

**Notes of
BRADWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held in the Methodist Hall at 7:30 p.m.
on Tuesday 7th MAY 2013**

Present:-

Parish Council Members

Cllr R Davies, Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr L Granger, Cllr P Higgs, Cllr V Horstead, Cllr K Lancaster, Cllr A Nash, Cllr S Ridgeway, Cllr M Salvage, 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
Mr J Keeley PDNPA

41 members of the public attended

The Chairman introduced the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2. Notes of Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 24th April 2012

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

3. Parish Chairman's Report (Cllr Downing)

2012/13 was a very busy year for the Parish Council. In contrast to previous years we have enjoyed a comparatively stable Council membership. We began the year with nine Councillors, co-opted Councillor Ian Hancock in July - who resigned in November due to pressures of work - and co-opted Councillor Martin Salvage in February 2013 to bring us back to our full complement of ten. Your Councillors ending the year 2012/13 are:

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|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Cllr Paul Downing | - | Chair |
| Cllr Andy Nash | - | Vice Chair |
| Cllr Linda Granger | - | Neighbourhood Plan Committee Chair |
| Cllr Peter Higgs | - | Playing Fields Committee Chair |
| Cllr Katrina Lancaster | - | Youth Club Committee Chair |
| Cllr Sarah Ridgeway | - | Carnival Committee Chair |
| Cllr Rose Stevens | - | Finance Committee Chair |
| Cllr Reg Davies | | |
| Cllr Vanessa Horstead | | |
| Cllr Martin Salvage | | |

Activities of a general nature affecting the village which have been dealt with by the Parish Council this year have been:

- The planned closure, by Severn Trent Water, of the main road at Brough during January. Several Councillors attended a meeting in Matlock with the Severn Trent contractor - Enterprise, and several County Council officers. We patiently explained the inconvenience of closing one of the main access roads into the village at a time of year when any snowfall could cut us off completely. Despite a sceptical reception we persevered and were able to achieve a postponement of the closure until June
- Weed removal from the Brook. We were able, once again, to engage the services of the Young Offenders to clean the Brook. This took place in early September and we hope to be able to repeat the work as often as necessary
- The much vandalised toilet block was opened daily and kept locked overnight during summer months of 2012 thanks to the kind efforts of a local resident. The block has just re-opened following its winter closure and the village is very much indebted to the resident for continuing to be custodian of the keys
- Council recommended the Bradwell Litter Pickers for an "Excellence in the Community" award
- We also awarded grants to several village causes, including the Memorial Hall for significant guttering work, the Bowls Club for new equipment and the Church Clock, to keep it ticking

Playing Fields

We continue to maintain our two playing fields and their associated play equipment as well as the many other Council owned locations throughout the village. The equipment is enjoyed by many people and regular safety inspections are carried out. During the year we have increased our provision of public benches, both on the playing fields and in other open spaces.

We were asked by a group of youngsters to provide a skate and BMX track for the village and Alan Slater helped us investigate obtaining the funding which would be needed. Unfortunately, despite his best efforts, we were not successful.

At the other end of the scale we were asked to provide outdoor fitness equipment for post sixteen and adult parishioners. A range of quotations have been researched and we are gathering more information on level of demand and the most appropriate type of equipment to meet this demand.

Ongoing projects for this committee are uses for the former British Legion site, access to and use of the Town Quarry and maintenance and access to footpaths.

Carnival

Carnival 2012 was another huge success, with its theme of "The Seaside". I have vivid memories of Sarah Ridgeway chasing a trailer load of donkeys all across Derbyshire, and the very significant attendance by Bradda and other royalty from local towns and villages. We were again blessed with fine weather despite the miserable summer. The children's entertainer 'David Panks' who is now a regular booking, once again did an outstanding job.

Two members of the committee, Ashley and Liz Briggs, left last year after several years of involvement but we have received help from four new volunteers. However, if anyone can still offer any input in any way, this would be a great help to the committee.

