

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at Village Hall on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillor E Coe (Chair)
Councillor K Brown (Vice-Chair)
Councillor N Curl
Councillor T Irons
Councillor P Dennis
Councillor B Green

Gordon Bambridge (District Councillor)
Sheryl Irving (Clerk to the Council)

Five Members of the Public

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive declarations of interests.

There were no declarations of interests declared.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4th October 2017.

Councillor Dennis proposed that the minutes be signed as correct, seconded by Councillor Brown with all in favour – the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. County/District Councillor reports.

Although absent, County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris had sent the following update:

- **Budget:** Central Government intend to reduce the rate support grant to zero by 2020/21. This puts an annual pressure on the budget of at least £30m. This with other pressures from Adult Social Care and Looked After Children (LAC) means that we must make savings from our revenue budget. A 4yr plan is in place to save money by looking at the way we deliver services and putting in place ways of delivering the services currently enjoyed in a smarter more efficient way.
- **Minerals and Waste Local Plan:** NCC is reviewing the Minerals and Waste LDF adopted in 2009 by producing a Local Plan which will run until 2036 with reviews every 5 years. NCC called for Mineral and Waste sites to be submitted between 26th June and 4th August. The Council is now assessing the sites submitted and the results will be issued for public consultation in the Spring of 2018. The nearest mineral site submitted to the process is in Beeston, adjacent to Back Lane.
- **The Library Service:** Despite what has appeared in the press there is no intention of ceasing to provide a mobile library service, in some areas it may be delivered in a different way but the valuable service, especially for the more rural areas, will still exist. Libraries in urban areas can save operating costs by sharing buildings with other Council services, we will be looking at sharing with District, Town and Parish Councils where appropriate and possible.
- **Fire Service:** Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) will soon be relocating their call response and operations HQ to Wymondham to co-locate with the Police. This is a move towards more joined up thinking and will of course ease the NFRS budget. NFRS are currently recruiting retained firefighters. Retained firefighters must be available within 5 minutes of their fire station when on duty this is obviously very restrictive and makes recruitment difficult.
- **Mobile phone and Broadband:** Because of the need to be “connected” in the modern era a new committee, the Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee has been formed. They will be overseeing the end of the “Better Broadband for Norfolk” contract and looking forward to the installation of Fibre

to Property connections. They will also be looking at mobile phone “not spots”. Better mobile phone coverage will be available in some areas when the new emergency services communication system is up and running, commercial providers will be able to use the emergency services infrastructure (masts) to increase coverage.

- Business: A new committee, the Business and Property Committee, has been formed to oversee economic development and the management of the Councils property portfolio. They will be looking at how the Council can help create jobs and to take a more commercial approach to property management.

District Councillor Gordon Bambridge then gave the following update.

- Budget – Breckland have not yet made any decisions but the decision made last year to increase the precept by £5 per year for the next four years is likely to remain.
- Planning – the Local Plan is now going to the Inspector and is expected to go through. Mr Bambridge invited comments regarding Breckland Planning. Although the government have now set new targets in respect of housing the 15,300 homes required in Breckland is unlikely to change, however, the housing opportunities in Brisley are limited. New policies are being made in respect of gypsies and travellers which will bring in better regulation and will possibly affect sites in Bawdeswell, Billingford, Mileham and Gressenhall.

Points raised by the council included:

- As a Parish Council, perhaps up to 90% of comments submitted were ignored.
- Too much infill had been allowed but it was too late now to change that.
- Some decisions are hard to understand and Breckland do not look at the surrounding environment but adhere strictly to regulations which do not always suit certain locations.
- Can the big developers, who are sitting on building land, be forced to build?

D/Cllr Bambridge stated that he anticipates the new plan will be better and parish councils will be listened too Infill is a big problem in Breckland, unfortunately if Breckland refuse planning, applicants appeal to the Secretary of State who often then allows the application.

The Chairman thanked D/Cllr Bambridge for his input.

