## BRISLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the annual parish meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in the Village Hall.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Edward Coe (retiring), with speakers from the organisations listed below, 22 members of the public (including all parish councillors) and the Clerk present.

1. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from D/Cllr Gordon Bambridge.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2018.

The minutes of the meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

- 3. Parish Council Matters:
  - a) Chairman's Report.

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached.

- b) Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Report.
   A copy of the report given by Cllr Peter Dennis is attached.
- c) Allotment Report.
   A copy of the report given by Cllr Peter Dennis is attached.
- d) Brisley Common Pond Project.
   A copy of the report given by Mrs Bridget Diggens is attached.
- 4. Reports from Local Organisations:
  - a) Parochial Church Council.

    A copy of the report given by Mr Hugh Fawcett is attached.
  - b) Village Hall Management Committee.A copy of the report given by Mr Ian Edwards is attached.
  - c) Brisley Primary School.No report was received from the Primary School.
  - d) Brisley Cricket Club.A copy of the report given by Mr Andrew Savage is attached.
  - e) Age UK.
    A copy of the report given by Mr Dave Pearson is attached.

#### 5. Councillor Reports:

a) District Councillor.

In the absence of D/Cllr Bambridge, no report was received.

b) County Councillor.

A copy of the report given by C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris is attached.

Open Forum - this is an opportunity for residents of the parish to express their views on matters of interest or concern relating to the village and to suggest ideas for the future.

The following matters were raised:

• A spokesperson for a small number of residents noted the positive changes ongoing in the village. However, they were disappointed at the lack of support by parish councillors at local events and felt it was important that councillors were more visible in order to better represent the community. They also raised the importance of good communications, which they felt were important in a modern community. Finally, they suggested Council utilise the many talents that reside in the village as expert advisors to the Council.

The Chairman thanked the member of the public for their input but felt it didn't properly reflect the views of many local residents.

- Residents were encouraged to participate in the forthcoming Bear Hunt, taking place on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and which will co-incide with events taking place at the Cricket Club and The Bell and should be an excellent day for everyone taking part.
- A member of the public said what a fantastic place Brisley was to live, with the exception of the dog mess problem.

The Chairman responded in that this problem had been ongoing for some time and is difficult to resolve without evidence of the culprits.

- A member of the public asked that residents be encouraged to keep up standards in the village, as it was an attractive place to live.
- A Village Hall representative raised the issue of the car park in that it is a car park for
  patrons of the village hall and not for general use. The cars parked were blocking a public
  footpath which is to be fenced off, with better disabled access also being provided.
- A query was raised regarding the Japanese Knotweed on The Hill and the Chairman reported that we are now in year two of a three year treatment programme and it is hoped the weed will be eradicated by the end of year three.

Signed:	Date:	
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## Chairman's Report May 2019.

During the last 12 months Brisley has seen the culmination of projects and improvements to the fabric of the village.

I would like to thank the Parish Councillors and Clerk for their support, in many cases requiring actual physically hard work, a dedication to the community and importantly fund raising abilities.

I also thank those individuals, here this evening to give a report on their own particular sphere of activity and endeavour and other Parishioners who have given their time when required.

Changing grass cutting contractors has led to a virtually complaint free period and a more pristine look as you drive into the village past the church and the refurbished sign. It was very pleasing to receive several nice comments on behalf of the Parish Council with regard the Work done on the church yard, amenity area and sign. The amenity area continues to provide great pleasure for many people in many different ways added to by the addition of the adult equipment. Unfortunately the allotments have not been fully utilised, but the Parish Council are presently considering other initiatives. A new notice board has also been placed between the play area and allotments and should provide for a focused display of any relevant information.

Hopefully flooding on School Road will be a thing of the past due to work carried out with regard the pond renovation and clearance of the dyke system. The much need repair to the drain has finally been carried out by Highways. Thanks must go to our Clerk for her continual dialog with Highways. The area now does now look vastly improved and the ongoing treatment for knotweed also seems to be having the desired effect.

