

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

26th March 2019

A Meeting of a sub-committee of the
Amenities & Highways Committee at 10.00a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Carrier (Chairman), Comer, Howlett, Macdonald and Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE: J Caborn, Parish Clerk; Mr and Mrs A Smith and Mr D Laurie (minutes 1-3 only)

- 1 **APOLOGIES** – None.
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – none.
- 3 **SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

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

Mr Laurie referred to the new materials that had been laid on the area of the common land where vehicles have been parked, and claimed that some of the materials had been inappropriately laid on part of another path which gives access to his property in Pinecot Avenue from the 'track' land between Beccles Road and the Gipsies Green gate. He further claimed that he owns this piece of path land in its entirety, but the map showing the extent of the Gipsies Green common land that the Parish Council owns appears to show that Mr Laurie in fact has to drive his vehicle over a small corner of the common land when he accesses this path.

Mr and Mrs Smith asked why the new materials were laid without advance notification to the neighbours of this area of common land, which would have enabled relevant neighbours to remove their cars beforehand, and were advised that this was because Mr D King, who had agreed to carry out the work for the council for the cost of materials only, wished to proceed with the work immediately after he had met with two members of the council to confirm what was required, and it was feared that, if his request was declined, the offer could be withdrawn. The two council members did immediately knock on the relevant front doors, but did not find everybody at home. It had not been the intention of the council to arrange for the materials to be laid without advance notification to those affected.

Mr and Mrs Smith asked why the 'bank' that separates the grassed area of Gipsies Green from the 'car parking area' had not been removed when the hedge above it had grown to a reasonable height, as was suggested by Parish Council representatives at the time. They further claimed that the position of the 'bank' has actually created some of the build-up of water that regularly occurs in this area. They were advised that, although cuts had been made into the 'bank' to enable the water to flow, they had been 'filled in' over time, often by rubbish dumped in the area. These and other matters will be discussed with the neighbours when the proposed public meeting takes place.

Mr Laurie and Mr and Mrs Smith were thanked for attending, and for their comments, and the meeting was re-opened.

4 **MINUTES OF MEETING – 5.3.19**

It was resolved that the above sub-committee minutes be signed as a true copy.

5 **USE OF SECTION OF GIPSIES GREEN COMMON FOR VEHICLE PARKING/ ACCESS BY NEIGHBOURS - ARRANGEMENTS**

a) Works Carried Out

Councillor Carrier reported that he and Councillor Wells had met Mr D King at 9a.m. on 20.3.19 as arranged, and gave an account of what had been discussed, and of what had been agreed – 'type 1 granite chippings' would be used, and the cost would be 'between £400 and £500

materials only labour free'. They had also concluded that 'scraping' the surface, as was proposed when Norse Eastern Ltd. submitted a quotation last year, would not be sufficient.

Councillors Carrier and Wells were asked why they had agreed that the work should go ahead immediately, in apparent contravention of no 68b) of the council's Standing Orders, when neither the work itself nor the use of a new type of material had been authorised by the council. It was further suggested that this work may fall within the definition indicated by Section 38 of the Common Land Act 2006, and that, if this is the case, it should have been authorised by the Planning Inspectorate – and that it is entirely possible that this body may receive complaints regarding what has been done, either from individuals or from environmental charities and pressure groups. Councillor Carrier responded that he was sorry if he had acted inappropriately on behalf of the council, but that he felt at the time that he was acting in the best interests of the council, and he suggested that, if it was felt that the matter should be referred to the Standards Committee, then such a decision should be made.

- b) Proposed meeting with affected neighbours, and arrangements for them to apply for permission for vehicle access to their properties over the land, and/or to park their vehicles within the land area, with charges applicable based on cost of maintenance of the land

It was resolved, by a majority of 3 to 2 votes, that a recommendation will be made to the Amenities & Highways Committee that charges to the affected neighbours should be applied in respect of the costs of the works recently carried out, rather than that the charges should be applied only when further works need to be carried out – i.e. effective from the date when the public meeting with the neighbours will be held. An assessment will need to be made as to how long it will be before further maintenance works need to be carried out, to ensure that the charges applied will, as far as possible, reflect the costs involved.

- c) Proposed Signs to be Erected

It was suggested that there should be one sign at each entrance to the Green, and that the wording displayed should include the following – Bradwell Parish Council, Gipsies Green Common Land, It is prohibited to ride a bicycle or horse, or drive a vehicle (except invalid carriage) on this Common, Countryside & Right of Way Act 2000, access for authorised vehicles only, pedestrian access only.

- d) Implementation Dates for Changes – to be determined at a later date.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.28 a.m.

Signed: Date :