

**Notes of
BRADWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held in the Methodist Hall at 7:30 p.m.
on Tuesday 24th APRIL 2012**

Present:-

Parish Council Members

Cllr R Davies, Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr L Granger, Cllr P Higgs,
Cllr K Lancaster, Cllr A Nash, Cllr S Ridgeway, Cllr R Stevens,

Steve Lawless

Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council

Cllr Mrs J Twigg

Derbyshire County Council

Cllr Chris Furness

Derbyshire Dales District Council

Mr J Keeley

PDNPA

PCSO A Boswell

Derbyshire Constabulary

8 members of the public attended

The Chairman introduced the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr V Horstead,

2. Notes of Annual Parish Meeting – Wednesday 20th April 2011

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

3. Parish Chairman's Report

This has been a very good year for Bradwell Parish Council. The major achievements this year have included:

- Completion of the purchase and installation of the new play equipment on Town Bottom playing field. In excess of £60,000 was spent – probably the largest investment in village amenities ever by the Parish Council – and overall the feedback from residents has been highly favourable. Council has begun to plan for the replacement of the play equipment on Beggar's Plot and will continue to maintain and assess these areas to make sure they continue to meet the needs of the younger people of the village
- The Parish Council played an active part in the procurement and installation of the new Multi Use Games Area. In addition to donating £10,000 of Council funds to this venture it also acted as the "Accountable Body" to facilitate grants and to ensure the project went ahead.
- We had an extremely successful village Carnival in 2011, and thanks to everyone who helped to make that happen. Plans for 2012 are underway.
- We have been able to hold the precept at the same level as last year, reflecting the current drive for austerity and recognising all the financial pressures on residents.

There have been a number of changes in Council membership during the year.

- We began the year with only six Councillors, but were able to co-opt Rose Stevens in May (7)
- In June we also co-opted Peter Higgs and Richard Harrison (9), but Richard only stayed a short time before resigning (8)
- Sarah Ridgeway joined us in July (8) and Jenny Lawson resigned in September (7)
- Then in February this year Chris Furness retired to take up his appointment as District Councillor and we were able to co-opt Katrina Lancaster and Linda Granger, bringing us back up to nine Councillors.
- We still have one vacancy.
- My observation is that we have an efficient, effective Council with a wide range of skills. Although sessions are often "lively" and there is much forthright speaking, this has only served to sharpen the discussions and we are getting some good work done.

I want to thank all current Councillors for their time and dedication to Council work, and also to note with thanks the service given by those who have now left us.

Last, but by no means least, we all owe thanks to our Clerk, Steve Lawless, who has doubled up this past year as RFO. Which seems to be an appropriate point to hand over to Steve for his Parish Clerk's report, followed by the Financial report.

4. Parish Clerk's Report

1. Parish Council

There is presently one councillor vacancy and the contact details for all Councillors are given in the Residents' Information Sheet on the Notice Board and on the website..

2. Partner Authorities (for benefit of the village)

Your council has worked a number of other authorities, but mainly with:-

PDNPA – There have been 14 new domestic PAs this year, which is less than last year.

DCC –New handrails & other remedial work has been carried out on the footpaths from Brookside up the Lumb as has repairs to FPs in Smalldale.

DDDC – We were all saddened to hear of the death of DDDC Cllr Janet Goodison & are mindful that she had been a member of Bradwell Parish Council. Our thoughts go to Bill & to her family. The main village issues associated with DDDC are **refuse collection** (loss of monthly Saturday skip lorry, introduction of additional re-cycling opportunities) and the matter of the **public toilets** at Town Bottom. Cllr C Furness has been elected as our DDDC councillor and we congratulate him on this and also on his appointment to represent the DDDC on the PDNPA board.

Police - We are working with Derbyshire Constabulary and have agreed two priorities with them a) to assist in maintaining the Youth Club and b) monitoring traffic speeds through the village.

Probation Service – for clearing weed from the Brook and decorating the Youth Club.

3. Some of the achievements and activities of the council over the past year include:-

The **highlight** of the last year was the refurbishment of the Town Bottom playing field.

The installation of the Village Map near the TBPF Toilet Block was also very welcome – and our thanks go to all involved esp. Mr Keith Brett, Ms Ellie Dunn & Mr Alan Hearsom.

The council would like to thank all those involved with the **litter picking** group for all their work.

The council would like to thank the **WI** for planting out the **village tubs** twice per year and also for maintaining the **garden area** near the toilet block. This has been a great improvement.

