

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

18th August 2020

A Meeting of the Amenities & Highways Committee at 7.30p.m.

This meeting was held online via the Zoom Conferencing Platform

PRESENT: Councillors Carrier (Chairman), Comer, Hale, Hamilton, Hirst, Macdonald, Shaw, Steggles, Thurtle and Watson.

IN ATTENDANCE: C Bacon, Parish Clerk; Michelle Wardrop, Jan Smith, David Easter (minutes 1-4 only).

Attendees were advised the Zoom meeting was being recorded to assist with minute writing.

- 1) **APOLOGIES** – Councillor Wainwright
- 2) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - None
- 3) **MINUTES OF MEETING – 28TH JANUARY 2020 – MATTERS ARISING**

All matters arising are included on this meeting's agenda.

- 4) **SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was closed to enable public participation, as follows:-

Mrs Wardrop advised her house backs onto Green Lane car park. She reported there is regular anti-social behaviour on the car park late at night, namely loud music, drug dealing, drug taking and drink driving. She has personally experienced threatening behaviour, had things hurled into her garden, has had to tape up her letterbox and lock her gates. She and her children cannot sleep peacefully and her mental health is suffering. Her ex-husband has been taken off work duties due to an assault at Green Lane car park. Mrs Wardrop requested this Parish Council re-look at the possibility of erecting a barrier at the entrance to Green Lane car park, which could be closed during the evenings. Mrs Wardrop confirmed she had been dialling 101 when ASB occurred but has been recently advised by the Clerk to call 999 at the time of the ASB. Mrs Wardrop advised she attended a meeting of this Council two years ago, but a barrier was not installed and the situation has worsened.

Jan Smith and David Easter referred to two boundary issues between their property and a) Green Lane Playing Field and b) Gipsies Green playing field. The leaning wall into Gipsies Green is the most pressing concern and Mrs Smith thanked the Council for cordoning off the area so quickly as young children play in that area at night. Footballs regularly go into their garden so the cordoning off will prevent anybody from climbing the wall to retrieve their balls. Mrs Smith provided this Council with a report from the original builder of the walls which states in his opinion the damage to the walls is due to the height and weight of the hedging. Mrs Smith also reported occasional ASB at the site (drug taking on Gipsies Green and occasional branches thrown over the wall into their garden). Thick weeds coming from the public area have been chopped back by them each year, but the roots are not easily accessible. They would like to see a long term solution, rather than a temporary fix. This Council advised Mrs Smith and Mr Easter that the hedge along the Green Lane playing field is a party hedge; the middle of the hedge being the boundary, and any Council spend needs to be justified because it is public money but this Council aims to work with residents as much as possible.

Mrs Wardrop, Mrs Smith and Mr Easter were thanked for attending and for their comments. All participants will receive a copy of these minutes. The meeting was re-opened.

- 5) **BOUNDARY ISSUES AT 14 MULBERRY GROVE AND 1 PINECOT AVENUE**

Early this year the resident at 14 Mulberry Grove reported that the hedge between their property and Green Lane car park had damaged their fence. Former Parish Clerk, Jeremy Caborn, wrote to the owners of 14 Mulberry Grove on 3rd March 2020 advising the hedge is a party hedge, with the border between the

two properties being denoted by 'the centre of the stump' of the hedging. That being, it does not appear this Council should bear any liability for any repairs to the damaged fence erected inside the party hedge on their side. The owner of the property was invited to this meeting, but no response was received, so this Council assumes the owner has accepted the response the former Clerk provided.

The Parish Council has received correspondence and photographs from residents at 1 Pinecot Avenue, and heard representations from Jan Smith and David Easter at item 4) above. There are two issues: a) The top two courses of bricks on the wall backing onto Green Lane playing field are being pushed over by the boundary hedge in one area b) a wall backing onto Gipsies Green is unstable and leaning into Gipsies Green. Because the hedge between 1 Pinecot Avenue and Green Lane playing field is a party hedge and the wall is erected entirely within their property, it was felt maintenance of their side of the hedge falls to the resident, so this Council is not liable for the damage to this wall. With regard to the wall backing onto Gipsies Green, the Clerk recently organised for a qualified Structural Engineer from Technicus Consulting to review this wall. An initial report has been received, along with a quotation for £975 should further investigation and trial digs be required. Both walls in question are built within the boundary of 1 Pinecot Avenue so this Council feels the ownership is not disputed. The question is whether the roots on Gipsies Green has damaged the structure or foundations of the wall. The Structural Engineer report states a drainpipe from the neighbour's garage backing onto the area has a high level discharge pipe in the vicinity of the leaning brick pier which could have contributed to the softening of the soil and foundation movement. Also the brick pier is not bonded to the wall, but could have existed prior to the wall being built because there is an unusual corbel feature. It was resolved **to get a second professional opinion on the cause of the leaning pier bordering Gipsies Green** . It was resolved **to attempt to determine the exact boundary between the properties**.