In the past we have received complaints from dog walkers about access to the greens when fencing is in place. An initiative by Peter Dennis and Bobby Green has ended in the culmination of a trial bridge and if successful units could be positioned at appropriate locations.

It is heartening to see the increasing success of the Village Hall, Cricket Club, the Bell and the much needed repairs to the Church carried out. I'm sure our best wishes go to the School for a successful outcome after a difficult period.

The implementation of the defibrillators and training has also been completed successfully. A bit of a disappointment with the School placement, but I'm sure another placement will be found. Thanks again to Tony Irons and Dave Pearson for this well delivered important scheme and their ongoing enthusiasm.

All those that joined in the activities of The Centenary Armistice Day Sunday and the dedication of The Field of Remembrance seemed to have had a great time. It really was a wonderful day and special thanks must go to Tony Irons and Christine Roos for this very successful and meaningful event. Planting of the trees and provision of the inscribed benches of those who died will add to the memories of the day for many years to come.

A joint initiative between the Parish Council, Bridget and David Diggens, the Bell and financed by The Norfolk Wildlife Trust saw our first major pond renovation on the South Green completed. The

project was really well supported by Parishioners and the renovation of a second pond is envisaged for later this year.

The Parish council and Grazing Rights Holders are also presently working with various wild life/ecology groups in order to monitor and improve/monitor flora and fauna and improve the habitat of wildlife. This is mainly centred around Harpers Green which recently saw the completion of a new fence on the Western boundary, paid for out of money we receive via the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

No doubt I will have missed something, but I'm sure you agree that also taking into account the day to day business, it's been quite a full 12 months for the Parish Council and Clerk.

**Edward Coe** 

Chairman: Brisley Parish Council.

## HLS - Harpers Green - 2018

This Stewardship scheme supported by grant funding is in year 6 out of 10. It aims to maintain and improve the area's biodiversity whilst still being used as a grazing common. Indeed the grazing cattle are integral to the scheme's success. The management plan for the common was put together for us by the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) and by careful use of scrub clearance and the effect of managed grazing it is encouraging a diverse range of flora and fauna.

This year has seen the completion of fencing on the common so we hope the days of 'free range' cattle on adjacent fields are over.

Harpers and the main common are part of a NWT 2year survey of plant and animal species inhabiting common land. Part of that project was a presentation in the Village Hall explaining the history and value of this country's commons. It is hoped people will report their sightings of birds and mammals on the common to NWT.

Also we are linking up with what is known as Upper Wensum Cluster Group of farms adjacent to Harpers Green to see if declining species of flagship bird specimens can be helped and encouraged to nest and breed in the area.

## **Allotments Report – 2018**

Generally, the allotment area is in good condition with a mowing contract in place that will hopefully work a lot better this year. The perimeter hedge is growing well and will not be too long before it actually acts as a windbreak. The fencing is still secure but may well need some maintenance in the near future.

Despite a long, hot and dry summer following the 'beast from the east', which resulted in challenging growing conditions, the allotment holders managed to grow some excellent produce. Inevitably because of the weather there was a high water demand resulting in a significantly high water charge to the Council. To that end plot holders should be encouraged to collect and store as much rainwater as possible.

We would very much like to see more take up of vacant plots. In an era of concern over food miles and food provenance having an allotment is a great way to be sure of knowing how your food is produced. It also provides excellent exercise in the process – far more rewarding than going to the gym! Anyone interested in taking on a plot or half plot should contact our Clerk, Sheryl, in the first instance. If there are those who are slightly overawed at the prospect of dealing with an allotment, there are allotment holders who will be more than happy to talk over and offer advice on setting up a plot.

#### NOTES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING RE POND RESTORATION

## Good evening everyone

I have been asked to give a brief update on the restoration of the ponds around the Common and outline the future plans.

Just before I do this, I think it is useful that everyone knows a little of the background of the ponds to understand their importance.

