

Bradwell Parish Council



MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting, held Monday, 9th May 2022 - 7.00pm at Mill Lane Community Centre.

PRESENT: Cllrs Candon (Chairman), Annison, Hamilton, Hale, Kitchen, Steggles, Wainwright and Watson, Parish Clerk C Bacon, Keith Nichols, Eddie Macdonald, John Laxton, Roland Walford, Vicky Platten, Rev'd Steve Deall, and two members of the public

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Goodchild & Sargeant. PC Gray. Simon Minter. Vicki Collins

1) **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH APRIL 2019:**

The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by Cllr Watson. Proposed and seconded by Cllr Watson and Eddie Macdonald. One abstention.

2) **ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT:**

Reference was made to the report circulated with the agenda. This report will be on the Parish Council website for full information to residents, but Cllr Candon gave a brief summary. The Parish Council will be discussing a potential formal parish or neighbourhood plan strategy; football at Green Lane has been cancelled and a consultation has started with residents; new picnic tables and a zip wire were installed last year; the Old School Village Community Centre was supported with a large grant; four new litter bins will be installed in the coming weeks with more bins considered in next year's budget; talks continue with YMCA Norfolk regarding a youth club; there will potentially be a community café at Green Lane playing field; there are proactive links between Borough and County Councillors and other parish stakeholders; there is a four-day event planned for Golden Jubilee, planned by the Events working group & other key stakeholders in the parish; a flagpole has been installed; the finances for 2021-22 shows £17.9k more expenditure than income received, but the additional spend was carefully planned and budgeted for (being asbestos removal, community COVID restart grants + Old School Village Centre grant).

Litter bin emptying costs were questioned and discussed. The Parish Council feels that the whole community should benefit from services such as litter bins and the new housing estates currently have no litterbin facilities. The emptying of the bins has been factored into the budgets.

The Concurrent Functions grant was discussed. There is no guarantee that the Parish Council will continue to receive this grant, but while it does, 100% of the grant will be spent on open spaces. Cllr Candon explained that the Parish Council has no power to bind a future parish council to a decision (i.e. keeping the football pitch space open on Green Lane in case football facilities are required in future), as any decision can be overturned after six months. Cllr Candon confirmed Green Lane playing field will remain an open green space.

3) **COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:**

County Councillor Carl Annison reported it's been a challenging year. He gave thanks to the two doctor's surgeries and volunteers for their efforts during the pandemic. He continues to work with PC Gray to keep village safe but stressed that it's vital that crime and anti-social behaviour is reported directly to police, not just talked about on social media. Cllr Annison stated it's good to see the Parish Council installing bins on Beaufort Way. A traffic survey was carried out on Beccles Road and the results were poor. The survey should come out at the end of May.

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Borough Councillor Daniel Candon reported the borough is aware of the ongoing issues on Mill Lane playing field. He has a meeting next week with regard to playing equipment repairs and is also working with PC Gray regarding anti-social behaviour on that site, although the majority of what goes on is not ABS, just kids being kids. A very small minority spoil it for the majority. Cllr Candon re-iterated Cllr Annison's views that police matters should be reported to the police, not talked about on social media. There is no money in the budget to replace the cage, but the Council is trying to make it safe and secure for children to play football in. Borough wide, the Marina Centre will open in late Summer. The Market Place is ongoing. GYBC is working with Norfolk County Council providing accommodation for Ukrainian families, Norfolk currently has 60 Ukrainian families, 20 of which are in Great Yarmouth and the Council is making the refugees feel welcome.

4) **POLICE REPORT:** PC Gray was unable to attend, but sent his apologies.

5) **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF:-**

a) BRADWELL COMMUNITY LIBRARY/READING ROOM TRUST

Keith Nicholls reported the Bradwell Readings Rooms Trust continues to provide a unique facility for the residents of Bradwell. The building remains structurally sound and the work completed internally, since the flood of 2017, has made it a more pleasant environment. Outside, the garden area continues to bloom and receives positive comments from passers by and those that use our recently installed benches and picnic table. Out next project will be to replace the old grassed area (approximately 40 sq. metres), and we are on the lookout for donations or sponsorship to support this venture.

Hillside School Nursey and Reception Class staff have recently initiated a Thursday afternoon weekly visit to use the library and the St Nicholas Church 'Teas, Toys & Toast' group are planning a visit in June to introduce their pre-school children and their parents to what the Library has to offer. Finally we are looking for additional Trustee. This is not an arduous role! It entails approximately six meetings a year, which rarely last more than an hour. We are seeking someone who has an interest in the building and developing its usage. If interested or you know of anyone else who may be, please have a word with either myself or Harry Hamilton.

