

**Notes of the BRADWELL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in the Methodist Hall
at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 25th April 2017**

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 C Furness Derbyshire Dales District Council
John Scott PDNPA
PCSO A Boswell Derbyshire Constabulary
Mr E Cavanagh Hope Cement

c. 20 members of the public attended

The Chairman introduced the meeting, welcomed those present and thanked those who provided refreshments.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J Twigg (DCC).

2. Notes of Last Year's Meeting

It was agreed to accept the minutes of last year's meeting.

3. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Once again, we've had a busy year and I am going to summarise it for you in this short address. If anyone has specific questions about anything I say, then we do have all the Councillors here and we will do our best to answer them for you.

We have been fortunate to retain a full complement of councillors through 2016/17 and we lost no-one during the year. Pressures of work have made it difficult for some of them to attend every meeting, but everyone has given their 100% support and we have achieved a lot. A team which stays together and whose members understand each other will always do a better job than one which constantly changes.

I want to express my gratitude to our excellent Clerk, Steve Lawless, who has worked tirelessly throughout the year on our numerous projects. He has steered us through some minefields and has once again acted as our RFO.

One of the key things that Steve has worked on this year has been the sale of the Council owned **quarry** in Bradwell Dale. We had decided to dispose of it because the potential cost of maintaining it in a safe condition would have been an unnecessary drain on our resources, and despite difficulties in identifying the exact boundaries, we have now agreed a sale, which is currently being finalised.

Another key item in the past year is that we reached final agreement on how to develop the **Newburgh Engineering** site. Council supported an application by a developer called Camstead Limited to build 55 houses on the site, including 12 affordable homes for use by local people. Working closely with the newly formed Bradwell Community Land Trust, Council kept residents informed about the plan and spoke in support of it at the planning meeting in June 2016. There will be more information about this later in the meeting. One side benefit of this exercise was that it helped to forge a much closer relationship and level of understanding between Council and Peak Park planning officers. We believe this will enhance our ability to contribute to the evaluation of planning applications and have put in place regular meetings with PDNPA to follow up and enforce any breaches of planning law.

During 2016 it was decided to finally close the **Youth Club**. The reasons for this were complex, but Council felt that the benefits no longer outweighed the cost and difficulties of staffing and running it. Councillor Sowerby has been continuing to work on providing youth activities, for which we thank her, but it has to be said that interest from Bradwell youth in the opportunities she has developed has not been high.

Aided by a grant from District Council we have converted the British Legion site on Soft Water Lane into a **car park**. The development, for twelve private cars, is now complete and residents are already using it. Initially we will be using the funds generated from this venture to repay the investment, but once this has been achieved we will be developing other areas in our continuing attempt to improve parking in the village for all residents. A Car Parking Committee has been formed and we are looking at all aspects of parking in the village, including how to encourage residents to be more thoughtful regarding destruction of the grass verges by driving their vehicles over them.

Council has installed, and is maintaining a **defibrillator** in the old red telephone box at Town Bottom. This defibrillator, and the other one located at the Sports Club should improve the survival chances for heart attack victims. Unbelievably attempts have been made to break into the cabinets to gain access to this life saving equipment, presumably by inquisitive people. We would urge everyone to spread the word that someone's life might depend on the defibrillators and so please leave them alone unless you need to use them.

The job of maintaining the **playing fields** is becoming more complex and potentially expensive due to the large number of trees we own. A survey of the Parish's trees has been commissioned so that we can draw up a 5 year plan to ensure their future safety and health. The playing fields committee are also looking at improving access to the Rose and Peace gardens to include disabled access.

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 support from some dedicated volunteers from the village who assist the Parish Council committee. In 2016 the theme was Pantomime, the weather again smiled on us and the parade was longer than ever. We had a huge number of royalty and the suspicion is that we are feeding them too well.