4. Grant Fund for Village

Each year the council has a fund of money, called the S137 grant, available to give grants to qualifying village organisations. Last year £3,000 of S137 grants was committed to village organisations. Details in the RFO report.

5. Thanks

Thanks to all who have worked to help council deliver. These include Emma Day & Phillip Maden, the Youth leader and Assistant. Also, thanks go to the village caretakers, Paul Nicols, Julian Frith & Martin Salvage.

5. Financial Reports

Background

The key decision concerning the 2011/12 finances was to set the precept at £33,580, which represents a decrease of 35% over the previous year. This year, in recognition of the national austerity programme, council decided to retain this low level of precept for 2012/13, i.e. a zero % increase.

Financial Performance:-

General Fund: The headlines to note are as follows:-

- The cost of insurance was more than £400 cheaper than budgeted.
- The cost of audit fees was significantly less than budgeted (c. £1,375).
- The Officers' salaries were over budget by c. £950 in recognition for additional hours worked.
- Council had budgeted for another village referendum (for the Newburgh proposal) which has not yet happened. This led to a saving of £1,250.
- Playing Field maintenance was £600 under budget.
- Grass mowing was c. £400 under budget.
- The Filling (& provision of) grit bins was £1,000 under budget.

The net effect of all operational variances is an under-spend of c. £5,000.

The **Fixed Assets Sinking Fund**, for the refurbishment of the play equipment, at the start of 2011/2012 was c. £7,500 and it is planned to transfer any surplus funds at year end into this fund for the refurbishment of Beggars Plot play equipment.

Carnival Fund

The balance in this fund at March 2011 was £4,300. The net cost of the Carnival event was £1,561. It was agreed to retain the budget for the coming year at £4,300.

Bradwell Youth Club: The balance of the grant money remaining was £4,060. The running cost for the Youth Club during the past year was £2,667. The balance at the start of 2012/13 is £1,393 and council proposes to top up this fund by £1,000 to enable the Club to run for the next financial year.

S137 Fund: The council has the power to give grants to village organisations. The fund at the start of last year was £3,000. Grants given were Memorial Hall - £1,860; Well Dressing - £500; BVPG - £400; St Barnabas - £130; Bowls - £100; BECT - £45.

Audit Timetable

The council's annual accounts have now been submitted for review by the Internal Auditor. The Parish Council's Annual Return will then be submitted to the Audit Commission and, following approval, this will then become publicly available to all electors.

The year ending March 2012 concluded with an under-spend of c. £5,000 and the Parish Council enters 2012/2013 on a sound financial footing sufficient to meet all its day to day liabilities, relying on the agreed precept of £33,580 and taking £18,450 from General Reserves to cover the planned expenditure of £52,030.

Plans for 2012/13 (Cllr Stevens)

- The full council managed financial matters at its monthly meetings from May 2011 until more councillors were appointed to support a separate Finance committee. The internal auditor signed the annual return to confirm that the accounts were properly prepared and accurate.
- This financial year there have been three meetings of the Finance committee:
At the first meeting, the overall budget was increase to £52,031, which included a Sinking Fund contribution of £10,000. It was decided that the committee should recommend a precept of £33,580 to the Parish Council in November with the shortfall of £18,451 being taken from General Reserves. This was accepted at full council.
At the second meeting working papers on past expenditure, future budgets, projected revenues and precepts were discussed; it was recommended that a five year rolling financial plan be put in place with regular reviews. These recommendations were put to full council and approved.
At the third meeting progress reports for the internal auditor and preparations for the external audit were tabled and variances were examined; the committee noted how best value had been achieved, especially with a reduction of £1000 for insurance and budget reductions being made in grass cutting, saving the village £3000.
- As a committee, together with the clerk, we have aspired to provide an efficient service to the community, ensuring insurance protection, assessing risks and ensuring responsibly administered finances.

6. Committee Reports

Carnival committee report: Cllr S Ridgeway reported as follows:-

Last year's Carnival theme was 'Heroes'. The turnout of floats was excellent, and the children's entertainer featured characters such as Ben 10 and Fireman Sam. Ashley Briggs was the event manager; Vanessa Horstead manager of queens, and Liz Briggs and Sarah Ridgeway in charge of stalls. There was a fantastic turnout of carnival royalty in the parade and subsequent competitions, which included a Bradwell Rosebud. The weather was beautiful and it really made the day. The total cost to the Parish Council was £1,561.74. The approx. £900 money from street collections was split between the Teddy Bear Club and the Community Orchard Group. Thanks go to members of the Parish Council, the Carnival Committee, and everyone else involved for their help in planning and their hard work on the day.