Cllr Candon thanked Keith and advised we will spread the advertisement of the trustee position.

b) AMIS MEMORIAL TRUST

Eddie Macdonald reported that Amis Memorial Trust has been in operation for 35 years. It was set up following the tragic death of Roy Amis 40 years ago, as a memorial for the residents to remember Roy and the Amis family who ran the Post Office, stores and Methodist Church. Surviving members of the Amis family are still involved along with members of the public and the Parish Council. Due to the Amis family being interested in young people, a grant is awarded each year to Woodlands School. Since it's inception the Trust has awarded £10k, some of this was spent on individual prizes to children, but some on equipment to benefit all children. Last year equipment and facilities was provided to develop a sensory quiet area in the courtyard. Mrs Cook is one of the Advisory Committee members. Mrs Cook's position is up for election for a further three years. Eddie Macdonald nominated Mrs Cook, Cllr Watson seconded Mrs Cook's election.

Cllr Candon thanked Eddie for his report.

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c) OLD SCHOOL VILLAGE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Roland Walford gave a report as the OSVCC treasurer and trustee. He became Treasurer one week before lockdown and was thrown in the deep end. During the past two years the name changed from Bradwell Community Centre to the Old School Village Community Centre due to a) people getting confused with Mill Lane Community Centre) and 2) that's what the place is. The old school. The centre of the old village. The centre was fortunate to receive generous grants & donations and the Parish Council was thanked. Trevor Wainwright was thanked for his help getting COVID grants. During lockdowns the building received extensive renovations including to the toilets, kitchen, boiler, security, fire alarms, windows, electrics, lighting, disabled access and (thanks to Carl Annison) repairs to entrance to car park, and drainage. The building has been decorated, now has broadband, a new logo and new website (work in progress). Hard work has taken place to preserve the building. It is part of Bradwell's heritage. As a result bookings have increased, including parties, craft fairs & sales. The OSVCC is involved with the jubilee celebrations with a pop-up jubilee café being run by the WI. Roland talked about the Bradwell Community Council which was formed in 1970 to provide facilities & welfare for residents. It's recently been decided to incorporate this Council under Bradwell Community Centre Trust. The Trust is proud of its heritage. There are also plans for the annexe.

Cllr Candon thanked Roland for all the hard work he and his wife undertook on the building during lockdown. The council is proud to have the building in the parish. It's come on leaps and bounds and long may it continue.

d) ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Rev'd Steve Deall reported he moved to Bradwell two years ago at the start of COVID. The first project was to save the stained-glass window at a cost of £15,000, taking all the church's money. In 2020 there was a £11,700 hole in budget. In 2021 there was £4,310. The Parish Church receives no money from central church. The biggest outlay is the Parish Share £51,500 (wages etc), and the church underpaid on that. There is £65k operating budget for expenditure. If church doesn't pay its way, it will shut. Because of the pandemic, this is a very serious issue with churches locally. St Nicholas Church is not in inevitable decline. In the past two years congregation has increased by 20%. The reasons for this are 1) a strategic long term plan was formulated to focus on people. IT was used and the church got broadband (the oldest congregant is 100 who met 12 times per week on Zoom) and 2) the churchyard. It was used to get people outside and together. It's been opened to the community and footfall has doubled in the churchyard. More community groups are coming to the church hall using the projector and sound system. There is a community lunch event, started by a grant received from the Parish Council. There are groups, activities, film clubs, etc. A grant has been received from the County Council to make the church the centre of the community. 500 people are using the church building during week. 500 a month coming to worship. There are 5,000 visits per month, factoring in people using churchyard. It is a real asset to community. The church is on course to break even this year. A Friends scheme has just been launched, where friends donate £2 per month. Any money given in this scheme stays in Bradwell, none goes to Norwich. Bradwell does care about its church. Rev'd Deall was pleased to be invited to take part in the Jubilee celebrations. He hopes to continue on the path currently on, working with stakeholders to make it a good place to live.

Cllr Candon thanked Rev'd Deall. He was open and honest from the start with Rev'd Deall about the legal limitations a Local Authority has donating to ecclesiastical bodies. If there is any other way the Parish Council can help we are always keen to support, especially in communications, so please continue to work with us.

The footpath running from the churchyard to Lords Lane was discussed. It's a County Council path and

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the increased footfall is wearing it away. Cllr Annison will look into. Cllr Annison stated the churchyard is the best it's ever looked and thanked Rev'd Deall for being so proactive.

e) HILLSIDE SCHOOL: Simon Minter was unable to attend, but gave this written report which Trevor Wainwright read out:

It's certainly been a challenging couple of years, with continuous and significant disruptions to the children's learning. At times, when things appeared to be improving, a new strain would lead to high levels of pupil and staff absence, with cases peaking last term. Due to fantastic staff and at times sheer luck, we've managed to keep the school open throughout the Pandemic though and provide direct teaching to the most vulnerable pupils.