This year the theme is Cartoons and Carnival Day will be on 5th August. If any resident would like to take an active part in the planning and running of Carnival then do please let us know. There is much to do, but many hands make light work. Dogs on the field were again a problem in 2016 but there were no unpleasant situations. The dog warden we had booked was unable to come after all but we have booked one again for this year's event as it would make our task much easier.

The general feeling was that Carnival 2016 was again a very successful event, bringing the village together and showing all our visitors how a real carnival should be held.

During the year the recently renamed "**Community Resilience Committee**" has been very active. The number of flood wardens has increased, we have a new store, located at Town Bottom and are in the process of stocking it with warning signs, barriers and various items of flood equipment. The committee was initially formed to provide an immediate response capability for flooding events, to get us through the first period before the emergency services arrive. However, it has been recognised that the team can also mobilise for other types of civil emergency and our training reflects this. We are indebted to Councillor Higgs for his work in this area.

Our efforts to try to prevent **HGVs** from driving along village lanes and damaging properties seem to be working, and there have been fewer incidents recently. We continue to work with the relevant authorities and local employers on this subject.

We have also been working closely with the police to try to improve road safety and increase public awareness of the need to drive slowly and carefully through the village. The police speed monitoring van has been present in the village on numerous occasions and a large number of motorists face prosecution due to non compliance with the speed limits. We will continue to work with the police in our attempt to reduce traffic speeds and improve safety.

Regarding **Financial Matters**, the chair of our finance committee, Andy Nash, reports that we are just ending the fourth 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 the 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

When we first established the five year plan we expected to have to increase the precept by 10% a year, as the precept 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% for the past two years. The

increase for 2017 is once again 5%. We have achieved this success through careful management of the budget, with the largest savings achieved 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 significantly reduced the cost of restocking the council grit bins. As always, more financial information is available on request.

While we continuously review the spend, and recognise that a zero increase would be desirable, we do intend to hold to our 5-Year plan, which involves maintaining existing village facilities. We also plan to continue supporting carnival, which acts as a focal point for the year and brings in welcome funds for village organisations and businesses. This year there will again be a second Saturday event - the return of the highly successful "Comedy Night" in the Memorial Hall - at which we hope to see as many residents as possible.

Our principal objectives for the coming year are to continue to work with Peak Park to ensure our new Neighbourhood Plan is complied with, to support the Community Land Trust in their continuing work with the developers of the Newburgh site and to commence discussions with District Council, who have told us that unless we take over the running and maintenance of the Town Bottom toilets it is likely that they will have to close.

Finally, I should tell you that Bradwell Parish Council recently won a "Spotlight" award from the National Association of Local Councils for our Neighbourhood Plan and for the work we are doing to support the Community Land Trust in the provision of affordable houses for rent by local people.

4. Reports from Other Authorities

District Council Report (DDDC Cllr C Furness)

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

- He summarised impact of the government funding reductions and the fact that authorities were now encouraged to do more with the money available. The council was now reducing costs where possible, reviewing non-statutory activities, removing some positions and re-allocating work. It was planned to privatise the sports centres which should save c. £360k, to move visitor centres and to sell some sites.
- The grant to the Hathersage swimming pool is to be reduced over a four year period.
- The council has awarded a grant of £10k towards the cost of constructing the Soft Water Lane car park.
- Last year 11% of the overall council tax was paid to the council.
- The council was a top performer in waste recycling by recycling 52%. Residual waste is used for heat generation where possible.
- The future of the Bradwell toilet block is uncertain. Provision of this toilet facility is a non-statutory duty and the council is in communication with the parish council regarding its future.
- All DDDC councillors have a personal grant fund for allocation within their parishes. He has some money available and applications will be welcomed.
- The future direction of local government is unclear as the position with Sheffield City Region Combined Authority emerges.

