

# Bradwell Parish Council



17 January 2022

A meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00pm  
This meeting was held at The Mill Lane Community Centre

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Candon (Chair), Hamilton (Vice Chair), Goodchild, Hale, Howe, Steggles, Annison, Watson, Sergeant, Wainwright and Kitchen

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Parish Clerk Stuart Philpot, PC Vincent Gray, PC Megan Belsey, Cllr Annison (Borough & County Councillor capacity), Cllr Candon (Borough Councillor capacity), RFO Catherine Bacon, and three members of the public.

Due to the ongoing presence of Covid-19 the meeting room was fully ventilated and the wearing of masks was the choice of each individual.

## **2201-PC229) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

None received

## **2201-PC230) POTENTIAL CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS:**

Sue Hacon had expressed an interest but did not attend this evening.

## **2201-PC231) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Cllr Hale – historic prejudicial interest 9.2 and is removed from the vote

## **2201-PC232) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

### **a) Police:**

Report from PC Vincent Gray and PC Megan Belsey, stating there had been a proactive day with enforcement around the Bradwell area with Cllr Candon, which concluded in two traffic speed offences. The Scooters have not been a problem recently and Cllr Goodchild reported there had been no sightings of Scooters in the early hours of the morning. PC Gray and PC Belsey have been proactive with the schools and have contacted parents as to not use the scooters in a public place and noted a decrease in the use of the “Ginger” Scooters. PC Gray reported there has been a series of burglaries locally, but not in Bradwell itself, but advised being careful with security. There were no significant issues over the Christmas period.

Cllr Goodchild asked regarding Bicycles stolen in Gorleston and Bradwell, is there a lock up for the recovered bikes? PC Gray replied that bikes are stored securely but if not claimed they are sold on. PC Gray also noted that bicycle “Mark up Days” are currently not happening.

### **b) Members of the Public**

A Member of the Public raised a question relating to Cllr Goodchild referring to Bradwell residents as Donkeys. Cllr Candon asked the Member of Public if this was a complaint as this would be discussed at the next Staffing and Standards meeting. Cllr Candon stated the Parish Council will be looking to provide further training for Councillors and will monitor discussions during open meetings.

Cllr Wainwright stated that to reference any member of the public as residential donkeys is appalling and not acceptable, even in jest. Cllr Candon stated he had a discussion with Cllr Goodchild who had been reprimanded for making the comment.

Cllr Goodchild has had discussions with the Chairman and this incident will not be referred to monitoring officer. However, this language should not be used or repeated in a public meeting. Cllr Goodchild explained that the comment was not a blanket decision of all residents, but an off-the-cuff remark regarding those that vandalise community assets.

The Parish Council has recently awarded plaque in recognition of the resilience of the village during the Covid 19 Pandemic from the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk. A suitable placing is being identified to minimise any potential damage to the plaque.

### **2201-PC233) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of **20<sup>th</sup> December 2021** were approved and adopted. Cllr Candon signed as accurate minutes of the meeting.

Cllr Wainwright raised a question regarding dog bins, being classed as “hazardous waste” and a large cost to the Parish Council in emptying the bin.

Cllr Candon stated that property services costs have been factored. There may be a trial for the use of “Wraparound” lamppost bins. It has been resolved to place two rubbish bins in Bradwell North and two in Bradwell South. There is an action required for Dog bins from property services.

Cllr Wainwright, stated in regard to the bowling club that they should be self-sufficient. Cllr Candon agreed and replied that the Parish Council will shortly be meeting with the Bowls club but the current lease for £175 p.a. for 10 years runs until 2028, but the lease may be open to negotiation. The Parish Council are removing payment of maintenance to the bowling green. Cllr Candon will be meeting with the Bowling Club shortly.

### **2201-PC234) Clerk’s Report:**

a) Training - The Clerk of Bradwell Parish Council started in the role on November 23rd 2021, with a short handover from the previous clerk. Still in the early stages of understanding what is required in this varied role and has attended a four section, online clerk induction ran by Norfolk ALC, giving an overview of what to expect. The induction broadly covered the Core roles of the Clerk, Law and Procedures, Finance and Management.

b) Maintenance of Leo Coles Pavilion – There has recently been issues with the Electricity supply into the Pavilion, with tripping of the electricity supply on a regular basis, leaving the building with no CCTV. This is currently under investigation by our electrician, Sonic Ltd.

c) Correspondence

The Parish Council continues to receive reports from a neighbour next to the car park behind the Leo Coles Pavilion, reporting Anti-Social behaviour, including loud music in the early hours of the morning. Unfortunately, due to the Electricity issue, we have been unable to use any CCTV imaging to identify vehicles for the Police.

