

Minutes of the meeting of Brisley Parish Council.

Held on Tuesday 7th March at 7pm at the Village Hall

Present: Councillor T Irons (Chair)
Councillor E Coe (Vice Chair)
Councillor P Dennis
Councillor J Dykes

County Councillor – Mark Kiddle Morris

7 members of the Public.

1. Apologies: Councillor K Walker-Brown. Councillor N Curl.

2. Declarations of pecuniary interest.

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest..

3. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Councillor Dykes advised of 2 changes to the minutes of the meeting held February 7th 2017:

Item 9.2 – should read: tree to be removed, further section to be cleared later this year.

Item 10.3 – Town Lands. We have been advised that income streams should be separate or identified as a separate line.

6. Resolution to adjourn the meeting. (Dispension was given for Item 6.1 County Councillor report to take priority)

6.1 County Councillors report.

It had been decided at the Council Meeting 20th February that the Council Tax would go up by 4.8% and an allowance for the precept to raise 3.8% to include

1.8% for inflation. 16 million would be raised but there would still be a 30million black hole. A robust but budget would be set this year, but we did have particular pressures due in part to age and educational demographics.

The chairman did ask the County Councillor he would use his influence to try to ensure that the gritting priority for School Road went from 2 to 1. The road carried a lot of traffic and gritting levels did affect the safety of the children.

4. Co-option of a Councillor.

The Chairman advised that we had permission to co-op a Councillor. The position would be appropriately advertised and further information would be given to any interested party.

5. Centenary Fields.

The Chairman had been advised by Richard that further evidence was required with regard the stated use of the area now proposed for the Centenary Field. It was felt that safeguards were needed by the owner that any arrangement would have to allow for flexibility if planning issues came into question in the future.

Although not part of the open meeting, comments were made with regard ways forward and lost archives and finding new material that perhaps had been overlooked.

The Chairman thought at this stage we should wait for feedback from Richard as until then it may be a waste of time.

6. Resolution to adjourn meeting.

6.1 District Councillors Report.

As Gordon Bambridge was away doing a course at Warwick University, he had sent his report to the Chairman. Brecklands local plan is moving towards its climax. A final consultation will be submitted in April. Once submitted it will start to have effect on the applications. Breckland have approved a Council Tax increase of 4.95%. This means an increase of 10 pence per week for band D properties. Gordon is now very busy as he is responsible for the Local Plan but assures us of his support at all times.

6.2 15 minutes of Public participation.

Neville and Sally Swales said how fortunate we were to have the Bell up and running again. Neville however was concerned about the safety of people walking on the road. He asked if the Parish Council would consider continuing the trod up to the Bell. If we did decide to do so, he would provide the labour free of charge. The Chairman stated that this had been looked at previously but cost/usage had been prohibitive at the time. We did actually get 50% from Breckland on the previous trod, but was unaware of such a deal at this time. He would however re look at it and we did appreciate the offer and asked if Neville would provide a costing for the materials.

Gemma Bidewell asked where we were with the defibrillator? It was presently sitting in its box at the school. Should it not be placed where it would be accessible? The Chairman said that the Parish Council were under the impression that it was under the auspices of the school, however if it had been donated to the Parish he would discuss further, with regard position and cost of a box. Gemma also asked if we had looked at the incurment next to the Clink. The Chairman said this would be covered under 9.3.

Christine Roos asked why the minutes cannot be seen on line. Dave Pearson said they were on line, but not perhaps as quick as people would like. Would it not be possible to see a copy of draft minutes earlier? It was explained that previously the Parish Council had been advised the minutes could not be published until they had been approved. Katherine would be asked to look at the legality and possibilities on return from holiday.

David Steele asked about the possibility of a dog bin on the South Green. He was advised this would be covered under 10.5. David also asked why the Parish Council had done nothing about the sheep problem and fences that restricted horses and walkers. Councillors Coe and Dennis explained that as always this is an ongoing discussion. In fact this would be on the Agenda for our meeting with Helen Bachskowska from the Wildlife Trust on the 8/3/17. However the problem is not straight forward and it is the sheep under the present legislation that have the rights. As for fencing, Councillor Dennis thought this did not stop people walking the greens. Dogs were not allowed to be free to worry the sheep and there was no right of way for horses on the greens.

7. Matters to report.

7.1 New Councillor: Alan Cross no longer wants to be considered. We only need a core of 3 to function, but this would not be ideal for Brisley.

Councillor Dykes suggested that we should put up a profile of what is required for a Parish Councillor. Perhaps the website would be ideal.

7.2 Dave Pearson has taken down old website. Everything is now on the new website. All the details were sent out in the last newsletter.

7.3 The storage for Mr Kerrison has now been resolved. The Village Hall Committee has kindly allowed storage in one of the adjacent buildings.

7.4 The Chairman will discuss the internment of ashes with Gordon Kerrison. This really is not considered to be part of the meeting.

7.5 Information on the Town Lands is not complete. Charity report has been produced but invoices have not been sent. Some financial information is still required from Judith. When all information is complete, the Chairman will send it to the clerk. Councillor Dykes asked who will be dealing with the finances in the absence of a clerk. The Chairman replied that we will deal with the situation as we go. Bryan Leigh has agreed to work with Judith to ensure all is correct.