Playing Fields committee Report: Cllr P Higgs reported as follows:-

Following her retirement as Chair, the Playing Fields committee would like to thank Cllr Jenny Lawson for all her outstanding work during her years in office. During her final year, Bradwell was provided with a completely new range of play equipment on the Town Bottom field. This equipment has been well received by the parish. This was the largest expenditure on a single project undertaken in the parish and is testimony to the hard work of Councillor Lawson.

Saturday 9th July saw the official opening of the Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) by Bradwell Sports Club, the provision of which was greatly assisted by the Parish Council.

There was a successful RoSPA Play Area Inspection of both playing fields, and the low risk, wear and tear issues have been addressed by the village caretaker.

The new Playing Fields committee met in March 2012 and made some recommendations to council. The main issue was the possible need to replace the wooden equipment on Beggars Plot in the near future. The committee has already started to plan for its replacement. A survey of the trees on Beggars Plot identified some maintenance work which has already been commissioned. Some village young people have approached the council to seek help in the installation of a skate park in the village. The council are presently considering this request.

Youth Club committee report:

Cllr S Ridgeway reported that despite some staffing issues the Youth Club is still viable. A new Youth Leader, Emma Day, started on 04.01.11 and has built up a good rapport with members. As member numbers increased and volunteer levels fell we then employed an assistant, Phillip Maden, who has provided enthusiastic support for Emma.

Financially, the club started the year with £4,060 and ended with £1,393. There is an agreed input of £1,000 from the Parish Council for 2012/2013 but this will be the last planned cash injection.

Towards the end of the Easter term 2012, there was a marked increase in the number of children attending and Emma hopes to run one-off events during the summer.

Many thanks to Newburgh Engineering for providing the facility and it is pleasing to note that they still have the Youth Club in mind by proposing to include it in their new planning application.

7. Report by Other Authorities

Derbyshire County Council:

DCC Cllr J Twigg reported on many of the highlights of the county council, which included:-

- The DCC council tax has been frozen for the second year
- £120M has been allocated for roads, schools & job creation
- £1.5M has been allocated for community transport schemes (incl. £200k for BECT)
- £7.5M has been allocated to improve broadband services

Changes to street lighting were discussed, with the aim of making £400k savings in the cost of provision. The possibility of a vehicle activate speed sign was also discussed.

Derbyshire Dales District Council:

DDDC Cllr Furness' report to the meeting included:-

- The DDDC council tax has been frozen and it will fund its operation from the 2.5% government rebate, cost savings and from reserves.
- The toilets at Town Bottom have been refurbished at a cost of c. £15k.
- Changes are planned to the collection of domestic waste. It is expected that these changes will make an annual saving of £380k p.a. and also increase recycling from 41% to 53%.
- There is no DDDC support for the re-instatement of the monthly Saturday skip service.

PDNPA:

Mr John Keeley answered questions from residents.

He reported that PDNPA awaited the submission of the changed Newburgh planning application which will include supporting technical information. PDNPA will then analyse this application and consult with statutory consultees and hold a 'drop-in' session for residents. Residents are advised to submit any comments/concerns in writing to PDNPA.

Mr Keeley stated that the PDNPA are evaluating the impact of the new Localism Act and that the PDNPA Core Strategy, a key element of this Act, has already been implemented.

Derbyshire Constabulary:

PCSO Anthony Boswell's report included:-

- Youth Club – this club, and the MUGA, have reduced service calls to the police.
- Speed Watch – there have been many checks in Bradwell, with relatively low numbers of failures. More volunteers would be welcome.
- Shed Safe – reduced cost shed alarms will be for sale.
- Bikes – the 'Lock it or Lose it' campaign is to raise awareness of bike thefts.

8. Questions from the Public

PCSO Boswell was asked about police actions to reduce metal thefts. He replied that the police were carrying out checks on collecting vehicles to ensure their paperwork was in order and were also conducting checks on dealers. The drive was to make all transactions 'non-cash' to improve traceability.

PCSO Boswell was asked about the process to reduce late night noise around the village. He stated that anonymous police phone numbers / Crimestopper numbers were available and that police statistics were linked to the licensing authorities.

Mr V Middleton asked if it was possible for the council to assist in reclaiming some of the rates payable on the building housing the Youth Club. Cllr Furness agreed to investigate this at DDDC.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9:15 p.m.