There has also been an incidence of vandalism to the Parish Notice Boards, but again we do not have any CCTV footage.

d) Correspondence

A Police liaison meeting with residents was held at the Leo Coles Pavilion on 22nd December 2021 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event was not well attended on this occasion promoting and advertising the event could help to attract more residents.

**2201-PC235) COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR APPROVAL**

It was discussed at the Parish Council Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 with Cllrs to amend the standing orders for each Committee to be able to approve and adopt their own minutes at the next committee meeting. This will be adopted at the next finance meeting on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

Regarding formal meetings, this makes for efficiency and streamlines the Committee procedures.

**It was resolved to propose all formal committees to be able to approve and adopt their own minutes at their next meeting.** Proposed by Cllr Hamilton and seconded by Cllr Goodchild

**2201-PC236) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES.**

Cllr Paul Kitchen was co-opted to the Parish Council at the last meeting and has put himself forward for membership of the Planning and Development Committee, Public Relations and Publicity Committee and the Policies and Procedures Committee.

Cllr Hamilton stated a wish to move to the Staffing and Standards Committee and would leave the Appeals Committee. Cllr Watson will be replacing Cllr Hamilton on the Appeals Committee

The additional Policies and Procedures Committee to be added to the Committees Table.

It was **resolved that these additions were approved unanimously.**

**2201-PC237) ITEMS OF CORRESPONDENCE AND RESOLUTION**

- a) Resolution to approve the new draft Co-Option Policy – Due to an administrative error and to ensure transparency, this will be brought back for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting.
- b) Resolution to approve the new draft Policy and Procedures – Due to an administrative error and to ensure transparency, this will be brought back for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting.
- c) Investigative outcome of a complaint made by a member of the public. **Formal decision to be made by Council.**

A member of the Public had made a complaint regarding the Bradwell Parish Council co-option procedure and inappropriate posts on social media from a previous Councillor on a personal Social Media page.

The complainant initiated a complaint in early 2021 which had been fully documented and fully investigated by the Parish Council and referred to the Monitoring Officer at Great Yarmouth Borough Council where the complaint was not upheld. All detailed documents relating to the complaint had been made available to the complainant and to all current Bradwell Parish Councillors.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 the complainant showed an expression of interest in a vacancy at the Parish Council and was proposed for co-option by the then Chairman, where no seconder was given. Therefore, co-option was unable to move to a vote, so no resolution could be made.

The complainant questioned Cllr Howe whether there was collusion between the councillors who confirmed no evidence of collusion to prevent successful co-option to the Parish Council.

The member of public's complaint has highlighted the need for further guidance to be shared with Councillors on how to use social media appropriately and what the legal lines are in reference to acting in the capacity of a member of local government, and what would be accepted as a 'personal freedom of expression'.

Cllr Wainwright requested Equality and Diversity Training be offered to all Councillors.

Cllr Candon reminded all councillors to be careful when posting onto social media and recognise the moral issue of councillors' freedom of expression.

Resolutions followed:

- 1) **Proposal** – Bradwell Parish Council cannot instigate the complaint any further and is a code of conduct issue.  
Proposed: Cllr Howe, Seconded: Cllr Sargeant, majority agreed
  - 2) **Proposal** – To agree with the report that no pre determination or collusion took place at the candidacy in August 2021  
Proposed: Cllr Steggles Seconded: Cllr Howe 1 abstention: Cllr Annison
  - 3) **Proposal** \_ Bradwell Parish Council adopt a full transparent Co-option policy and Complaint's procedure and offer all Bradwell Parish Councillors to attend an Equality and Diversity Training session, delivered through the Local Government Association (LGA), to be delivered by the next AGM in May 2022.
- d) Resolution to approve the 2022/23 meeting schedule. Approved unanimously

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for attending.

Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at **9.55 pm**

Signed: ..... Date: .....