

**Notes of the BRADWELL
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
held in the Methodist Hall
at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday 21st MAY 2014**

Present:-

Parish Council Members

Cllr R Davies, Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr P Higgs, 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
Mr J Keeley	PDNPA
Ms C Parsons	PDNPA
PC I Richardson	Derbyshire Constabulary
PCSO A Boswell	Derbyshire Constabulary
Paul Hawker	Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service
Julian Frith	Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service

c. 50 members of the public attended

The Chairman introduced the meeting and welcomed those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr L Granger & Cllr V Horstead.

2. Notes of Annual Parish Meeting – Tuesday 7th May 2013

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

3. Parish Chairman's Report (Cllr Downing)

2013/14 was a very busy year for the Parish Council but we were helped by another year of stable membership. We have had only one change since the last Parish Meeting, Sarah Ridgeway leaving us in August to pursue her new career, to be replaced by Lorraine Sowerby. Even though she has left Council, Sarah continues to be very involved with Carnival and the Youth Club for which we are very grateful. Our new Councillor has been very active and has been keeping us all on our toes. We have our full complement of ten, and as we end the Council year the Councillors are:

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 Martin Salvage	-	Carnival Committee Chair
Cllr Rose Stevens	-	Finance Committee Chair
Cllr Reg Davies		
Cllr Vanessa Horstead		
Cllr Lorraine Sowerby		

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

- The closure, by Severn Trent Water, of the main road at Brough for what seemed to be an age. You will recall that we managed to get this work delayed from last winter, and what a good job we did. That stage of the work is now complete, but we should anticipate further work at some point to bring the new supply further up into the village. We will keep you posted.
- We were able, once again, to engage the services of the Young Offenders to clean the Brook. This now seems to be an annual event, but everyone seems to agree it makes the village look much nicer when completed.
- The toilet block at Town Bottom continues to challenge us. Having been locked all winter it was re-opened at Easter and will remain open for the summer months. Residents had complained about the external lights continually burning and we have now been able to get them turned off.

- In conjunction with Hathersage Parish Council, and to fight the planned closure of our fire stations, we formed a new group called "Save the Hope Valley Fire Service". The village responded magnificently and we were successful. We are now in direct contact with the fire service, seeking ways to work with them to ensure our essential emergency services are not removed. The village owes Councillor Nash in particular a vote of thanks for his efforts and for becoming a radio celebrity when the need arose.
- We awarded Section 137 grants to several village causes, including £700 to the Methodist Church, £130 and £250 to St Barnabas Church and £1,500 to the Memorial Hall.

This year, in addition to brief Playing Fields, Carnival, Youth Club and Finance reports (and you can ask any detailed questions of the committee chairs after this presentation), I have added an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. As you might have heard, Council is working with the village to develop the Bradwell Neighbourhood Plan, which will allow us to decide how residents want the village and its surroundings to develop and grow over the next ten years. There will be a separate presentation about this plan later in the agenda.

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.

In addition to weekly inspections by the caretaker, the playing fields and open spaces are inspected by the committee every quarter and any necessary steps taken to correct hazards or items in need of repair. We are currently looking at facilities which are under-utilised, and in this context plan to remove the goal posts from Town Bottom and possibly create a toddlers play area in the basketball court.

We also carry out quarterly inspections of the quarry at Dale End to identify any hazards.

An ongoing project is that we now have funding and a project manager to coordinate creation of a car park for 12 vehicles on the former British Legion site in Soft Water Lane. We have been promised a District Council grant for this work and hope to finish it next year.

Carnival

Carnival 2013 was another huge success and we were yet again blessed with fine weather. The children's entertainer 'David Panks' who is now a regular booking, once again did an outstanding job. The only negative to report is that a visitor stumbled and fell when exiting the field at the small gate near to the Town End well location. Despite this apparently being a fairly minor accident the visitor saw fit to sue Council for not making it clear that if you walk down a slope in flip flop sandals you do run a risk of falling. The legal costs of defending such a claim outweigh any possible gain, and we were advised by our insurers to simply allow them to pay the claim, which they did. Steps have now been taken to improve all access gates to avoid a repetition this year.

We had problems last year with the signed diversion during the road closure and will be trying to make sure it is better this year. It is very difficult to by-pass the village if you do not know the roads.

Councillors, assisted by other volunteers continue to run Carnival and we are grateful to them for their continuing enthusiasm and energy. This year the theme is "Explorers of This World and Beyond", which gives everyone a lot of scope for inventiveness. We are looking at possibly having an event on the second Saturday.

Council set a budget of £3,000 for the running of the 2013 Carnival on the first Saturday of Gala week. Expenditure for bands, the parade and the attractions on Beggars Plot came to £2,446.25, whilst the direct income from stalls and donations was £675.00, giving a final cost to the council of £1,771.25. The street collection last year raised £710.40 which was divided between Teddy Bears, Pre-School and the Scouts. Many other village organisations benefitted financially from Carnival by supplying car parking, activities and refreshments. It is estimated that the direct benefit to these groups was approximately £7,000, whilst no estimate has been made of the indirect benefit to village commerce (pubs, shops, chippie).

It should also be mentioned that the Carnival committee has agreed this year to organise the street closures for the well blessings. This is in response to a request for help from the well dressing committee.

Finance

Current expenditure is tracked at monthly PC meetings followed by quarterly scrutiny at Finance Committee meetings. The Clerk continues to cover two roles (Clerk and RFO), which saves Council and the village quite a lot of money.