There are 21 ponds on Brisley Common and these have come from the old marl pits used years ago. Some of these ponds are home to amphibians such as frogs and toads, but more importantly crested and smooth newts. Until recently one or two of the ponds had thriving numbers of crucian carp but these have now completely disappeared due to

Ponds becoming overgrown therefore no light Ponds becoming silted up therefore drying up in the summer Ponds becoming unhealthy due to waste from houses still seeping in

The plant life around the ponds is also very important in the ecosystem providing for birds, amphibians and of course the insect life currently under so much threat.

On the south side of the common the ponds all interconnect via ditch to the Panford Beck, then on into the Blackwater, the Wensum and eventually the North Sea – this shows how important it is that the water is of good quality – we are in the catchment area – everyone now must be aware of the parlous states of our waterways and seas so it is up to us to be more proactive and responsible for what enters the watercourses.

Therefore with the help of Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Dr Carl Sayer of UCL who does an enormous amount for ponds in Norfolk, a band of brothers have started to restore the ponds – this is a slow process as it can only be done at certain times of year – newt migrations or nesting birds being the prime reasons for picking our times carefully.

Last October 8 of us managed in 6 hours of pouring rain to clear all the overgrown trees and scrub from a large pond near the cricket pitch. With a grant from NWT we were able to professionally fell a large ash tree near the power lines. Patrick Cooper managed to remove some of the silt and take it away and the helpers benefitted from the firewood we subsequently created. This pond was one of the prime crucian carp habitats – there is currently no amphibious or fish life in it, but we have planted some iris and water mint around the edge and gradually we hope the native pond weeds will return and start to absorb the excess of phosphate and ammonia that is clearly in this pond causing it to die.

This year we hope to clear the pond next to the Rowans – incredibly overgrown, so much so that many would not know of its existence. We might be able to do a second one if we can raise the money and the enthusiasm from volunteers.

Helen Baczowska of NWT has kindly agreed to help again with some funding and we are planning to walk round the common very soon to discuss.

I have managed to raise ....... from a plant stall at my recent Open Garden which is intended to pay for a digger to remove silt – most of which can be graded onto newly cleared banks.

If anyone would like to be involved in helping with this project – loppers, strimmers, chainsaws etc then please do let me know on 07951 658808

It would be just great to keep up the momentum – if we can improve the water quality Dr Sayer will restock some of the ponds with crucian carp which would be a real achievement.

# Churchwarden Report for Brisley PC 9th May 2019 Church of St Bartholomew

This has been a busy year for the church with a full programme of services lead by the Rector and assisted by a number of retired clergy. There were no weddings but one Christening and, sadly, three funerals: Colin Tait on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Anne Tuck on 6<sup>th</sup> April, John Mann on 27<sup>th</sup> April and the committal of Jean Slipper's ashes on 24<sup>th</sup> June. It was pleasing to welcome the school into church on four occasions and they also held a Community Day, a part of which involved all the children for the second year running cleaning the church. For this we are most grateful and they all seemed to enjoy themselves. The Brisley Christmas Choir was set up by Sarah Savage and Sara Fordham to sing at the Carol service. Whilst the quality of the singing may not necessarily have been perfect, it was thoroughly enjoyed by the participants and helped to produce the largest congregation for many years. Our thanks go to the organisers and the singers.

A number of events have taken place during the year which have raised money for the church. We held Soup and Sweet on 20<sup>th</sup> March, Walk with a Fork on 13<sup>th</sup> April and the BBQ at Brisley Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> June, followed by the Harvest Supper on 26th October. Though not a fundraiser, we were able to enjoy a bring and share tea at Brisley Hall barn on 31<sup>st</sup> August to celebrate our rector's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the benefice. The Food Bank was set up and thanks to the generosity of who knows how many people, a considerable amount of food has been collected.

The roof problems have been dealt with to stop leakage and all the water courses have been replaced to ensure the proper flow down and away from the church. The porch has been repaired following the collapse of a cornice timber on the east side. The work turned out be more extensive than originally expected as the west side also required considerable attention.