5. Open forum for Public Participation: a 15 minute opportunity to hear from members of the public.

- At the recent Village Hall AGM an option to move the recycling bins was raised – would the Parish Council have any objections?
 - The land in question belongs to the Village Hall and this is a decision for the Village Hall Committee.
- Footpath issues:
 1. School Road to Harpers Green – has not been reinstated across the field. The Clerk to progress.
 2. Edge of Harpers Green has been ploughed up – has the scheme allowing that route been discontinued? The Council confirmed that it has.
 3. Do the public have a right of access to Harpers Green? The Council confirmed that they do.
- The Village Sign at the top end of School Road is in a poor condition, can anything be done. The Clerk to progress.

- Apologies were given in respect of a recent email which had been sent to a councillor in respect of the school defibrillator.
- The Council were made aware of a recent court case where a parish council were made to pay six figures in damages in respect of Japanese knotweed.

6. Matters to report

6.1 To receive a report on election of new councillors.

There remains one vacancy which is likely to be filled in December, however, the Council felt it should be published once again to give others the opportunity to stand. Clerk to progress.

6.2 To receive a report on repairing village sign.

The Chairman is awaiting two quotes which should be available at the next meeting.

6.3 To receive a report on the community defibrillator.

Cllr Irons confirmed that upon receipt of the cheque to be signed at the meeting the defibrillator will be delivered and installation, training etc can then be carried out.

He went on to say that he had received an email from the School Secretary regarding the defibrillator at the school. Cllr Irons confirmed that the defibrillator had been donated by a parent to the school, however, the Parish Council had donated the cabinet so it can be used by the wider community. The Parish Council have no responsibility in respect of maintenance etc of the school machine.

6.4 To consider establishing a list of village volunteers.

Cllr Brown wished to thank the volunteers who had spent an afternoon clearing the churchyard and everyone agreed how much better it now looked.

The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been a very poor response to the request in the recent newsletter for volunteers but it was agreed to continue to put out appeals.

6.5 To consider employing a part-time handyman.

It was proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Dennis, to retain Harry Lawrence as a handyman for the village but work would be priced on an as and when basis. All in favour – the Clerk to progress.

6.6 To consider any additional maintenance work required in the churchyard.

It was noted that the hedge which has overgrown onto the path needs cutting back – the Clerk to write once again to the householder. The pathway condition will be monitored.

6.7 To determine attendees at the 'Battle's Over' commemoration in November 2018.

It was agreed four members of the Council would attend.

6.8 To consider the proposed Vattenfall Offshore Wind Farm

The issue does not really affect Brisley and the correspondence was noted.

6.9 To consider the case for supporting the retention of PCSOs within the Norfolk Constabulary

Cllr Curl proposed, with Cllr Brown seconding, that the Council send a letter supporting the retention of PCSOs within the Norfolk Constabulary. For 4, against 1, with one abstention, the resolution was carried. The Clerk to progress.

6.10 To consider extending an invitation to the next meeting to an officer from Norfolk Constabulary

Cllr Curl proposed, with Cllr Brown seconding, that an officer be invited to address the next meeting of the council. All in favour – Clerk to progress.

The Council wished the following items to be addressed: the need to see more a more visible police presence in the village, what will happen if PCSOs are made redundant and rural crime. A notice to go on the website inviting questions from members of public.

7. Highways

- 7.1 To receive an update on matters reported to Norfolk and Breckland Councils.**
- Kerb stone on School Road – no update received.
 - Kerb stone on Church Street – update received that the work has been carried out.
 - Jetting gully at top of School Road – update received – awaiting date.
 - Fly tipping on Footpath 11 & Gateley Road – both have been cleared.
- 7.2 To consider any new issues within the village.**
- The Brisley sign, as raised earlier in the meeting.

8. Planning

- 8.1 Applications for consideration.**
None have been received.
- 8.2 Decisions to note.**
- Willow Farm, Gateley Road – approved.