County Council Report (DCC Cllr J Twigg)

Cllr Twigg's written report which contained the following information was read by the Chair:-

- The concern that Bradwell has been 'forgotten' by the council was untrue. The pressure of work and reduced staffing made it difficult to respond to problems in a timely fashion. Hopefully, recent changes will improve the response times. Repairs to street lights should now progress and the implementation of lower-cost LED lights is planned.
- It was planned to restructure sections in the council to provide a 'Highways Hub' to respond efficiently to problems.
- The residents' Gold Cards were likely to expire later this year. These will need to be renewed.
- The proposal to change for the disposal of rubble at recycling centres will now not proceed.
- The Handy Van service is a useful facility for elderly residents and is easily available.
- A county council election is scheduled for the near future.
- This year grants have been awarded from my fund as follows-
 - £200.00 to the Brook Clearance Project
 - £200.00 to the Bradwell Bowls Club
 - £1,480.00 to the BECT to replace equipment to allow disabled residents to use transport (covers Bradwell area)

Police Report (PCSO Boswell)

PCSO Boswell gave his report which included the following information:-

- There has been a recent spate of break-ins to barns & garden sheds. Tools and quads have been the main items stolen. Some arrests have been made of perpetrators from outside the county. He recommended that improved locks & alarms should be fitted to sheds, items should be marked with SmartWater and serial numbers noted for insurance / recovery purposes.
- Auto crime is still an area of concern with vans, cars, satnavs & tools being targeted. Some arrests have been made and he recommended that security of valuable items be improved and battery alarms be fitted where appropriate.
- The CREST speed monitoring team continue to carry out exercises in Bradwell. The number of offences is still high. The team will now be located at different points.

Questions were raised by the meeting on a) untaxed vehicles parked on the highway (AB to progress), & b) illegal drug supply & use in the village (residents to report incidents on '101').

PDNPA Report (John Scott)

John Scott addressed the meeting to cover a number of points. He stated that Bradwell PC is now held in high regard by PDNPA because it has a very active council that has engaged well with the authority. Of the 120 parishes in the authority, Bradwell was unique in have the first Neighbourhood Plan wholly in the National Park. This regard gives the council influence in respect of response to planning applications. With regard to enforcement issues, the authority has few resources and will target the worst cases. He suggested that residents who wish to see how the authority works should attend some Planning committee meetings. In a lot of cases decisions are not black & white and judgement / discretion is sometime applied.

A Question was raised about whether the meetings are still live streamed. Mr Scott assured the meeting that this was the case.

5. Bradwell Village Topics

Hope Cement Works (Operations Manager - Ed Cavenagh)

Mr Cavenagh gave an update on the plant's performance and the challenges it faced since last year. The business is to be taken over by Breedon Group and will be its single cement works, the biggest in the UK. Most cement output is shipped by rail (1M tonnes of 1.5M tonnes). The works increasingly is using fuel alternatives. 35% of fuel is now classed as alternative. A road traffic survey has been conducted which shows that there has been no increase in road traffic movements.

Regarding plant performance, kiln 1 was shut down for 26 days. 200 contractors have been engaged for 2017.

Questions from the meeting included a) the number of years of limestone is available (> 20 years and the business is exploring for further reserves) & b) future of the group (Breedon wants stability and expands through mergers & Acquisitions).

Mr Cavenagh assured the meeting that the business will continue to invest in the immediate local area.

Bradwell Memorial Hall (Cllr Granger)

Cllr Granger is the secretary to the Memorial Hall committee. She reported that a grant has been obtained to conduct a feasibility study on the future of the Hall. This study was considered necessary because of problems with the fabric of the building. This study is now complete and the committee will meet in a few days to decide how best to proceed. The available options include to rebuild the Hall, to refurbish the Hall or even to close it.

Revenue has been lost by Pre-School relocating to alternative premises.

More members are required on this committee.

Questions from the meeting included what was being done to satisfy the need for additional car parking, especially near the Memorial Hall.