The autumn hail storm did damage to a number of windows requiring 60 to 70 panes of glass to be repaired; the contract has been given and work will be carried out during 2019.

Grateful thanks go to all those involved in the life of the church, whether offering the use of their homes or in assistance of one sort or another. Without those people life would be much harder. Thanks also must go to those who clean the church and the flower arrangers.

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - MONDAY 6TH MAY 2019

#### **BRISLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Our hall has seen a steady increase in use over the past year, the user group being very diverse but having the effect of increasing our income by approximately fifty percent. We are extremely grateful to all that both hire the hall and support the organised events. We recognise that it is a really important asset for our village.

To ensure that the hall continues to be viewed as an attractive event venue we are always investing in maintenance of the building. You will have noticed that we have had the main hall decorated and in July we are having updating work done in both the kitchen and bar areas. Like all public buildings, we have generic responsibilities in terms of public safety and have a strict rolling programme which ensures that our legal responsibilities are adhered to. An example of this continuing programme would be the replacement of one of the fire safety doors to the rear of the building.

The revenue not only comes from regular hirers but also from events organised at the hall. Our village cinema continues to thrive, and we have recently installed state of the art audio / visual equipment, complete with a hearing loop; this was primarily grant funded. It has made a tremendous difference to the numbers attending, the increased attendance adding to the ambience of the evening and indeed the revenue raised.

This year we had a murder mystery evening at the hall. Not only did the committee write the play but they also provided the acting talent, or at least tried to. The evening was a tremendous success, being sold out and indeed with a waiting list for tickets. Those that were unable to attend, for whatever reason, missed a memorable night. We are working on another production for early 2020.

The recent ukulele night saw yet another fantastic event with the audience singing their hearts out. It would be fair to say that poor old Delilah was not only murdered in the song's lyrics but by the raucous singing from the crowd. The raffle raised nearly £200 which went directly to local charities.

ON the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June we are holding our second annual "Bear hunt". This year the event has grown significantly and will not only be at the hall and Amenity area but in other parts of the village, including the church. We are raising money for two local charities – East Anglian Children's Hospice and SERV – Blood Bikes. There has been an excellent village response to get involved with the event, indeed perhaps some of you here tonight may wish to participate. If so, please see me afterwards. We hope that this event will continue to grow and become an important annual "Flagship" event for our village.

We have worked very hard to build links with other village organisations, for example the cricket club and church. It is an essential part of all village communities that each organisation supports each other, and we endeavour to continue to increase the attendance of both villagers and village organisations at hall events.

You will no doubt notice the two red village phone boxes now stand proud with their shiny bright red paint job. The village hall committee decided to adopt the boxes and restore their pride. As they are both so prominently positioned, we believed it would be a real village asset to have them renovated. They will shortly be kitted out with both village and local information plus a small library.

We intend to have an opening event once they are finished, perhaps even with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Look out for the date and please try and give your support.

As we always say we the committee are merely custodians of the hall. We welcome new members with new ideas and new skills. We are fortunate to have recently had two new members join, which can only be a healthy addition to any committee.

In conclusion the hall belongs to the village, the building can only be maintained by the revenue raised and the revenue is entirely dependant upon the events being supported.

Thank you

Ian Edwards

#### **Brisley Cricket Club**

End of year Report – Brisley Parish Council AGM (9<sup>TH</sup> May 2019)

#### General Context

- Village cricket is under pressure, recently clubs are folding from league cricket locally and across Norfolk
- Sport is generally under pressure, especially weekend team sport.
- General investment and standards are continually decreasing in club facilities and playing surfaces.
- Pleased to say that BCC is bucking the trend in the format of social village cricket that gives a flexibility for people and a relaxed environment.

#### Mens Team

- Currently 25 playing members, highest level for many years.
- Playing Friday nights 20:20 format
- Full fixture list for the coming year including North Elmham returning to Brisley for the first time for many years.

