell Parish Council however do not seem to want visitors or residents use the grass verges for parking as this causes unsightly ruts that of course will soon recover. As an attempt to stop residents and visitors parking on the grass verges the Parish Council plan to introduce concrete planters more suitable for town than village use. When challenged they say they are only temporary planters, why not temporary parking until a permanent solution is found for parking? Let's keep reminding ourselves why visitors and residents park on verges? This is because the parking requirement in Bradwell has been ignored for too long by the Parish Council, Derbyshire Dales Council, Derbyshire County Council and Peak Park Authority and is now a serious and life threatening problem.

Linear parking along the main road through Bradwell should be immediately introduced converting part of the grass verges ensuring parking is available with the advantage that traffic can safely travel unimpeded on both sides of the main road.

Bradwell Parish Council and the Peak Park Authority have missed an opportunity for the future of the village by taking far too long to create the proposed housing development. This development had the potential for a main village car park on the Newburg site. Significant parking space for the needs of the whole village should have been the priority for this development and not just affordable housing. There is not enough three and four bedroom property in Bradwell to allow existing families to move to new larger housing freeing up affordable property. There is concern about an entrance to the development. Traffic on entry and leaving the development from main road could be controlled by traffic lights to slow down the flow and speed of traffic through the village making it safe for pedestrians and other road users on the development and the main road.

We of course need to keep reminding ourselves that car drivers do not park on grass verges to annoy the Parish Council; but to protect their vehicles and avoid road accidents. An accident happened through parking on the main road a week or so ago in Church Street. A linear road car park could have avoided this accident. The beauty of a village is in its utility as a working village, focussing not on cosmetic array of flower planters and flowers on verges but benefitting from living in the natural environment of the wild flowers in the countryside. After all the Peak Park pay farmers to cultivate wild meadow flowers until the end of July so let's take advantage of them and deal with the problem we are experiencing-lack of car parking in Bradwell.

There followed a general discussion about this report during which representatives of PDNPA, Parish Council and residents took part. This discussion concluded with the statement that the council was deeply concerned about parking issues in the village and that a special committee has been established to consider how best to address these problems.

3. Reports from Other Authorities 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 May, DCC provided £1.7M to help community groups. There has been a substantial response to retaining the subsidy for Community Transport.
- The initiative to upgrade the provision of Broadband continues. Bradwell will need 3 – 4 cabinet to be upgraded.
- There was money still available under the 'Leader' scheme. This information may be of interest to village groups e.g. Guides, Sports Club, Centenary Players.
- No progress has been made in preventing inappropriate use of narrow village lanes by HGVs. More work will be needed to ensure that this is done.
- It will not be possible to provide additional parking space for Bradwell Surgery.
- The gritting routes round Bradwell have been reviewed and Brookside has now been included.
- Car Parking continues to be an issue.
- She was asked if DCC could help in rebuilding the War Memorial Hall. There was no immediate answer to this question but DCC would respond if requested.

PDNPA Report (CEO - Sarah Fowler)

Sarah Fowler gave her report which included the following information:-

- She gave a summary of her background prior to her appointment as PDNPA CEO. This included her work with the Environment agency and her aim of making a difference in all her roles.
- She then outlined her aims as CEO, which are to care for 'this amazing 555 square miles of landscape at the heart of the country'. She recognised that the PDNP was environmentally important, containing 1900 listed buildings, and had 12m visitors p.a. She said her job was to look after the landscape, to encourage enjoyment of the landscape and for the PDNPA to do what it says it will do.
- She said that with planning matters she would work with councils and recognised that 95% of applications with pre-application advice were passed, the Bradwell Neighbourhood Plan was a very valuable document, and the CLT was greatly valued.
- She expected to work with land owners in both the Dark & White Peaks.
- The Newburgh application was a very important application for the village which included 12 affordable houses and overall two parking spaces per dwelling.
- The council's initiative on parking provision was good news and the PDNPA would support this initiative within the rules.
- A general discussion followed her presentation which included many issues.

