

# BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL



## Notes of the BRADWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held in Bradwell War Memorial Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Present: -

#### Parish Council Members

Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr P Higgs, Cllr M Salvage, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr Z Harrison  
Cllr B Salisbury

Mrs C Preston Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council

Mr E Cavanagh Hope Cement  
Mr Brian Taylor Peak Park Planning Authority

c. 11 members of the public attended.

The Chairman introduced the meeting, welcomed those present.

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Nash due to attending a funeral, Cllr Granger due to holiday, Cllrs Joseph, and Lancaster due to illness.

### Notes of Last Year's Meeting

The notes from the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting were accepted by the councillors.

### Parish Council Chairman's Report

One change to council during the year was the resignation of Rachel Holloway, who found pressures of work too great to allow her to devote enough time to the role. However, we were able to bring council back to full complement with the appointment of Zach Harrison, who brings a refreshingly younger element and some interestingly different perspectives.

We have continued to move our activities away from paper and more towards digital technology, with all council's documentation now running through the Microsoft 365 system, with centralised document processing, sharing and storage, plus an electronic meetings facility which has allowed us to dispense with the council's instance of Zoom, which is no longer needed. Several councillors have been provided with electronic tablets which they can use at council meetings.

Once again, this year, despite increasing pressure on costs we have been able to keep the precept increase very low, and our rolling 5-year financial plan continues to work well.

We have been delighted with the success of the Town Bottom toilets. Numerous favourable comments have been received and aside from one instance of vandalism they have been running smoothly. One significant development is that we successfully converted the old gents' toilets into a clean room, which has been rented by Bradwell's Ice Cream as a café, serving drinks, refreshments, and ice creams to users of Town Bottom field and others who are passing by. In fact, the aptly named "Khazi Café" has quickly become a central point for village activities.

Still on the subject of the Town Bottom field it is slightly disappointing to see how few people are actually using the newly installed adult exercise equipment.

We have continued to improve the general appearance of our garden and park areas, and some residents continue to be involved in helping maintain the improvements, particularly the Rose Garden. We are very grateful to all those who are helping to keep your village clean and attractive.

Flooding in the village has again been a major concern, particularly because of the recent increase in incidents of flooding in the graveyard. All Council are able to do regarding flooding is to make sure the relevant flood authorities have us on their priority list against a background where they have so many other priorities. The two authorities involved are the Environment Agency and Derbyshire County Council and we are grateful to County Councillor Alasdair Sutton for his help in trying to get some action from them.

Mowing and maintenance of our grass verges was marginally better during the year compared to previous years, but we have still had to fight hard to get District Council to come when they should. The wildflower areas, managed by the Wildflower Group have been a success, and the group are once again managing their designated areas during 2022.

There was much discussion about whether or not Carnival should go ahead in 2021, and a final decision was not made until quite late. The decision was made to go ahead, and Carnival 2021 was a great success, with a lot of people saying how wonderful it was to be out and enjoying a social occasion after the long period of lock down. Sadly, the wells dressings did not take place again in 2021 due to concerns about the petallers having to work in close proximity to each other, but we believe that the wells will be dressed again in 2022.

Finally for this year's report I can bring residents up to date with activities at the bottom of Softwater Lane. During the year we became aware that several parcels of land were being sold, including the gravel track which leads to the Holmes. A village consortium had been formed to attempt to buy the land which was for sale and council joined the consortium with an interest in acquiring the track to secure access rights for a planned pedestrian footbridge from the Bradwell Springs estate onto the lane. This second means of egress from the site is a requirement of the planning approvals, and as a number of affordable homes promised by the developer could not be constructed unless the footbridge was built. The consortium was successful with their bid, and council now owns the access track. The footbridge has been approved by planning and will be installed in the near future. Sadly, during this process we appear to have deeply upset a Bradwell resident who also wanted to purchase the land. Since the consortium's successful bid this resident has bombarded council with freedom of information requests, repeated questions, and threats, all of which have consumed significant amounts of council's time and created a lot of work for the clerk. Residents need to be aware of the costs of these activities, which sadly show no signs of abating.

That is the end of my report. I will be happy to answer any questions, but out of respect for our distinguished guests I plan to hold any discussion of the land purchase and planning matters to the end of the meeting. We also have chairs of our various committees present and they can answer any questions you have in their specific area:

- Finance – Katrina
- Land and Playing Fields – Peter
- Amenities, Buildings and Car Parking – Linda
- Community Resilience – Mike
- Carnival and Youth Activities - Martin

I particularly want to thank all councillors for their hard work and support in what has turned out to be a difficult and challenging year, and to say that we intend to continue to serve the village in 2022/23.

We did not hold an Annual Parish Meeting in 2020 because of the Covid pandemic, but things are gradually easing in early 2021 and we have all learned a lot about how to run meetings using on-line technology. So here we are again with a brief review of council activities and to give residents an opportunity to ask us questions.

## **Reports from Other Authorities**

None

## **Bradwell Village Topics**

### **Mr Brian Taylor – Peak District Park Planning Authority**

Mr Taylor reported that the Bradwell Springs development was beneficial to the village and the Neighbourhood Plan assisted in securing the planning for the project. The time scale of eight weeks to process a planning application is not always being met. Approximately 80% of applications are delegated to the planning officers to make the decision with the remainder going before committee for a decision. They are starting to recruit additional staff to assist with planning applications, which have increased in the past twelve months. They are hoping to reintroduce the pre-planning advice service by September 2022.

Mr Taylor was asked if there was going to be any limitations to the number of holiday or second homes in the village. He replied that there are currently no laws that stop people using an existing home for a holiday let. He said that there would need to be a law change in England to stop second home/holiday let ownership. He also advised that a constraint can be added to the planning granted to a new build home which can prevent it being used as a holiday let.

### **Breedon Hope Cement Works (Operations Manager - Ed Cavanagh)**

Mr Cavanagh gave an update on the plant's performance and the challenges it faced since last year. He stated that the construction industry is currently strong in the United Kingdom. Fuel charges are increasing but are being absorbed by the company at the moment. Breedon are increasing investment in the site both in infrastructure and in people. The number of employed personnel is increasing as some contractors have been employed. They are also undergoing a program of managing trees and habitats on the 800 acres site. The plant continues to try and reduce their CO2 emissions and helping with climate change, where possible.

They are looking at a replacement limestone crusher which has a cost of approximately £8m.

Road traffic in and out is being maintained at the existing level and they plan to rely on rail wherever possible.

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

## **Presentations by Village Organisations**

**None**

## **General Q&A**

Final questions / answers and a general discussion took place. Cllr Downing confirmed that the price paid for the land at Softwater Lane would be offset by a fee of £15,000 paid by Camstead Homes to land the pedestrian bridge on council owned land.

## **Thanks & Close**

The Chairman thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9.20 p.m.