6) **REPRESENTATION TO THE POLICE AT THE NEXT SNAP MEETING ADDRESSING REPORTING OF INCIDENTS**

It was confirmed that a request was made to the Police at the last SNAP meeting for all ASB reports received by the Police concerning Green Lane Playing Field and Car Park to be reported to the Parish Clerk. This Parish Council is still not receiving reports of incidents from the Police. Sgt Johnson has now retired. The Clerk is now keeping a log of ABS incidents reported directly to her from staff and residents. The latest community update from Sgt Lay-Flurrie shows only one incident of ASB reported in the month of July. If residents contact 999 instead of 101, these reported figures will undoubtedly increase.

7) **PARISH PARTNERSHIP 50/50 FUNDING FOR PROVISION OF A SAM2 SPEED LIMIT SIGN**

Notification has been received that the 50/50 funding application for the SAM 2 has been agreed, the total costs of £3,078 being split 50/50 between this Council and Norfolk County Council. There may be additional costs for the free standing posts and for an additional set of batteries. It was resolved **to purchase the SAM2 on this basis**.

We have been asked to provide five sites to position the SAM2. Sgt Lay-Flurrie was contacted about this and the police have suggested: Bradwell New Road; Green Lane; Primrose Way; Lords Lane; Beccles Road and Burgh Road. This committee suggested additional sites for consideration: Beccles Road by Falklands Surgery; Mill Lane; Beccles Road roundabout (near Burtons Farm); Burgh Road where it meets Market Road and areas by all three schools – Homefield School, Church Lane, Willow Avenue.

8) **GIPSIES GREEN COMMON LAND, MAINTENANCE OF THE LAND, SIGNAGE AND PUBLIC MEETING**

Prior to lockdown it was resolved to inspect the area of common land that residents of Beccles Road use as a car park, also to erect new signs and hold a public meeting, but no further action has been taken due to COVID-19. It is this Council's responsibility to ensure this area is safe for pedestrians. It was **resolved that Parish Councillors will inspect the condition of the site in the near future, date tba**.

9) **WAR MEMORIAL SITE AND OPEN SPACE, CHURCH WALK**

It was reported by a relative that a name on the War Memorial is incorrect. The memorial shows the name as Henry Charles Breeze, when it should be Harry Charles Breeze. The stonemason has agreed to rectify this error by infilling with lead. Because lead will expand and contract, the area will need a small amount of attention approximately every 5-10 years.

With regard to the 99-year lease on the War Memorial Site the Clerk will contact NPLaw to ascertain whether advice was sought by the previous Clerk on whether the Borough Council, or any third party, could seek to overturn the restrictive covenants that prevent building on this land.

10) **USE OF BRADWELL SECTION 106 MONIES, PROGRESS OF WORKING GROUP TO DATE**

A presentation was shown to this Committee from the S106 Working Group. A lot of responses were received from parishioners from the initial survey. Louise Tully is currently on maternity leave, and our contact at the Borough Council is now Lauren Randall. The Phase Two survey is planned to be conducted online with the support of the local schools and paper version with the community centres etc. Support from this Council will be required for some suggestions on Green Lane or Gipsies Green. This matter will be transferred to the Parish Council. The Council is mindful of the deadline to claim the funds by Spring 2021. The S106 working committee were thanked for their hard work.