DDDC Report (DDDC Cllr C Furness)

Cllr Furness gave his report which included the following information:-

- He summarised the duties of the District Council which included waste collection, street cleansing, litter collection, toilet provision, elections, cemeteries, car parks & traffic wardens,
- The DDDC recycling rate was presently 56% against a national figure of 50%. Recycling & waste bags were being delivered.
- The management of grants was now being administered by DDCVS which could offer grants of £1k for revenue projects and £5k for capital projects. The money previously ear-marked for the Bradwell Car Parking project has been ring-fenced and is still available. All DDDC councillors have a personal grant fund for allocation within their parishes. He has some money available and applications will be welcomed.
- The DDDC budget has been frozen for the past 5 years and is now expected to rise by 1.94%. The council is reviewing funding for leisure services and hopes to make £300k savings.
- The future direction of local government is unclear as the position with Sheffield City Region emerges.
- A general discussion followed his presentation.

DFRS Report (Andy Lee)

Andy Lee gave his report which included the following information:-

- There are typically 30 incidents p.a. for Bradwell Fire Station which has an availability of 65%.
- Staffing was currently 7 with an establishment of 14. It was possible to mix staff between Hathersage and Bradwell stations.
- DFRS continue to invest in the Bradwell Station.
- The station will continue to offer safety checks and alarms.
- A general discussion followed his presentation. The council offered facilities in the newsletter, the website and at the Carnival for DFRS to advertise for additional members

4. Bradwell Village Topics

Community Land Trust (Cllr A Nash)

Cllr Nash gave an update on the establishment of the CLT. He stated that the CLT was a 'not-for-profit' organisation, all residents were welcome to become members with membership set at £1 per share. He then went on to explain why the CLT was established, which was that the Neighbourhood Plan was now law and it limited the number of new houses that could be built as well as encouraging employment and social cohesion. Twelve affordable houses were to be gifted to the CLT. All profits from these dwellings would be ploughed back into the village. Residents who were interested in renting one of these houses should enrol through the 'Home Options' scheme. The CLT planned to raise funds for immediate use by running a bar on the Carnival field and by organising a second Saturday comedy event in the Memorial Hall.

Hope Cement Works (Operations Manager - Ed Cavenagh)

Mr Cavenagh gave an update on the plant's performance and the challenges it faced. The routine liaison meetings with local parishes were provided with plant performance information. This year production was at 1.4MT p.a. and accident figures were at a low level. It was planned to have two major shut-downs this year and it was now in the middle of the second bigger shut-down. The Christmas period had been very busy with an average production of 30kT per week. Forward planning had identified a shortfall of 3kT per week during the shut-down and this was to be covered by importing clinker. This would arrive in Liverpool and be transported by lorry to Hope, giving rise to c. 30 lorry journeys per day.

There followed a general discussion about this presentation and the concern was expressed about the impact of these additional lorry journeys would have on the village.

5. Presentations by Village Organisations

Bradwell Historical Society (Chair – Brian Gillham)

Brian Gillham gave an overview of the society, its aims and activities. He said that it has three principal officers, held monthly lectures / talks on the third Tuesday of each month, visited sites of historical interest and conducted research into topics of local and general interest. Recent talks had been by Sir R Fitzherbert & a newspaper reporter. He also said that new members would always be welcome.

Bradda Dads (Stuart Rook)

Stuart gave an overview of the Bradda Dads activities over the past year. They had 21 members and 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.

The group gives money to many different village organisations and now 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 members were aging and younger helpers were now needed, especially on the organising committee. The financial reserves were diminishing and additional finance was needed. Help was needed in knocking out the clay and in preparation of the frames. Getting sufficient petallers was not a problem.

Bradwell Community Orchard Group (Mrs B Stewart)

Bridget gave her report on the present situation with the Group. It now had 43 members and had planted 43 trees, apples, pears and cherries. It also had a Bee section which managed two hives.

It organised a working party on the second Sunday of each month to carry out routine maintenance of the orchard and to progress any new initiatives. An information sign, giving details of the orchard, had been provided by Hope Cement.

The group raises funds at the Carnival by selling apples, juice, honey and second-hand books.

6. Final Q&A (Cllr Downing)

Final questions / answers and a general discussion took place.

7. Thanks & Close (Cllr Downing)

The Chairman thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9:42 p.m.