

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Brisley Parish Council held virtually at 7.00pm on Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

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

Three members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd February 2021.

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

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris had submitted a written report and this is attached.

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

On behalf of the Cricket Club and referring to item 8e, a member of the public confirmed that the request was for a temporary extension.

6. Highways

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

As the C/Cllr was not present, there was no update in respect of the following two issues:

- Speed Limit request – B1145 from Mileham direction.
- Gateley Road – covered drain.

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

Cllr Fairman reported that there was nothing new to report as regards the parish's paths.

Disappointingly, it seems that £300,000 of the £400,000 recently promised for rights of way will be heading in the direction of Norfolk trails: the likes of Marriot's Way, Peddars Way, Nar Valley Way etc. This may be beneficial to tourism in Norfolk but is not helpful to the county's council tax payers who would like to see the paths in their vicinity well signed and free of obstruction.

Meanwhile maintenance of the network is falling behind, with the stock reply from the County Council to faults being reported on the system still saying that, due to Covid, only emergencies are being dealt with. Cllr Fairman was disappointed that the parish council was not consulted re any proposed works as a footbridge had been unnecessarily replaced and a recently installed footpath sign had been moved slightly in from the green to point across to the path alongside the fields. The Council would be able to advise on works which did require action.

7. Planning

a) Applications for consideration.

- 3PL/2021/0146/F – land off Gateley Road east of Old Orchards and North of Butlers & Church House Barn, Gateley Road - Erection of three detached dwellings with integral garage with access via shared driveway directly from Gateley Road – Council considered the letters of objection received from parishioners in respect of this application and Cllr Collinge proposed that objections were submitted on the grounds of the detrimental visual and environmental impact, highway safety, flooding and lack of need for this type of dwelling. This was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.
- 3PL/2021/0170/HOU – Ash Leigh, Gateley Road – Proposed Single Garage – Cllr Collinge proposed that no comments were submitted to this application, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

b) To note any planning decisions.

Council noted that the following application had been approved.

- 3PL/2021/0003/F – 2 No Metal framed open sided agricultural buildings – Maltings Farm, Gateley Road.

8. Open Spaces

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

This item was remitted to next meeting as quotes for maintenance contracts were awaited.

b) To receive an update regarding the application for a Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier Grant and the Grazing Rights Holders Meeting; including the reintroduction of a 'Welcome Pack' to inform new residents re the Green etc.

Council noted that a meeting of the grazing rights holders (GRHs) had been held and it had become clear that one GRH would not sign the agreement required for the scheme to go ahead. This was disappointing but the meeting was productive and confirmed that everyone wants the common to continue to be a place for people to use and animals to graze, albeit the proposed scheme had met this criteria. This was a loss of a huge amount of money for the village and alternative ways of sourcing funding for the maintenance works needed to be identified. There was a limit to the type of work volunteers could do due to safety issues when using chainsaws and other heavy machinery. A suggestion to set aside an amount in the precept each year would be considered.

Council agreed that it would be useful for a list of rules be drawn up for the GRHs as it appeared these were currently being breached at times. In addition, a Welcome Pack for new parishioners will be reintroduced to explain the workings of the common and the rights of the GRHs, together with other village matters.

Cllr Dennis was frustrated and disappointed that the scheme would not go ahead as it would have secured funding for maintenance for the common for the next ten years and beyond and believed this had been thrown away for no good reason.

Council thanked Cllrs Dennis and Savory and the Clerk for the hard work put into obtaining this scheme, albeit the final result was extremely disheartening.

Cllr Savory suggested that a second access gate through the electric fencing be purchased but the Chairman reported that a test of the first gate was still awaited as the GRH had not installed it. As a second gate would cost in excess of £400, there was little point in purchasing a second gate if they did not work.

c) To consider the need for a further felling licence for Brisley Green.

Cllr Dennis reported that some trees would need to be removed to clear the final section of the ditch towards Panford Bridge, a licence would also be useful for the pond restorations.

Cllr Collinge proposed that an application be submitted, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

At this point, Cllr Savory left the meeting.

d) To receive an update in respect of the RSPB TD Feed Plot grant application, to be located on the Amenity Area.

Council noted that the application had been submitted and a decision was awaited.

e) To consider a request from the Cricket Club to extend an area of the Green for use by spectators.

Council noted that no permission had been requested to use the initial piece of land but did not consider this request to be an issue as it was temporary. Cllr Collinge proposed that permission to temporarily extend the area on the Green for spectators be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Green and agreed by Council.

9. To receive reports on the regular checks.

Councillors gave the following reports:

North Green (Cllr Bobby Green) - the North Green is drying up nicely, other than that nothing to report.

South Green (Cllr Nicola Curl) - extremely wet but nothing else to report.

Churchyard (Cllr Tony Irons) – nothing to report.

Play Area (Cllr Tony Irons) - all OK except that the ground around the “springers” could do with a wheelbarrow load of soil to level it out and possibly a bit of turf to cover the soil, especially round the Duck, but to a lesser degree the same could be said of all of them and it presents no danger to users.