6. Presentations by Village Organisations

Community Land Trust (Cllr A Nash)

Cllr Nash gave an update on the CLT. He stated that the CLT was a 'not-for-profit' organisation and that any & all profits would be invested in the village. All residents were welcome to become members with membership set at £1 per share. Members elected a board of ten directors, a third of which must resign each year. The CLT had been established in a record short time of four weeks in order to satisfy the needs of the new Neighbourhood Plan. Twelve affordable houses will be gifted to the CLT. Residents who are interested in renting one of these houses should enrol through the 'Home Options' scheme. At the AGM the committee will be listening to members to determine what the village want from the CLT. The CLT plans to raise funds for immediate use by running a bar on the Carnival field, by organising the Open Gardens and by organising a second Saturday comedy event in the Memorial Hall. The CLT will need c. £600 p.a. to run and then to cover the legal fees associated with the affordable houses.

It was reported that work on the Newburgh development has already started. The first step will be to demolish the land required to build the new industrial units and then to complete these units during 2017. Afterwards the 55 new dwellings will be constructed to an agreed plan. Mr J Scott stated that this development was a good model for other villages. Concern was expressed about construction traffic using Bradwell Head Road. It was stated that additional signage was required to prevent this.

Bradwell Bowls Club (Carol Hill)

The club was functioning well at present but, like many other village organisations, the membership consisted of older members who were not inclined to help administer the club. Efforts were being made to encourage younger people to join the club. One particular area of concern was that the grass mower was 14 years old and was unreliable and expensive and is in need of replacing at a cost of c. £4k. The club was applying to various sources of grants for this money.

Bradwell Pre-School (Laura Mannion)

Recently the group nearly closed due to lack of numbers, but now attendances have increased with attendances from c. 20 regular children. The committee are considering moving from being a registered Charity. The committee has obtained grants from the parish council and from Hope Cement to fund new / improved facilities for the children. Also, the regular Hill Billy cycling sportive continues to attract good attendances and is an excellent fund-raiser.

Significant changes are due from September this year when the number of hours per eligible child will increase from 21 to 30 hours per week.

In addition, Laura mentioned that the DFRS part-time fire-fighting manning level has increased to 10 with an establishment of 14. The service was trying to recruit an additional 3 to 4 members.

Bradwell Centenary Players (Julie McKenzie)

Julie stated that next year will be the 50th anniversary of the society. She said that the production of the annual pantomime involved c. 150 people. Many different areas of skill / expertise are required to produce the shows from acting, to back-stage, to make-up skills, to wardrobe, to front of house, to set design and build.

Fund-raising was necessary to ensure adequate financial balances. Thanks to the council for its grant. Raffles help to generate some additional income. The annual pantomime usually just breaks even financially, so if investment is required in lighting or sound systems, then funds must be obtained.

Bradwell Sports Club (Paula Holland)

Paula's written report was referenced by the Chair. Her report was as follows:-

Bradwell Sports Club Committee, helpers and users of the facility have enjoyed another busy year.

The MUGA continues to be very well used by organisations and children in the village.

There has also been an increase in the number of people making use of the Pavilion. The Band, Lace Group, Guides, Brownies, Trefoil Guild, Allsports as well as the Bowls Section and Junior and Senior Football Clubs use the facility on a regular basis. The Long Tour Event run by Bradda Dads continues on a yearly basis and Bradwell Pre-School have also hosted the Bradwell Hill Billy again. The Pavilion is also used to host various types of celebrations. It is good to see that the people of the village are enjoying the updated space.

The Car Park area has been given a makeover by the Bowls Club.

We have had assistance from Hope Construction in the laying of a new concrete base so that a new dug out could be erected. One section has been constructed with the opportunity to extend this in the future when funds allow.

We received a grant of £3000.00 from Better Derbyshire Dales which is helping with the refurbishment of the toilets this month.

We have also joined the Co-Op Fund where customers can donate 1% to a local charity of their choice. We are 1 of 3 in the village.

Fundraising throughout the year consisted of producing the Gala Programme which we will continue to do this year but in a simplified format as it was felt that people were getting bored of the same thing year upon year. We also did the Lottery up until the end of last year. This may resume in future years.

Bradwell Sports Club do 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.

7 General Q&A

Final questions / answers and a general discussion took place.

8. Thanks & Close

The Chairman thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9:22 p.m.