9. Brisley Common

- 9.1 To receive a report on the Section 38 application by The Bell Public House.**
An update was not anticipated until the new year.
- 9.2 To receive a report on Higher Level Stewardship.**
- **To consider approval of scrub clearance and fencing on Harpers Green.**
Quotes are being obtained and should be available at the next meeting.
- 9.3 To consider approval of further ditch clearance on the Green.**
Quotes are being obtained and should be available at the next meeting.
- 9.4 To consider the removal of the Japanese Knotweed on The Hill.**
Three councillors had met with a contractor who had explained the process. Cllr Curl proposed, with Cllr Green seconding, that chemical treatment be applied to the knotweed over the next three to four years., all were in favour. Clerk to progress.

10. Amenity Project

- 10.1 To consider the purchase of a notice board for parking area.**
Cllr Irons informed the council that a notice board for the new adult equipment in the area had been included in the grant application and this can be a dual purpose board if approved.
- 10.2 To consider Playground inspection update.**
Resetting of equipment will be done free of charge by the company installing the adult equipment, if approved.
- Cllr Irons proposed, with Cllr Dennis seconding, that one set of end caps at the price of £12.45 be purchased – all in favour. Clerk to progress.
- 10.3 To consider the installation of a Trim Trail.**
Cllr Irons informed the council that a decision was expected in mid-December.
- 10.4 To receive an update on the Centenary Field.**
An update was awaited from County Councillor Mark Kiddle-Morris.

10.5 To note the forthcoming rent review with any increase due to take effect from April 2019.

The review was noted.

11. To receive reports on the regular checks.

- **North Green** – Cllr Green – nothing to report.
- **South Green** – Cllr Curl reported that the electric fence had been erected and there was one warning sign in place, however, the fencing was very visible.
- **Footpaths** – In addition to the problems outlined earlier in the meeting, Cllr Curl reported that FP 11 had not been reinstated.
- **Stiles** – Cllr Green – nothing to report.
- **Churchyard** – discussed at item 6.6.
- **Play Area** – Cllr Irons reported all was well. The ‘no dogs’ signs had been installed.
- **Patch Corner** – the Chairman noted that the verge on the opposite corner needs to be added to the grass cutting contract.
- **Allotments** – Cllr Dennis reported of a possible interest in an allotment. Nothing else to report.

12. Finance

12.1 To note budget as circulated.

The new format was noted. Cllr Brown proposed, with Cllr Irons seconding, that the budget be accepted, all in favour.

Cllr Curl proposed, with Cllr Irons seconding, that tree stakes for the amenity area be purchased as required – all in favour.

Cllr Curl proposed, with Cllr Brown seconding, that a post rammer be purchased, up to the cost of £100, all in favour.

12.2 To approve cheques for signatures.

The following cheques were approved for signature:

AKH Boesen	Weed Spraying on the Common	698.80
Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator for Village Hall	2575.20
The Royal British Legion	2 x Poppy Wreaths	34.00
Sheryl Irving	Pay/HMRC refund/Stationery	695.86
Norfolk County Council	Rent due in respect of Amenity Area	835.00

12.3 To consider changing bank.

The Clerk had been unable to progress this matter. A letter was signed to change the details in respect of the Bank of Ireland.

12.4 To consider the way forward in respect of Norse.

It was agreed that Cllr Brown would supply the Clerk with details of missed cuts etc and a letter would be sent to Norse requesting credit. In addition, a letter to be sent confirmed that no further payments will be made until the dispute has been settled and a quote requested in respect of the 2018 grass cutting contract.

12.5 To consider the draft budget for year ending 31st March 2019.

In addition, to expenditure included in the draft, a budget needs to be included for the repair of the village sign.

No decision in respect of the budget can be made until the 2018 grass cutting contract is confirmed.

13. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence was circulated:

- A clear solution for farmers – a Natural England publication.

- Tracks – Norfolk County Farms magazine.
- NCC Annual Tenants Meeting.

13. Matters for the next meeting (not for discussion).

The Chairman updated the Council regarding the Norwich Cathedral Appeal but it was agreed this can go on the village website (not for next meeting).

Cllr Brown updated the Council regarding the Community Fridge venture but it was agreed this can go on the village website (not for the next meeting).

Cllr Curl informed the meeting that she was researching road name changes and will update the Council at the next meeting.

15. To confirm that the next meeting of Brisley Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.00pm at Brisley Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.
