

**Notes of
BRADWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held in the Methodist Hall at 7:30 p.m.
on Wednesday 28th APRIL 2010**

Present:- Cllr R Davies, Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr C Furness, Cllr V Horstead,
Cllr J Lawson, Cllr A Nash, Cllr A Slater, Cllr J Walker

Steve Lawless Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council
Richard Jarman Responsible Financial Officer

Cllr Mrs J Twigg Derbyshire County Council
Cllr Mrs J Goodison Derbyshire Dales District Council
PC I Richardson Derbyshire Constabulary

3 Parliamentary candidates

Around 15 other members of the public were present

The Chairman introduced the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S Eyre & Cllr S Nunn.

2. Notes of Annual Parish Meeting – 28th April 2009

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

3. Parish Chairman's Report

In June 2009, Cllr Vanessa Horstead was co-opted to the Council bringing the council back to full strength. The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors for their time and support over the past year. The main activities in which Council has been engaged during the past year are summarised below, and the chairs of the various committees will provide more detail later in the meeting.

Newburgh Planning Application

The Parish Council has met regularly with PDNPA. The main message to PDNPA has been that this development is totally out of keeping with the village. PDNPA have assured the council that there will be another village meeting before any final decision is made. The village has formed an organisation called Bradwell Against this Newburgh Development (BAND) to fight the proposals.

Rights of Way committee

This committee worked throughout the year on matters associated with footpaths and open areas. This committee has now been stood down its activities returned to main council.

The chairman gave thanks to villagers Ellie Dunn and Keith Brett for their time in creating the village map and to Alan Hearsom for his sketches.

Playing Fields committee

This committee is responsible for the maintenance of both the playing fields and the play equipment on them. This committee is currently investigating a number of improvements. All the equipment is regularly inspected in accordance with RoSPA requirements.

General Matters

Among the many things acted on by the main Council during the year included a) attempting to find suitable land for allotments, b) donating £3,486 towards the cost of refurbishing the Memorial Hall heating, c) providing a village Christmas Tree and lights (thanks to Councillors Slater and Eyre for their work and to a village resident for donating it), d) supporting the police in their installation of CCTV, e) attending PDNPA to better understand the planning law and f) trying to keep our grit bins filled with salt and grit through the long and difficult winter weather.

Plans For The Coming Year

- The Parish Council has decided to apply for "Powers of Well Being" during 2010/11
- The Parish Council will fight the existing Newburgh planning application.
- The new village map is planned to be installed.

4. Parish Clerk's Report

Parish Council

The council is again at full strength, held a total of 40 formal meetings in the last year, and had representation on a wide number of outside bodies. Residents are also routinely co-opted onto council committees. A series of meetings has taken place with other councils / bodies wishing to preserve our historic lanes.

Although the council has decided not to pursue Quality Council status, it did decide to take the steps necessary to qualify for the Power of Well Being (PoWB).

The number of council committees was reviewed throughout the year. In order to improve efficiency, three changes were made a) the Finance committee was stood-down in July, b) the two separate playing fields committees were merged into one committee and c) the Rights of Way committee was stood-down in April as its work had been all but completed.

16 new domestic Planning Applications were reviewed this year, down from 26 received last year. We are still waiting for the amended Newburgh PA to be submitted, and the expected proposal by Lafarge to create a road to join with Main Road is still outstanding.

The major issue this year was the lack of grit during the winter snowfalls. This winter, your council spent over £3,200 in three separate fillings of the bins. The main problem was the slow response from DCC to our requests for the bins to be filled. It has been agreed to fund 8 new grit bins in the village.

We are working with Derbyshire Constabulary especially on two agreed priorities with them a) to assist in maintaining the Youth centre as a safe & welcoming place and b) monitoring traffic speeds through the village.

PC works hard to maintain & improve the quality of life for residents by spending much time and effort maintaining and enhancing the Playing Fields, and by working on a range of other activities e.g. providing doggie bags at PO, installing YUK! signs where required, liaising with police & owners re problems with graffiti & anti-social behaviour, spraying Japanese Knotweed in PC Quarry and repairing bus shelters.

