

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Brisley Parish Council held virtually at 7.00pm on Wednesday 4th November 2020.

Present: Cllr Henry Collinge (Chairman)
Cllr Tony Irons (Vice Chair)
Cllr Peter Dennis
Cllr Brigid Fairman
Cllr Nicola Curl
Cllr Richard Savory

Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies from Cllr Bobby Green were approved and C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris also tendered his apologies.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr Nicola Curl declared an interest in item 7d in relation to the CPRE.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2020.

Cllr Irons proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and agreed by Council. The Chairman will sign the minutes in due course.

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

A written report was received from the County Cllr and this is attached.

5. Open Forum: an opportunity to hear from members of the public.

There were no members of the public present.

6. Highways

a) To receive an update on matters reported to Norfolk and Breckland Councils.

Speed Limit request – B1145 from Mileham direction – the Clerk advised that the C/Cllr was taking this forward but it is currently on-hold as the Highways Team was currently much reduced due to sickness.

b) To receive a report from the Public Rights of Way Warden.

Cllr Fairman had no new issues to report but was concerned that the opening meet of the West Norfolk foxhounds will shortly be taking place and hoped the hunt would not choose to go on the footpaths near Harper's Green, as they have done in the past, thereby making them difficult to negotiate for legitimate users i.e. parishioners and other walkers, particularly given how wet it is at the moment. The Clerk has emailed the Hunt Secretary requesting that they are mindful of this issue.

7. Planning

c) Applications for consideration.

- 3PL/2020/1045/F – Bay Tree Cottage, School Road - Alterations to existing stable block (increase the head height and material change to the southern wall) – Cllr Collinge proposed a ‘no comment’ response, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

d) To note any planning decisions.

Council noted the following planning decision:

- 3PL/2020/0859/F – Maltings Farm, Gateley Road - Conversion of agricultural building to two dwellings, change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage, erection of two double garages, and associated works – APPROVED.

e) To consider consulting the views of the village in respect of changes to the planning system.

Council agreed that it was too late to consult the village in respect of the current White Paper but agreed that both Breckland and the CPRE had submitted excellent responses. Council agreed to advertise both responses via the council website and facebook and request views from parishioners.

f) To consider membership of the CPRE (previously known as the Campaign to Protect Rural England), the countryside charity.

It was noted that the CPRE represents the aims and objectives of those living in rural Norfolk and a third of Norfolk parish councils were members. The Chairman questioned the value of membership to the Council but noted that planning advice would be available and it was also support for the group. The annual cost is £36 and Cllr Irons proposed that the Council become members, this was seconded by Cllr Fairman and put to the vote, with three votes for and three abstentions, the vote was carried.

8. Open Spaces

a) To receive an update regarding the long-term plan for the Jubilee Wood.

Council noted that the quote for £600 had been received and works would commence in November. Cllr Savory suggested that parishioners have the opportunity to remove fallen but rooted trees, which could be transplanted but otherwise be removed. The offer will be advertised on the website and facebook but any trees would need to be removed before the works commenced.

b) To receive an update regarding the application for a Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Grant.

Council noted that a decision regarding the grant application was still awaited.

c) To consider any response to the upcoming rent review of the Amenity Area.

Council agreed to send a letter in mitigation, similar to the previous letter sent in 2018 but to also include the benefits of outdoor space during the current Covid situation and the new use of the area by the Forest School.

d) To note additional hedge trimming cost on the North Green.

Council noted that the cost of the hedge cutting was £130. Cllr Dennis reported that the ditch will also need clearing in due course as it was water-logged but it was hoped this work could be funded from the Countryside Stewardship grant.

e) To consider approval of a quotation for the removal of the dead willow tree, Woods Lane.

Two quotes had been obtained for the works and Cllr Savory proposed approval of the quote for £450, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

9. To receive reports on the regular checks.

North Green – Cllr Green - nothing to report.

South Green – Cllr Curl - nothing to report except the ponds are filling up and electric fencing has been installed for the cattle.

Churchyard – Cllr Irons - nothing to report.

Play Area – Cllr Irons - nothing to report but the minor adjustments, as detailed in the inspection report, will be made this week.

Patch Corner – Cllr Dennis - all in order but will need a good tidy and removal of willow growth over winter.

Allotments – Cllr Dennis - hedges have been cut today, along with the car park. The gate will need replacing but it was noted that funds had been allocated in the budget for this expense.

Amenity Area – Cllr Dennis - the tree maintenance work should be carried out on the 20th November although the dead ash tree by the Gateley Road access may be dealt with sooner. There are about 5 or 6 of the memorial trees that have died this year, Cllr Irons reported that he would be able to obtain replacements, free of charge, from the Woodland Trust.

