

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Notes of the BRADWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Held in Bradwell War Memorial Hall at 8.00p.m. on Tuesday 25th April 2023

Present: -

Parish Council Members

Cllr P Downing (Chair), Cllr L Granger, Cllr M Salvage, Cllr A Taylor, Cllr B Salisbury, Cllr A Nash. Cllr R Cornish, Cllr K Lancaster

Mrs C Preston Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council

Mr E Cavanagh Hope Cement Works
Ms Louise Saxon Hope Cement Works
Production Manager Hope Cement Works

c. 14 members of the public attended.

The Chair introduced the meeting, welcomed those present.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Z Harrison, District Councillor Furness, and Mr Brian Taylor (Peak Park Planning Authority)

Notes of Last Year's Meeting

The notes from the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting were accepted by the councillors.

Parish Council Chairman's Report

This has been another interesting year, with many challenges. We lost two councillors to resignation during the year, Mike Joseph due to pressures of work and absences from the village, and Peter Higgs, who has been battling illness for some time and was unable to attend our meetings. We wish them both well and thank them for their period of service to the village. But we are not letting Peter go without a struggle and are continuing to engage him in our Land and Playing Fields committee work, using his considerable skills and knowledge in support of our activities.

We are pleased to be able to announce the recent co-option of Richard Cornish, who brings new capabilities to council. You will also be aware that this is election year, and I can tell you that as we have ten seats available and only nine applicants for those seats, we are all elected unopposed.

An area which has demanded our time during the past year has been flooding, particularly the flooding in the graveyard, which has understandably caused great distress within the village. The Parish Council has no responsibility for flood prevention, but we do have the power to make those who are responsible aware of our issues and to encourage them to make improvements. Maybe it would help if I clarified the various responsibilities.

The Brook watercourse but not the banks is owned by the Peak Forest Angling Club, and they would like the stream untouched and lots of weed growing in it in order to provide a habitat for food for the trout. The club do however understand the flooding problems and are prepared to work with the various agencies to minimise any effects on general flooding which might in any way be affected by the Brook.

Management of the Brook and the culvert which handles water from the Edge, through The Hills, down to the Old Shoulder of Mutton and then down Church Street lies with the Environment Agency.

Field drains, ditches, and street gullies are the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council, and finally sewage is with Severn Trent.

No one claims responsibility for old mine soughs.

During this year we have been in regular contact with both the Derbyshire County Council Flood team and the Environment Agency on the subject of Churchyard Flooding and the flooding caused when the Brook overflows. It has been a slow job, which has not been helped by a change of Environment Agency personnel just when we were making progress. We believe we know the cause of the Churchyard flooding; we also know from camera evidence that the culvert is in need of maintenance and that the Brook would benefit from some dredging. A problem is that we are a small issue to the Environment Agency, where their priorities are set by the number of houses and businesses either threatened by flooding or which have actually flooded. It would help our case if houses in Bradwell which have been flooded, however little would declare themselves to the DCC flood team.

With the help of our County Councillor, Alasdair Sutton who has been extremely supportive throughout we will continue to investigate and to request improvements where possible.

Once again, this year, despite increasing pressure on costs we have been able to keep the precept increase very low at only 2%, and our rolling 5-year financial plan continues to work well.

We also decided in July that we would have a presence on Facebook to better communicate our activities in the village. This page is carefully managed by a small team and commenting is not allowed. Anyone seeking clarification on anything we post is directed to the clerk, who will sort them out. Council also decided that all councillors must attend the "Council Essentials" training provided by DALC, to help them better understand the responsibilities and expectations required of a good councillor.

We continue to be pleased with the success of the Town Bottom toilets and thankfully incidents of vandalism have been minor. We note with great sadness the closure of Bradwell's Ice Cream and the "Khazi Café" but are delighted that the Shoulder of Mutton has taken up the lease and is now operating the "Brook Café" along similar lines. It is so good to see families and visitors able to enjoy the area and the tasty refreshments served by the café. But I do miss my rum and raisin ice cream.....

We were pleased to get the new play equipment installed on Beggars Plot. After a very competitive set of tenders, Playdale were chosen as the winner. As well as the price, we liked the fact that all the equipment was designed and built in the Lake District, with the added bonus that everything was tested and approved by the children of the factory workers. We would like to thank the Junior School for their input into the design and suggestions on how to keep on budget. They were rewarded for their efforts by coming to the official opening and being the first to play on it after the ribbon cutting. We have also installed some new benches in that area.

During the summer we were able to take advantage of low water in the Brook to make repairs to the wall alongside Town Bottom playing fields. It will require further work in the future, but the work has made it safer for now. Next year we will be looking at replacing or repairing the zip wire and investigating whether the adult play equipment can be better utilised through some classes.

It is early days, but we are now exploring an opportunity for allotments close to the village. We will keep you updated when we have definite news.

Mowing and maintenance of our grass verges was still poor this past year, and we also discovered that District Council had arbitrarily designated some of our verges as "re-wilding areas", creating a thistle and weed infested mess which also created a road safety hazard for vehicles exiting side roads. We are pressing them to cut all the verges properly this year, so we will see. The wildflower areas, managed by the Wildflower Group have again been a success, and the group's activities continue into 2023.

Carnival 2022 was a great success and this year the wells dressings went ahead, which is great news. We are currently planning for Carnival 2023 and although everything is in hand, we can always use more help, especially on carnival day itself. Please let us know if you can help.

Our very successful youth activities group has been reformed this year after a couple of years of absence due to Covid. We have a good list of young people wanting to participate but do have some spaces left. We are working with the YHA and most of the activities will take place at the Whitehall

activity centre in Buxton. This has been a very successful venture, so if you know children in school years 6 to 11 who might be interested do, please let us know.

Finally for this year's report I can tell you that Camstead are in the process of installing the pedestrian footbridge from the Bradwell Springs estate onto the area of Council owned land at the bottom of Softwater Lane which we have named "The Dumbles". There are plans underway to build a drainage/cattle grid type system at the end of the tarmac road to help ensure the new path does not get washed away when Softwater Lane floods. While we have started other work on the Dumbles to ensure the safety of pedestrians using the footbridge, especially children walking to the Infant School there is still much to do. There has been a spate of damage to signs and the path and also the theft of a video camera. Council has taken legal advice and has spoken to the police on the steps we need to take.

All houses on the estate are now sold, and the second six affordable homes which will be owned by Bradwell Community Land Trust should be ready for their tenants in June. There is no doubt that this development has been good for the village, and we warmly welcome all our new residents.

That is the end of my report. I will be happy to answer any questions. We also have representatives of our various committees present and they can answer any questions you have in their specific area:

- Finance - Katrina
- Land and Playing Fields - Andy
- Amenities, Buildings and Car Parking - Linda
- Training and Administration - Brian
- Carnival and Youth Activities - Martin

I particularly want to thank all councillors for their hard work and support during the year.

Reports from Other Authorities

None

Bradwell Village Topics

Breedon Hope Cement Works (Steve - Production Manager)

Steve 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. They are currently tendering for new equipment. They are 3 years into a 7-year program for updating the site control system. The cooling fans in kilns 1 and 2 are planned to be upgraded in September 2023. The meeting was advised the apprentice scheme is continuing at the works and has been expanded to their projects department.

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

The meeting was advised that a review has commenced into the future of the cement works when the current licence runs out in 2042.

The meeting was assured 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. The subjects discussed included flooding in the village and Church Yard, the bus service to the village, reducing the speed limit in the village and the new footpath from Bradwell Springs into the village.

Thanks & Close

The Chair thanked all for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9.10 p.m.