11) **REQUEST BY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR CARL ANNISON FOR PARISH COUNCIL TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON THE PROVISION OF A BARRIER FOR GREEN LANE CAR PARK**

An email from Councillor Carl Annison had been enclosed with this agenda requesting this Council reconsider a barrier at Green Lane. The Council also heard Mrs Wardrop request this earlier in the meeting (see item 4). The cost of the barrier has never been the issue. The primary issue is how to facilitate the opening and closing of the barrier 7 days a week. The barrier at Mill Lane has recently been closed at night, this is undertaken by the manager of the Mill Lane Community Centre and Cllr Hale and Cllr Watson. Since the barrier has been in place ASB on that site has dropped enormously. It was **resolved to contact local residents to see if they are willing to participate in a scheme to open and close the barrier each morning and evening. It was resolved to look at styles of barrier. It was resolved to obtain some quotations for fitting a barrier.**

12) **PLANNED DATE FOR FOOTPATH WALKS**

The planned footpath walk did not take place in May due to COVID-19 restrictions. It was **resolved to go ahead with the footpath walks.** Suggested dates will be circulated to members.

13) **PARISH COUNCIL CONNECTIVITY, BROADBAND AND PHONE CONTRACT**

On average this Council is paying £42.75 per month for broadband and phone services. We are one year into a five-year agreement with the current provider. Broadband speed is up to 4Mb, and is at the limit of its capability when there are three Zoom attendees in the offices at Leo Coles Pavilion. A quote to upgrade to Fibre Optic with 250 minutes inclusive calls has been received by the current provider for £47.46 per month. Fibre Optic will be a much more reliable connection to enable the Clerk to work from home should Test and Trace regulations or other demands require this. This matter will be transferred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

14) **COVID-19 PARISH COUNCIL RISK ASSESSMENTS, IMPACT TO MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS.**

Risk Assessments on Leo Coles Pavilion, Green Lane and Gipsies Green have been undertaken and are displayed at the office and on the Parish Council website. A separate Risk Assessment has been provided to the three football teams, which will supplement their own Risk Assessments. A further Risk Assessment will be undertaken for when the Deputy Clerk returns to the office under normal duties. Cllr Carrier and the Clerk were thanked for their work on this.

15) **UPDATE ON PLANNED FOOTBALL FIXTURES AT GREEN LANE**

Prostars have booked their first friendly match for Saturday 5th September. We are waiting to receive fixtures for all three teams.

16) **NOTICEBOARDS**

It was agreed previously to purchase A1 sized notice boards, unfortunately four A2 sized notice boards were purchased by the previous Clerk. These will hold up to four A4 pages and are not thought large enough. The Clerk will contact the company these were purchased from to try to get them swapped to A1 sized notice boards. The siting of these four notice boards will be addressed by the Public Relations and Publicity Committee.

17) **BENCH MAINTENANCE**

It was reported that the wooden slats on the bench in the churchyard need some attention. Also the enamel at the base of the Green Lane playing field benches needs attention, probably caused in the past by a strimmer before the seats were mounted on concrete. The Clerk will ask the caretaker to attend to these areas.

18) **TOWN DEAL**

Great Yarmouth Town Deal working committee commenced in January 2020, following the government announcement of funding to help towns unleash their full economic potential. This Committee Chairman attended an online meeting on behalf of Bradwell Parish Council on 12th August 2020. A presentation was shown to this Committee of plans which impacts Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and Bradwell. There is £25 million to be spent on urban regeneration.

19) **PROVISION OF PROJECTOR AND SCREEN**

Bradwell Parish Council has been donated a projector, screen, office chair, printer and two monitors. These were donated by Meltemi Ltd, the Clerk's former employer. Meltemi was thanked by the Committee.

20) **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Carl Annison has corresponded with the Clerk about the netting over the hard court playing area on Green Lane playing field. This play equipment is owned by the Borough Council. The Clerk has been corresponding with the Borough Council about this for some months, and they have recently confirmed the costs for the netting have been authorised and the netting will be replaced shortly.

Correspondence from Robert Gordon University regarding interviewing representatives of Bradwell Parish Council for a book about 'left behind' towns was read out. This matter will be put to the Public Relations and Publicity Committee.

A resident of 169 Mill Lane recently contacted the Clerk about the possibility of getting a Bus Shelter placed outside Morrisons / the Doctors Surgery, but on the opposite side of the road. He said he met with a member of this Council about this some months ago about it. As members of this Committee know nothing of this, the Clerk will contact the Borough Councillors.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed: Date :