Last year the council gave or promised the following grants; St Barnabas Church clock maintenance (£130), War Memorial Hall (£3,500) and Teddy Bear Club (£500). In addition, from a separate fund, the council promised to give Bradwell Sports Club £10,000 towards the cost of their MUGA.

For your information, our RFO (Richard Jarman) has resigned from his position due to work pressures, so this will be his last APM. Advertisements for this position have been placed around the village.

5. Responsible Financial Officer's Report

Audit Timetable

The 2009/10 accounts will be reviewed by the Internal Auditor in May and submitted to the Parish Council for approval at its June meeting. The Annual Return is then submitted to the Audit Commission after whose approval the accounts become publicly available to all electors

Financial Performance – General Funds

- At 31 March 2010 the Parish Council's General Fund Expenditure is projected as £46,974 and its income as £54,963, the surplus of £7,989 being carried forward to general funds.
- A transfer of £10,000 was made to the Fixed Asset Sinking Fund whose purpose is to build up reserves to replace play equipment on Town Bottom and Beggars Plot.
- The net deficit on the annual Carnival was £1,491
- The General Reserves are projected to stand at £61,174 at the end of March 2010.
- In 2010/2011, The Parish Council has set its precept at £51,861, an increase of 2%

Other Designated Funds

The Parish Council also holds the following designated funds:-

- Bradwell Community Fund: The projected balance in this fund is £5,555.
- Bradwell Youth Club/Youth Centre: The projected balance in this fund at March 2010 is £5,398

Financial Policy and Investment Strategy

During the year Local Council's received Central Government guidance on investment strategy and the management of financial reserves having due regard to the security of high street banks.

The Parish Council's enters 2010/2011 on a sound financial footing.

6. Committee Reports

Youth Centre (PD)

The Youth Centre has been through a difficult year. The coordinator, Bill McCartney, resigned as he was moving away from the village. Plans were prepared to close the centre, however we were able to persuade Derbyshire County Youth Services to take over running of the centre and this arrangement is now stable and running well. The youngsters were taken on trips and outside activities during the year, including to a paint balling event in July. Grateful thanks are due to the small band of people who have helped us keep this initiative running, and especially to Councillor Walker and his partner for their continuing efforts.

Youth Services' longer term involvement cannot be guaranteed for the future. We will work with them to retain their services. The Youth Centre building is available on a grace and favour basis from Newburgh, and we can't assume that this arrangement will continue indefinitely.

During the year, some funds were used for football coaching for village youngsters and Councillors Slater and Eyre were the driving force behind this activity.

Rights of Way committee (CF)

Cllr Furness then gave a review of the work of the Rights of Way committee. His review included the following comments:-

- It had been a busy year for the committee with site visits in addition to committee meetings.
- The survey of parish footpaths had been passed to DCC for action, and it was reported by DCC that 50% of paths failed the required standard..
- A village transport map was being developed. Thanks were offered to those who worked on this.
- The registration of the Peace Gardens with Land Registry and as Village Greens was progressing.
- Liaison with adjoining parishes to obtain a Traffic Regulation Order on Brough Lane progresses.
- The inclusion of the Dale Quarry on parish insurance was now agreed and a routine inspection / maintenance plan was in place.
- The plan to acquire and improve the plot of land at Dale End had been abandoned.
- The footpath to Bradwell Edge was again causing concern. The committee was working with DCC to resolve this matter.
- The matter of parking on the former Legion site was deferred until the Newburgh situation was resolved.
- Thanks were offered to Mr J Riddall for his contribution on the committee and to Brian Nicols, the caretaker, for his work.

Carnival committee report 2009/2010 (VH)

Last year's Carnival took place on Saturday 1st August 2009, a slightly damp and cold day, to say the least! The overall event manager was Ashley Briggs, while Liz Briggs managed the stalls and Emma Darwent managed the Queens.

We had trouble getting some stalls onto the site and some stalls didn't show up. Of those who did their takings were inevitably down. Overall the stalls made around £300, about half of the previous year's takings. The Queens did very well given the circumstances. However, a good time was had by all, especially the Dog and Ducks. It was amazing how quickly Beggars Plot recovered.