The street collections raised £815 which was divided between Bradwell Pre-School, the Well Dressing Committee and FOBS. Many other village organisations benefitted financially from the Carnival by supplying car parking, activities and refreshments. The total cost to the parish council was £1,743.

Youth Club

Youth Club numbers have increased through the year and currently range from about 18 to 24 per session. A new deputy Youth Leader, Laura Austin was appointed last November and a Youth Leader, Matthew Loader on 10th January, 2013. It continues to be difficult to attract enough volunteers from the village to help run the sessions and we would welcome any offers of help. We are rapidly running out of funding but we did receive a very welcome £500 grant from the police. Sadly our costs are greater than that and unless we are able to generate additional revenues the youth club will not be able to operate next year.

Finance

Council established a five year plan last year, based on the following four key principles:

- That the financial reserves should not be allowed to fall below £30,000
- That the play equipment on both playing fields should be broadly maintained at its current level
- The refurbishment of the Beggar's Plot play equipment should be included in the plan
- That in 15 years time there should be sufficient funds to enable refurbishment of the Town Bottom play equipment

A key part of the five year plan comes with a recommendation to increase income by 10% per year in order to maintain a healthy financial position.

The first year of the plan has now been completed satisfactorily. The precept paid by village residents is used to finance two playing fields, the Rose and Peace Gardens, flowers on verges and in tubs, trees and tree maintenance, and general maintenance around the village (grass cutting, wall and other repairs, equipment installation), plus 29 grit bins (in addition to the DCC ones).

Due to a misunderstanding of information received, the council accepted a grant of £2,202 as revenue rather than offsetting Government changes which, as a consequence has resulted in a higher than expected increase in the village precept. However, this extra money will be carefully used to make a positive impact on future council's finances.

In fact, during this financial year we have been working hard to reduce our operating costs, which have resulted in significant savings against budget. I will put some detail to that statement.

- The administration costs for running the council were £13,900 against a budgeted cost of £21,700, **a saving of £7,800**. The main areas where these savings were achieved were £3,000 on officer's salaries, £1,250 on audit fees, £2,000 not used for planning consultancy and £800 not required for a referendum.
- The costs of General & Playing Field Maintenance were £7,700 against a budget of c. £14,000, **a saving of c. £6,300**. These savings were achieved by employing a local company to mow our grass - saving us £3,600, under-spending on filling grit bins - £1,200 saved, plus changes to our insurers and to how we conduct our annual safety inspections for play equipment.
- Council will continue to seek ways to reduce our expenditure, but the above reductions allowed us to increase the precept by only 8% instead of the 10% called for by the 5 year plan.

4. Presentations by Village Organisations

1. **Bradda Dads (Mr J Morgan, Mr J Ojari)**

Bradda Dads was formed in 1999 and presently has 17 full members and 6 associate members, all of whom are volunteers. These members freely contribute time, materials and other equipment for the benefit of the village. Fund-raising is an important activity and important sources of income include the Duck Race, the Community Christmas card, the Wolfspit Fell Race and the annual Bonfire.

Village events and support provided by Bradda Dads include Pensioners Christmas lunch, making safe graveyard headstones, cleaning of the Scout Hut, Diamond Jubilee Beacon and the Junior School gardening.

This organisation, which recently received a DCC 'Excellence in the Community' award, is open to further requests for help. It would like to have the Brook cleared of weed to help its Duck Race and would like adequate permanent storage facilities near the centre of the village. It could possibly provide support for the Youth Club.

2. **FOBS (Mrs M Seymour)**

The aim of FOBS is to provide funds and experiences to children of both village schools so that every child will benefit. It is well supported by the heads of both schools. Fund-raising is an important activity and important sources of income include the Carnival Street Fair, sponsored walks / events, sale of summer plants, subscriptions from families, shopping nights.