The next batch of Xmas trees will arrive in February and Cllr Irons will liaise with the School regarding the planting.

Harpers Green – Cllr Dennis - there are still four youngstock grazing and this needs to be monitored to ensure they are taken off in the next week or so. There will be some maintenance to do in the areas where trees and scrub have made it inaccessible.

10. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2021.

Council noted the financial report.

b) To consider allocation of Townlands funds.

Cllr Irons will contact the school again to see if any child in the village needed support.

c) To carry out the annual review of the Burial Ground fees.

Cllr Collinge proposed that the fees remain at the current rate, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

d) To consider appointment of the internal auditor for the year ending 31st March 2021.

Cllr Collinge proposed appointment of Mr Bergin as internal auditor, at a cost of £25, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and agreed by Council.

e) To consider the budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2022.

Council deferred this decision to the December meeting when it was hoped a decision on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme would be known.

f) To approve the following payments:

Cllr Collinge proposed approval of the following payments, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

• Clerk (November Salary & Expenses)	£351.73
• Grass Contractor (October)	£312.00
• Grass Contractor (October)	£300.00
• Hedge Cutting	£474.00
• Norfolk County Council (Amenity Area Rent)	£750.00
• Knotweed Treatment	£65.00
• UWFCG Membership	£80.00
• Tree for Play Area	£15.00 (paid on 8.10.2020)
• Anglian Water (Allotments)	£20.33 (direct debit)
• ICO (Data Protection)	£35.00 (direct debit)
• Annual Membership of the CPRE	£36.00
• Pond Works (funded by grants)	£TBC

11. Correspondence for circulation.

Council noted the following correspondence and no actions were required.

- Boundary Commission Review (closes 23.11.2020)
- NCC Budget Consultation 2021/22
- Breckland Response to Planning White Paper.

12. To receive any new items for the next agenda.

No new items were received for the next agenda.

13. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 2nd December 2020 at 7.00pm.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting closed at 7.49pm.

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division
Report November 2020

Covid 19: The Covid 19 infection rates are rising among the working population in Norfolk and there are concerns that this could lead to an increase in the infection rate among the over 60s which will impose a strain on hospital accommodation. As of the 23rd October the infection rate has risen to 89.2 per 1000k of population, the Breckland area has the highest rate at 171 per 100k. The Breckland rate of infection is mainly due to the outbreak in a food processing plant in Watton where nearly half of workers tested have proved positive. To prevent the transmission of the virus to the vulnerable members of the population it is important to follow the strict guidelines: Hands – Face – Space and the rule of 6. Norfolk remains in Tier One restrictions.

In advance of any serious second wave please remember to contact those people who needed support during the last lockdown to reassure them of support in the future if required.

Flu: Flu causes the death of around 15,000 people in the UK each year. The most vulnerable group are those people over 65, the same group that are at most risk from Covid 19. There has been an increase in the take up of the flu vaccine this year, but the message must be to all those who are at most risk i.e. those with underlying respiratory conditions plus those over 65 to get a flu jab.

Budget: There is still considerable uncertainty in what government funding will be available for financial year 21/22. Additionally, the government has not stated whether the allowed percentage increase in the general precept will remain at 2% or be amended. There is also uncertainty as to whether a rise is permissible in the adult social care precept. Despite this uncertainty NCC are obliged to consult on its budget proposals for 20/21 making suppositions as to governments intentions. The consultation runs until the 14th December, details can be found on the NCC website. The Council will set its council tax at its February 2021 meeting.

Grass Cutting: As part of the budget consultation (above) it is proposed to reduce grass verge cutting on “C” and “U” roads from 2 cuts per year to one. Also, it is proposed to reduce urban cuts from 5 to 4 per year.

Boundary Review: The second Boundary commission consultation on proposed changes to the Councils Division boundaries closes on the 23rd November. A change from the initial consultation is that Brisley is added to the new Division “Launditch”. Due to a delay in the process due to Covid any changes will not take place until the 2025 Norfolk Council elections.

Parish Partnership: A reminder that bids for 50% funding for small highway improvements under the Parish Partnership scheme need to be submitted by the middle of December. If you have any queries please contact me in the first instance.

County Farms: The County Council is committed to maintaining the County Farm Estate in excess of 16,000 acres. The tenanted farms which vary in size provide a thriving and progressive estate which supports individual businesses and enables economic growth into the county’s agricultural sector and indirectly into numerous related businesses. Any capital receipt from the sale of redundant buildings and land are reinvested in the estate. The County Farm estate was recently increased through the purchase of 163 acres.

Grants: Pubs and restaurants providing a takeaway service will not be eligible for a government grant, but I understand that those that do close completely may be eligible for a Breckland grant. More information to follow in due course.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.
Member for Necton and Launditch.
Norfolk County Council.