The overall cost of the Carnival was £1,491, however the village profited overall from the street collections, car parking, and visitor spending in the churches, shops, pubs etc.

This year's Carnival will take place on Saturday 31st July with a budget of £3,800, the theme will be the Circus. There will be no event on the second Saturday. Organisation of the event is well under way,

Playing Fields committee Report (JL)

The Playing Fields committee is now responsible for both playing fields. The committee usually inspects both playing fields before meeting to discuss the findings and future plans. All proposals arising from these meetings are then presented to the full council.

Following the last annual RoSPA inspection of Beggars Plot, no major concerns were reported, just some low risk factors, which have since been addressed. In addition:-

- New swing seats have been purchased & installed
- The benches on the Gore Lane side of the field have been repaired & treated.
- General maintenance, e.g. repairs to walls, repairs to gates, trimming of overhanging trees, the cleaning of the Youth Shelter, and the trimming of overgrowing ivy, has been carried out.
- The soft pour, surrounding the roundabout, will be repaired as the weather improves.
- A Successful Carnival was held there last year & will be again this year.

Following the last annual RoSPA inspection of Town Bottom Playing Field, the major concern was the roundabout and this has now been made safe.

The play equipment on this playing field is now in need of upgrading and this will be addressed during the coming year.

After the annual tree inspection, it was found that the Alder and another tree adjacent to the Shoulder needed to be felled. In addition some ivy on walls has been removed and a laurel has been trimmed. Repairs were carried out to walls around the playing field, a disabled swing seat was purchased, and two new benches have been purchased.

The suggestion to install a Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) on Town Bottom Playing Field has been taken up by Bradwell Sports Club & is to be sited on the Sports Field. The council has pledged £10,000 towards this project.

Thanks were given to Brian Nicols, the village caretaker, for his help over the past year.

7. Report by Other Authorities

Derbyshire Constabulary (PC I R)

PC Ian Richardson gave his Police report for the past year. He reported that overall crime levels were down in the Hope Valley Safer Neighbourhood Team area, although the incidence of anti-social behaviour was up. He then gave examples of the types of crimes that had been reduced. He then answered a number of queries raised by residents.

Derbyshire County Council (Cllr J Twigg)

DCC Cllr Judith Twigg gave a report on DCC work & initiatives that could be of relevance to Bradwell residents. This included a) information on grants, b) "Easier Journeys" grants to Community Transport schemes c) the "Safer Homes" scheme, d) advice to use the "Trusted Trader" scheme, e) she apologised for the lack of grit in the village, f) the initiative to stamp out fly-tippers, g) the Library service initiative to target scams and fraud, h) the Waste plans to reduce the amount of rubbish being sent to land-fill, and i) the grant of £1k given to the 'Cotton Grass theatre'.

She then responded to a number of questions were then asked by the public. These included the lack of gritting, applying for grants, lack of progress in the implementation of TROs and her involvement with the Newburgh planning application.

Derbyshire Dales District Council (Cllr J Goodison)

DDDC Cllr Goodison addressed the meeting to say a) that DDDC had reserved £10k for the Bradwell MUGA, b) that regarding the Newburgh application, she intends to speak at the PDNPA meeting and she will investigate why DDDC has not responded to PDNPA's consultation request, c) she outlined new plans for handling waste collection and d) stated that DDDC has exceeded the national government targets for waste recycling.

8. Questions from the Public

Newburgh

The matter of the Newburgh application was discussed. Mr Higgs raised a number of concerns about this application and these concerns were also raised by Mr Waining. There was a general about this matter. Mr Riddall stated that Newburgh was in close discussion with PDNPA and that planning objections were likely to be addressed before the amended application was submitted. He also stated the application would be decided by members of PDNPA and that residents should be ready to speak at the decision meeting on matters of planning law. It was felt that it would be useful for PDNPA to attend another village meeting to keep residents updated on progress. The three parliamentary candidates were asked that, if elected, they would be willing to attend village meetings on this matter. They all agreed.

It was decided that a resident's letter asking many specific questions should be dealt with by the PC.

The Chairmen thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9:21 p.m.