Patch Corner (Cllr Peter Dennis) – nothing new to report. Cllr Dennis volunteered to remove the fallen wood from the tree which had been left by Highways. The remaining trees which continue to lean on the telephone and electric cables will be reported to Highways once again.

Allotments (Cllr Peter Dennis) – the plots are just emerging from being waterlogged ready for spring. Many thanks to the three volunteers for their help in planting this year’s Christmas trees. It was hoped the trees will have a better start, weather wise, than those planted last year. Council noted that the roadway had been destroyed by a vehicle using it whilst very wet, leaving trail marks. Cllr Dennis will attempt to find which holder was responsible and ask that a repair be made.

Amenity Area (Cllr Peter Dennis) - it has been and is still very wet around the area but is improving day by day now the forecast is dry. There is still some work to do supporting some of the badly leaning Larch trees and this should be done in the next week or two.

Cllr Collinge proposed the purchase of a replacement chain for the Gateley Road entrance, to a maximum of £40, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

A parishioner has kindly offered to site a bug hotel on the Amenity Area and Council approved this, to be located near to the Play Area as it may be of interest to the children. Cllr Irons reported that he was awaiting some replacement trees to replace the failed ones on the Centenary Field but there would be spares and these could be planted around the hotel.

A complaint had been received that people were playing golf on the amenity area, which is not permitted. Councillors reported that golf balls were also being found on the Green. It was hoped that this would cease once Golf Clubs reopened in April. A note will be included in the new Welcome Pack, as the balls are a choke hazard for grazing animals. If the problem persists then this will be reconsidered at the next meeting.

Harpers Green (Cllr Peter Dennis) - the work to clear scrub on the far side of the Green has been completed and the contractor has done an excellent job. Hopefully, it will allow some grass regrowth and also make the area available to the grazing cattle. As yet the tree work has not been carried out on the Black Poplar.

10. To receive a report regarding the Armed Forces Covenant Pledge.

Cllr Irons reported that he had attended the zoom meeting on this subject and it had emphasised the insecurity and disturbance, caused by having to move regularly, felt by the families of members of the Armed Forces, particularly in relation to education, work and careers.

The pledge is requesting Councils to 'wherever possible we will support any serving/veteran families in our vicinity'. It is unlikely that the Parish Council will be able to do much but simply a commitment with no actions or costs required. The Census due to take place on the 21st March will indicate any Armed Forces links in the village.

Cllr Irons proposed that the Council sign the pledge and he volunteered to become the 'Armed Forces Champion', this was seconded by Cllr Collinge and agreed by Council.

11. To consider the option of exploring a joint village initiative to replace septic tanks.

Cllr Dennis has contacted various companies with a view to obtaining a deal for supplying groups of houses at a discount but had no response to date. This was remitted to the next meeting.

12. To investigate the low power supply available in the village and any problems arising from this.

In the absence of Cllr Savory, this was remitted to the next meeting.

13. Finance & Governance Matters

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

The financial report was noted.

b) To consider any charitable donations.

Council agreed that, as a donation had recently been made to the Citizens Advice Norfolk, no further donations should be made this financial year.

c) To approve the following payments:

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

• Clerk (March Salary & Expenses)	£379.65
• Clerk (April Salary incl incremental increase, & Annual Allowance)	£500.75
• Contractor (Harpers Mulching)	£708.00

14. Correspondence for circulation.

There was no correspondence for circulation.

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

Cllr Curl raised some maintenance issues on the Green and these will be investigated and reported at the next meeting.

Some potholes were also reported but members were advised to report asap on the NCC website so any repairs could take place as quickly as possible.

Cllr Green reported some fly-tipping in the village, which had been cleared, but members were advised to report any instances to Breckland as soon as possible.

Cllr Curl was concerned regarding the number of dog thefts in the local area and Council agreed that this, together with the local incidence of Alabama Rot, should be published on the website.

A query was raised regarding the notice boards. Cllr Dennis has restored one board and this is now in use at the Village Hall. The second board awaits restoration and will be installed near to the Bell. Cllr Fairman will investigate the cost of a map for this board.

16. To note the annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2021, following the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 7.00pm.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting closed at 8.16pm.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Report March 2021

Budget:

The County Council set the budget for 21/22 at the February meeting. As related in previous reports the general council tax has been raised by 1.99% and the adult social care part of the tax has been increased by 2%. There is significant pressure on the budget through growth in demand especially in adult social care and making over £18m provision for short term Covid 19 pressures. However, the budget represents a continued sustained investment in maintaining and strengthening the councils key services while simultaneously providing the maximum possible resources to address ongoing Covid 19 costs which are expected to continue into 2021/22

Included in the budget is £400k to be spent on renewal and expansion of local footpaths as well as a further £495k over the next 3 years on the Greenways project to which will benefit the health and wellbeing of Norfolk residents.

Members personal budget has been increased from £6k to £10k and as well as small highway improvements can also be used to support environmental projects.

Highways:

At last, a new highway engineer has been appointed and he started work last week. I have planned to escort him around my division next week to impart some of my local knowledge as he does not know this part of Norfolk. Another 2 members of staff have also been recruited to the highways team for this area so there is now a full complement of inspectors and technicians.