While things have improved since Easter, we continue to experience difficulties around staff absence due to Covid, which continues to impact upon the provision for pupils, both in terms of direct teaching and support. However, we have now removed the bulk of our measures and things are gradually returning to how they were prior to Covid.

The pupils have been amazing, demonstrating great resilience and positivity. While it will take some time before learning is where it should be, we haven't seen a significant decrease in pupil well-being, although only time will tell. We have however, implemented a number of measures to support well-being, including mindfulness sessions, mental health training for staff and we're currently working with Point 1 to train a group of our children as Well-being ambassadors.

It was lovely to have our first face-to-face Parent's Evenings for over 2 years before Easter and we're really looking forward to having parents return to other enriching events over the Summer, including Sports Days and to celebrate Holi, the Hindu festival of colour! However, our immediate priority is to support the children to get through their SATs exams!

f) WOODLANDS PRIMARY ACADEMY

Vicky Platten reported she has been the Head of Woodlands school for just over two years, just before COVID. The school stayed open with up to 90 pupils attending most days. There are 467 pupils in total. The School buildings & grounds have been renovated / redecorated. There is a new kitchen for food tech. There's a new pond and orchard (thanks to the AMIS trust). Children have settled back into school very well and all COVID restrictions have now been removed. Teachers have noticed that childrens' mental health has been impacted during COVID. The full implications are yet to be revealed. Having spent two years learning on a computer, teachers are having to think about children's social and communications skills. The school has finished the sensory room for the children, with door out onto the sensory garden. Eddie Macdonald and the AMIS Trustees will be invited to look at the finished garden. There has been an upsurge in domestic abuse during COVID. Teachers are supporting more families at home, and supporting children and parents in different ways than before. Vicky mentioned her brilliant staff and the lovely, supportive community. There will be a Ukrainian child starting school at Woodlands next week with the older sibling going to Lynn Grove. Struggling families are being directed to the foodbank at the Magdalen Church.

Cllr Hale reported that she's working with Jessica this Friday to look at paintings with an idea to put something on the litterbins.

Cllr Candon advised the Parish Council is looking at starting a youth award scheme which will involve the schools in terms of nominations & selection. The Parish Council is keen to work more closely with schools going forward. Vicky Platten was thanked for her report and asked to pass thanks onto the staff.

g) BRADWELL BOWLING CLUB

John Laxton, Chairman & Secretary of Bradwell Bowling Club gave his report. He thanked Eddie Macdonald for setting up the wonderful club. It's one of the best greens and clubhouse in area. There is

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a good social side to bowling. There is a premises licence to serve alcohol. In all it's a successful club. When COVID struck they couldn't use the green at all, so there were no leagues played. Last year the club had the highest membership ever. They were cautious on the number of leagues entered, but it's been a good year. This year everything is running lovely. The club currently has approximately 100 members, with well over half being residents of Bradwell. The Bowling season is April-September and outside of this work takes place on the building and green. The club members undertake most green maintenance themselves, with Eddie Macdonald being the head green keeper for 25-30 years. It takes a lot of work to keep the green looking that good! The Parish Council has been good to the bowling club in the past with annual green maintenance. Unfortunately because of the current financial situation, the Parish Council can no longer fund 100% of this maintenance in future, but a mutually agreeable settlement was reached and the club is very thankful for their ongoing help. Last winter the kitchen area was extended. The club is always developing.

Cllr Candon thanked John Laxton for his report. He confirmed that the Parish Council will work with the Bowling Club and acknowledge the role of wellbeing the club offers to members of the community.

h) GENERATION WOOD, Vicki Collins was unable to attend, but gave this written report:

Basically no work took place during the pandemic obviously. Then we managed to get a slot with Green Gym and had a work party with us on 28th September 2021 – which some coppicing work was done & the wood chip bark path laid ready for the winter. Brian & I had a meeting with Robert & Susan from BPC (7th June 2021) re the village improvements suggestions – with the potential to put in a wheelchair friendly path, bat boxes & wildlife signs etc. But I have not heard anymore from that. As usual each year we have not managed to recruit new members who have more time on their hands to join the steering group & take on managing the woodland. This remains a worry as to who will be responsible for the future.

Cllr Candon asked Cllr Watson to take responsibility for this, as portfolio holder for the environment.

6) **ANY FURTHER MATTERS (RAISED WITH CHAIRMAN PRIOR TO START OF MEETING):** None

7) **ANY MATTERS RAISED FROM THE FLOOR:** None

Cllr Candon concluded the meeting by thanking everybody for attending. It's always wonderful to see the main contributors to the community at these events. Attendees were urged to keep in touch with us and with each other and for us all to work together to do the best for Bradwell.

Eddie Macdonald requested that the date of the Annual Parish meeting be advertised in the Bradwellian going forward.

The meeting ended at 8.13pm