Schools events supported by FOBS include the end of year trips, Panto trips and Christmas parties with presents. In addition, FOBS funds have provided software for school computers and have made a major contribution to the cost of a new piano. FOBS is planning events integrated into the school day or after school time, and supports events organised by the schools. A Children's Art exhibition is being planned.

The organisation is struggling at present and the finances are not in good shape. There is no planned continuity of committee members for when children of the present committee move to Hope Valley College and the parents then become involved in supporting the new college.

3. **Scout Group (Mrs J Warvell, Mrs J Rowe)**

In order to establish the First Bradwell Scout group, the Scout Association was first approached. The keys of the Scout Hut were provided and local volunteers 'got on with it'. Bradda Dads helped with the initial work of clearing and a lot of hard work has gone into sorting the premises and making it useable. Heating has been installed, but the single glazing makes it difficult to keep the building warm. This year the group applied for and has been awarded a part of the Carnival street collection.

The group now has a committee and supporting infrastructure. The unisex Beavers colony has been started, now with 10 members, and enquiries have been received about starting a Cubs pack.

Equipment (e.g. cookers, fridges) is needed, so any donations would be gratefully received. As a fund-raising measure, it is planned to make the hall available for public hire, say 10 – 12 times a year. There are restrictions on use due to the narrowness of the lane, but it could well be suitable for local meetings.

4. **Bradwell War Memorial Hall (Mrs M Harrison)**

Mrs Harrison started her presentation by quoting from the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Bradwell War Memorial Hall committee giving the main reason for the building of the Hall, which was to honour those who gave their lives in the First World War.

The Hall has recently benefitted from new central heating and a new kitchen. However the task of maintaining & improving the Hall was now more difficult due to tougher legislation and increased utility costs. It is necessary to generate more income to cover these increasing costs.

The challenge is to increase the usage of the Hall at weekends, and the inside is in need of re-decorating. The Hall will need the help of the community,

5. **Bradwell Community Orchard Group (Ms B Stewert)**

Bridget gave a brief review of the history of the group, starting from the initial idea of creating the orchard in the land now designated as part of the Newburgh planning application. Since this idea was not feasible, a long lease was obtained from Lafarge for a plot of land along Michlow Lane at a peppercorn rental. The site was unused land that required a lot of work to make it viable. Rocks and thistles had to be removed and the walls rebuilt. Help was obtained from many volunteers, including the PDNPA rangers.

Around 3 years ago a group was formed which now has 43 members. This group meets twice per month to carry out maintenance and development of the orchard site. 43 trees have been planted as well as many soft fruit shrubs. In addition, a number of beehives have been installed which are now producing honey. This honey won first prize at the last Hope Show.

This orchard site is seen as a community amenity and is open to all. Fund-raising is an on-going challenge.

5. **Latest Information on the Newburgh planning application (Mr J Keeley – PDNPA)**

Mr Keeley gave an update on the latest position regarding the Newburgh planning application. He stated that the application was incomplete, more information was required and that the application has not yet been submitted to the planning committee or withdrawn. It is presently held in abeyance.

Before this application can progress, Newburgh Engineering Company (NEC) must demonstrate that a need exists for the number of dwellings and will need to provide an adequate viability assessment.

It is estimated that it will take NEC c. 6 weeks to provide this additional information, which will be subject to analysis by an independent financial consultant before the officer's report can be written. This officer's report will then be submitted to members of the planning committee.

Any residents who wish to address the planning committee will need to contact Democratic Services by the Wednesday before the meeting. Mr Keeley also stated that the officer's report will reference the many residents' letters of objection.

6. **Village Input to Issues (Cllr Downing)**

Neighbourhood Plan (Cllr Granger)

Cllr Granger summarised the plans for the development of a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Bradwell. She stated that the Bradwell Parish Plan has now been completed, adopted by PDNPA and is to be printed and distributed in the near future and that the Bradwell Civil Parish (CP) has been adopted by PDNPA as the Bradwell Neighbourhood Area.