7.6 We have two people showing interest in the position of clerk. Rob Peck and Lauren Stanbridge. Two others had been sent job descriptions, but had not replied. The Chairman said that we had now lost 2 clerks, who had quoted unreasonable interference as the reason for giving up the job. In future he would ensure that Councillors would do their job and not cross into the role of clerk. We could not afford to lose another clerk. Closing date for an application to be 1st April. The interview panel will consist of Councillors Tony, Katherine and Ted.

8. Highways.

8.1 The Rangers have been contacted and we have now received a report number.

8.2 It has been reported that the Village Hall overspill carpark has become very boggy and makes car access to the allotment/amenity area difficult. Councillor Coe empathised but felt that the Parish Council had invested in matting to improve the area and wasn't all of Brisley boggy at the moment, particularly the parking area at the cricket ground. However Councillor Dennis was asked to evaluate what we could do and find out the cost.

8.3 There was concern that the path opposite the Clink was restricted by bushes etc. This had been looked at and it was considered reasonably clear at this time.

Andrew Hill has provided the County Council with a register of deposits and declarations. Councillor Dykes has a copy of the letter from the County Council notifying the Parish Council of time scales. The Chairman will look into this.

8.4 Gritting of School Road was covered in item 6.1 Councillors Report.

8.5 The sign had been put back, but the Kerb stone still had to be done.

8.6 It was considered not to be the job of the Parish Council to approach land owners to discuss the provision for horse riding on their land.

9. Planning.

9.1 No planning applications had been received.

9.2 No Decisions.

9.3 Members of the Parish Council had looked at the parking changes made adjacent to the clink and had decided that this was not Parish Council land. Councillor Dykes did however point out that we are duty bound to follow the guidance with regard acknowledgement and to therefore note and follow up with Highways.

10. Brisley Common.

Perceived problems with electric fencing, the pond at Millfield and sheep in gardens were to be discussed at a meeting with Helen Bachskowska on Wednesday 8th March. Councillor Dennis would discuss damage to the village sign caused by Storm Dorris with Andrew Bird. The Chairman will have a look

at any dangerous residue left from removing the flood lighting from the overflow carpark and decide what action is necessary.

We have received notification of the Parish Councils liability with regard substances, mainly nitrates entering any water systems. There is a requirement for all such substances to be monitored on a register. This will affect all any Grazing Rights Holder who users chemicals on the greens. No nitrates will be allowed to be stored within 30 metres of any water course. This is another question to ask Helen as the Parish Council will need to know how this affects the allotments and cricket pitch.

10.2 The ditch has been cleared.

10.3 Since Councillor Jones has left, Councillors Coe and Dennis have taken on this role and are presently bringing themselves up to speed.

10.4 Councillor Walker-Brown has been in contact with Manor Barns with a view to improving the situation when conditions improve.

10.5 The Parish Council have decided to put a dog bin on the South Green, somewhere between the cricket ground and Fudges Lane.

11. Finance.

11.2 Budget as circulated. We do not as yet have a definitive bank statement which is undesirable. Councillor Dykes thought it was now appropriate to move the bank from Ireland to a local branch. The Chairman agreed and said this would be done when we have a new clerk in place. Councillor Dennis felt we needed to find out if a local bank would handle Parish Council accounts. It was agreed that a decision would be made at the next Parish Council meeting.

There were queries on the accounts with regard the authorised cheques and how the figure of 33,001.60 was achieved. It was agreed that the accounts were unacceptable due to various inaccuracies and therefore could not be signed off.

Councillor Dykes pointed out that we have no meaningful financial records since November and that this was unacceptable and that we had a duty to get this embarrassing situation in order before handing over to the new clerk. At the moment we actually have checks that have been authorised and not sent

out which may compromise our legal situation. The Chairman advised that Brian Leigh has been approached, to work with Judith in a paid role to ensure an accurate end of financial year statement. Councillor Dykes offered to give initial financial support to the new clerk, if required. Councillor Dykes was asked to provide an update of her existing spread sheet to give a robust indication for next years budget, which she agreed to do.

11.2 A Internal Auditor was required. As yet we had no one in the frame. Brian Leigh said he would come up with some names, but none so far. Councillor Dyke said she could approach Jackie Carr to see if she would audit for us. This was agreed.

11.3 Charity returns for the Townlands have now been changed to the Chairman's name.

11.4 It was agreed that we can go back to Councillor Dykes revised clerks contract, but to include the addition of holiday/sickness entitlement.

12. Amenity Project.

12.1 It would seem that David Bracey's company is no longer in business, so the Chairman is looking at other options.

12.2 Dewing Farm Services has supplied additional quotes for 2017/18. These were accepted and agreed. Letter will be filed with finance. We also have clarification/quote from Norse on 2 prices, again accepted and agreed. Letter will be filed with finance.

12.3 We have an enquiry for an allotment. New tenant moving to the village soon has asked for an initial 2 years for the price of one agreement. This was agreed. The tenant of plot 9 has requested a half charge of £25. It had been decided that the tenant was giving up the plot but now is undecided but believes that in the 6 months the plot could be cleared which would be to our benefit. This was agreed as was the decision to spray plots 7, 15 and 16.

13. Regular Checks.

Thistles are the main problem and we will need to spray in May.

14. Annual Village Meeting.

It was agreed that the annual Village meeting will start at 7pm on the 4/4/2017. The normal Parish Council meeting will follow on from this.

15. Correspondence.

There was no correspondence.

16. Matters for next Meeting (not for discussion)

There were no Matters.

17. Next Meeting of the Brisley Parish Council.

To confirm that the next meeting of the Brisley Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 4th April at Brisley Village Hall, to follow on from the Annual Village Meeting at 7pm.