

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

17th April, 2019

The Annual Parish Meeting held at
7.30p.m. at Mill Lane Centre, Bradwell.

PRESENT: Councillors Wells (Chairman), Baker, Carrier, Comer, Macdonald, Shaw, Steggles, Thurtle and Watson; Parish Clerk J Caborn; PC M Lay-Flurrie; Rev'd M Upton, Assistant Minister, Bradwell St Nicholas Parish Church; Mrs J Codling, Bradwell Community Centre; Mrs D Macdonald and members of the public.

- 1) APOLOGIES – Councillors Francis and Rawson; Borough Councillor C Annison, Mr K Nicholls.
- 2) MINUTES OF MEETING 18th April 2018: The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 3) POLICE REPORT: PC M Lay-Flurrie reported some local staffing changes – Inspector D Dallas will be transferring to a different role, and Inspector N Hewitt will take his place. His own role is now predominantly in Bradwell, rather than also within the other 'Southern Villages'. He encouraged those present to attend the meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Action Panel for the 'south of the river' area of the Borough, whose next meeting will take place at 7p.m. on 13.6.19 at the John Anderson Court in Clover Way, Bradwell – now that the Panel covers a wider area, it is possible for more senior officers to be present. There have been further incidents of anti-social behaviour, specifically with 'kids on bicycles' riding all over the road, without lights during dark hours etc. - PC Lay-Flurrie responded that several bicycles have been taken away from offenders.

Reference was made to a recent incident that took place in Parkland Drive, and disappointment expressed that the victim had not received a 'follow-up call from the Police - PC Lay-Flurrie undertook to investigate the matter. In response to a question, PC Lay-Flurrie explained the likely nature of his own role when a crime was reported within Bradwell, or when '101' is dialled, and actions undertaken by others in these situations, and also the use put to the former Police Station building in Gorleston, and the Police vehicles parked near to it. Chief Inspector Nathan Clark has a specific responsibility for 'violent conduct' crime and knife incidents, although such crimes remain rare within this area. He explained that the Chief Constable believes that a different style of policing is now required, in response to differences in the types of crimes committed, compared with previous years. PC Lay-Flurrie was thanked for attending.

- 4) PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: Reference was made to the report circulated via the latest edition of 'Bradwellian', and a number of issues were highlighted, including the council's role in the planning process, amenities provided in the village and their usage, the fact that the council has managed to keep its precept at the same level for many years, and has been able to manage within the budgets that it has set itself, and also donations made to local organisations and charities. The council continues to work through a 'committee' system, by which most of its decisions are taken.
- 5) COUNTY COUNCILLORS' AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS: - nil.
- 6) BRADWELL COMMUNITY LIBRARY/READING ROOM TRUST REPORT: Councillor Carrier reported that the Library re-opened last year after having to be closed for repairs following another flooding episode. Some improvements have been made to the building, including a new heating system along with an insulated false ceiling, with grant help from the Parish Council, and from three charitable groups whose names are shown in the 'Bradwellian'. Various suggestions have been received as to additional possible uses of the building, which are being considered, and an arrangement has already been made to display work for sale by local artists.

- 7) AMIS MEMORIAL TRUST REPORT: Councillor Macdonald described the work of this Trust and its Advisory Committee, which was established in 1987 and has funded various items for Woodlands School over many years. He explained that Woodlands School had been chosen to be the beneficiary when it was the 'middle' school through which all Bradwell schoolchildren passed, and it has since been agreed not to make donations more widely, due to the relatively small amount of monies involved each year.

It was agreed unanimously that Councillor Macdonald should be elected to serve on the Trust's Advisory Committee for a further three year period.

8) OTHER REPORTS:

a) Bradwell Community Centre – Mrs Codling pointed out that it had been some years since a representative from the Parish Council was nominated to the Centre's Management Committee, and asked whether someone could be nominated this year. The Committee needs help in applying for grants for necessary repairs to the premises, who to approach etc.

b) Bradwell St Nicholas Parish Church – Rev'd Upton reported that the church has advertised twice nationally for a new Rector, but no applications have been received. It was pointed out that other fairly local parishes, including Oulton Broad, have experienced similar difficulties recently. He thanked the Parish Council for its ongoing grants towards the upkeep of the burial ground, and said that any increase to the grant that could be made in future years would be welcomed.

9) ANY FURTHER MATTERS:

A 'lack of attendance' at tonight's meeting, and similar poor attendances over the past few years, was referred to. It was suggested that greater use of 'technology', e.g. 'social media', might help, but others pointed out that there have only been high attendances whenever a 'local issue' has arisen, e.g. closure of county library in 2003, and 'anti-social behaviour' in 2004.

The chairman explained that he and his family were very pleased to receive an Easter card, which was hand-delivered to his house and neighbouring dwellings by Homefield Primary School 'Year 6' pupils. Councillor Thurtle said that she had received a similar card at Christmas, and expressed the view that these initiatives helped to improve the sense of community in the area.

Councillor Howlett proposed a vote of thanks to Councillor Wells for successfully completing his third year as chairman of the council. Councillor Wells thanked other members of the council for their help. The meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

Signed: Date :