A NP will be a legal document that PDNPA must consider for every future planning application. She stated that the cost of producing a NP could be c. £10k and that if no grants were obtained, then the parish council would not proceed with this initiative. Grants are being sought, the maximum presently available is £7k.

The parish council committee will appoint a number of working groups, each of which will address specific issues. Residents are needed to join these working groups. The views of all residents will be sought throughout the process, which will be subject to a village referendum where a minimum of 50% acceptance is required for adoption. It is planned to hold the referendum as part of the 2015 local elections.

Former Royal British Legion site

Cllr Downing gave the background of recent events and asked for the feelings of those present. A number of residents suggested that the fences should be removed and that residents be allowed to freely park there. Alternative suggestion was that a management group could administer the facility, perhaps by charging a reasonable annual rental. These views will be taken into consideration when the matter is next considered by the parish council.

Skate Park

Cllr Downing gave the background of recent events and asked for the feelings of those present. It was noted that a grant has not yet been obtained, and that this will mean that this project cannot yet proceed. Residents queried where this facility is planned to be installed. Cllr Higgs suggested that the Quarry Piece would be ideal, subject to safe access and a reliable mobile signal. These views will be taken into consideration when the matter is next considered by the Playing Fields committee.

Senior Exercise Equipment

Cllr Downing gave the background of recent events and asked for the feelings of those present. There appeared to be very little support for this suggestion. This response will be taken into consideration when the matter is next considered by the Playing Fields committee.

Electrification of Church Clock

Cllr Downing gave the background to recent events and asked for the feelings of those present. Initially, there was a mixed response to this suggestion with some residents in favour of electrification whilst others supported the present manual arrangements. Following an enthusiastic contribution by one of the regular winders of the clock, the meeting consensus moved to making the access to the winding platform safer by installing hoops on the ladders. This response will be taken into consideration when this matter is next considered by the council.

Village Working Parties

The Clerk suggested to the meeting that perhaps some community-minded residents could form one or more working parties to improve various areas of the village (e.g. footpaths, pavements, verges), in the same way as the litter pickers carry out tidying the village. If resources are required to carry out this work, then these groups could approach council for grants to do this work.

Youth Club

It had been mentioned earlier in the meeting that the Youth Club was now successfully running with c. 20 members for each Thursday evening session. However the funds to pay the salaries of YC helpers were now running low and could be exhausted by Christmas. The Police had recently donated a grant of £500 towards the staff costs which would allow the YC to run for 7 more sessions.

One suggestion from the residents was to seek local businesses to sponsor one session each for £70.

Environment Agency – Flood Action Plan

Cllr Downing gave the background of recent events and asked for the feelings of those present. There was some discussion about this topic with concern expressed that the development of a Flood Plan might have an adverse impact on insurance premiums in the Flood Plain. It was suggested that a Flood Plan would probably reassure insurance companies and might well help reduce premiums. Residents who were interested in helping develop a Flood Plan should give their names to the Clerk.

7. Bradwell Carnival 2013 (Cllr Ridgeway)

This topic was not discussed at this time.

8. General Q&A (Cllr Downing)

DCC Cllr J Twigg stated that DCC money could be available for village organisations. These organisations should apply to her and provide details of the purposes and amounts requested.

Residents thanked Cllr Twigg for the recent work done on improving Brough Lane. It was noted that the renewal of the water mains from Brough to Bradwell was planned to start from 3rd June 2013.

DDDC Cllr C Furness was asked when the domestic refuse bags would be delivered by Serco. Cllr Furness agreed to progress this matter with DDDC & Serco and would respond when information was available. It was noted that Bradwell domestic refuse was collected on Mondays. This day was frequently subject to change due to Bank Holidays.

Some residents complained about the acoustics of the hall and the need for an amplification system. This matter will be progressed by Cllr Higgs.

Mr S Bradwell expressed his thanks to the council for the work of all councillors over the previous year.

9. Thanks & Close (Cllr Downing)

The Chairman thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9:45 p.m.