This is the second year of our Five Year Plan. We have continued to work hard at making savings in a number of areas and have negotiated more favourable terms for insurance, grass cutting and grit bin salt. We are adhering to the four principles we agreed we would follow for the 5 year plan and are again setting the precept below the 10% marker at 9%; our reserves and sinking fund are on target. The Finance Committee receives bids from the Carnival, Playing Fields and Youth Club committees before deciding the precept and it should be noted here that the Local Tax Support Fund was reduced this year.

An asset register has been completed with replacement values and depreciation rates applied.

On the negative side, we have had to pay for the services of a consultant to assist in the village's case against the Newburgh overdevelopment.

Given the current problems surrounding the Co-Operative group we have moved some of our reserve funds from the Co-Op bank to Santander, but low interest rates produce less income from this invested money.

Youth Club

Numbers attending the Youth Club over the year have steadily increased. Finances have been much helped by local sponsorship and by grants obtained by PCSO Boswell. Many thanks to PCSO Boswell for this and to everyone who volunteers and helps our Youth Club leaders, Wendy Butler and Laura Austin. Thanks also to Nick McCloud for his DJ sessions and for arranging a visit to the Gliding Club. Work is currently progressing on 2 mosaic tableaux which it is hoped will be exhibited at a local gallery, Hope Valley College and at Bradwell Carnival.

We are grateful to Newburgh Engineering for allowing us the use of one of their buildings for our Youth Club activities over many years. Sadly, we have just been advised by them that they now wish us to vacate the premises by the end of June. We are therefore looking for somewhere else where the club can meet and a special Council meeting has been arranged for next week to discuss our options. It would be sad if we were not able to continue, as the Club has done so much good for the village youngsters.

The Newburgh Development

It is more than five years since the first plans were introduced to the village by Newburgh. Those plans have since gone through numerous modifications, but always of a scale much larger than most residents felt sensible for a Peak District village. Last week a group of Bradwell people were to attend a planning meeting at Peak Park's Aldern House and deliver presentations opposing the plan, but at the last minute the application was withdrawn and we have John Keeley from Peak Park here this evening to talk about the application and to answer any questions on this and other planning issues. As for what happens now, we can only speculate.

4. Mr J Keeley – PDNPA

Mr Keeley gave an update on the latest position regarding the Newburgh planning application. He stated that, despite his best endeavours, 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 be progressed, Newburgh Engineering Company (NEC) will need to demonstrate that a need exists for the number of dwellings they propose to build and that NEC will need to provide an adequate viability assessment.

It is estimated that it will take NEC c. 6 weeks to provide this additional information, after which a PDNPA contracted financial consultant will need to report on the financial viability of the application before the PDNPA officers can write the officer's report. This officer's report will then be submitted to members of the planning committee. NEC will also need to provide more detailed plans of the proposed access roads.

When this application is submitted to the planning committee the officer's report will be on the PDNPA website from the Monday preceding the Friday meeting. 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.

5. 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 from FOBS. It is well supported by the heads of both schools. Money raised by FOBS is donated to the schools on a per capita basis. The committee meets c. 5 times every year and non-members are welcome to attend. 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, 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 thanked the organisers for her invitation and started her presentation by quoting from the minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Bradwell War Memorial Hall organising committee giving the reasons 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, she went on to say, 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 Stewart)**

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.

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. The Bradwell Civil Parish (CP) has been adopted by PDNPA as the Bradwell Neighbourhood Area. This, in itself, is a significant step in the production of the Neighbourhood Plan.

She then explained that the power to produce a Neighbourhood Plan was given by the Localism Act 2012 which gives communities the power to define the look and feel of how their villages will develop into the future. A NP will be a legal document that PDNPA must consider for every future planning application and is considered by PDNPA to be hugely important. She stated that the cost of producing a NP would 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.

For this initiative to be successful the help of residents is needed. 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 of defining this NP, with will be subject to a village referendum where a minimum of 50% acceptance is legally required for adoption. It is planned to hold the referendum at the same time as the 2015 local elections.

Former Royal British Legion site

Cllr Downing introduced this topic, 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, with suitable disclaimers, residents should be allowed to freely park there. Alternative suggestions were that a management group could be established to administer the facility, perhaps by charging a reasonable annual rental. There is certainly sufficient area to allow c. 10 cars to park there.

If this facility was to be used officially, then a 'change of use' would need to be obtained from PDNPA and other legal aspects would need to be considered. The fact that the land is in the flood plain is a significant factor.

These views will be taken into consideration when the matter is next considered by the parish council.

Skate Park

Cllr Downing introduced this topic, 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 introduced this topic, 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 introduced this topic, gave the background of recent events and asked for the feelings of those present. Initially, there was a mixed response to this request with some residents in favour of electrification whilst other 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.

The Clerk suggested that like minded residents could organise themselves into groups or that he would be happy to help the initial co-ordination if they contacted him.

Youth Club

It had been mentioned earlier in the meeting that the Youth Club was now successfully running with c. 20 members for each two-hour Thursday evening session. However the funds to pay the salaries of YC helpers were now running low and would be exhausted by Christmas at the present rate of spending. The Police had recently donated a grant of £500 towards the staff costs from its 'Proceeds of crime' fund 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. The Bradda Dads also suggested that it would look favourably on a request for funding.

Environment Agency –Flood Action Plan

Cllr Downing introduced this topic, gave the background of recent events and asked for the feelings of those present. There was some discussion with some residents expressing concern that the development of a Flood Plan might have an adverse impact on insurance premiums for property owners 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. 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 all councillors for their work over the previous year.

8. Thanks & Close (Cllr Downing)

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