#### Ladies Team

- Formed in April 2018
- Currently 26 playing members
- Played first 4 games last season following coaching from Kevin Denmark (Norfolk Cricket)
- Coaching continuing from NCB and Kevin for this season, indoors and now outside on a Thursday evening.
- International tour to Portugal has happened and can report was very successful
- Lords have come to Brisley to coach and ladies and younger members and will come back next year
- Ladies are visiting Lords for the first time at the end of May.

#### Governance

- Had to change due to the continuing growth.
- Committee now set up of both Mens and Ladies team representatives.
- For 2019/20 Chair Andrew Savage Treasurer Dave Pearson Secretary Marcus Seaman

Captains Mens Billy Fordham Graham Spencer Ladies Amelia Nicholson Sarah Savage

- We are focusing on becoming self-funding over the next 12 months so we can start to concentrate on creating a solid future platform for the club so we don't return to the dark days 3/4 years ago.
- Special thanks to Billy and Dave for keeping everything going forward.

## Brisley Age Uk 2018

Another year of outings and lunches has been enjoyed by our group. We continue to provide a monthly get together for some of the more senior members of Brisley and surrounding villages.

We have enjoyed numerous lunches, a trip to Westacre theatre, sang along to My Fair Lady in Fakenham, visited the fabulous Dunbheagan gardens in Dereham, took part with pride in our own Remembrance day lunch in Brisley and all surplus funds acquired through the year were used at Christmas enabling our group to enjoy a free Christmas lunch at The Hourglass in Sculthorpe.

The past twelve months have seen some major changes in the steering committee. Last April Mr Slark informed us that he was leaving the area to enjoy retirement closer to his family in Sussex, whilst we wished him well it did cause some serious logistical problems for the group, John was "match day" organiser and without his input there was a serious risk of the group folding which would have been very disappointing for the membership. A plea was printed in the Upper Wensum Diary to anyone who could spare just a few hours once a month to come forward, the response was tremendous, there are now more people to assist in the running of the group than ever before. We thank Mrs Carden for encouraging her network of friends to join us, thus ensuring the immediate future of Age UK Brisley.

We had some highs and lows during the year, 2 members could no longer come on outings due to deteriorating health issues and we were deeply saddened when Shirley Kitt passed away suddenly last summer followed by the passing of her husband Colin just 3 weeks later. They are sorely missed.

Colin provided us with the comedy moment of the year just weeks before he died, on a visit to Holkham Park he decided that his mobility scooter had all the attributes to cross one of the "infamous" cattle grids in the park, "where is Colin" we wondered after we had waited for him at the garden entrance, Staff radios put out a MISPER call and very soon our Colin was discovered, the said mobility scooter had become stuck down the gaps of the cattle grid and Colin was beached. 4 burly members of the landscape team were summoned and with one on each corner they lifted him out of his predicament and he merrily tooted his horn and, waved and proceeded to join us at the gardens. We celebrated with ice cream.

Our numbers have been strengthened by 6 new members from Great Ryburgh and we continue to extend an invitation to others to join us.

It is to be mentioned that we are self-funding, no grants are received from the parent Age UK Norfolk organisation, we are, however, grateful to Brisley Parish Council for their kind donation received.

We are also indebted to Fakenham Age UK and their minibus, who provide us with an extremely cost effective mode of transport

We started 2019 with our AGM when a new set of active committee members were duly elected. The future if our group is in very good hands,

## County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Annual Report Report 2018-2019.

Norfolk County Council agreed a net revenue budget of £409.293m on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed that Council tax would rise by 2.99% adding £39.51 per year to a band D property and that an adult social care charge of a further 3% rise was not to be made. The financial climate in which local government operates continues to be challenging with significant and ongoing reductions in core funding at the same time as substantial service cost pressures. The agreed council tax increase of 2.99% will enable the Council to protect vital services and will help to ensure a robust and sustainable financial position in future years. This years budget is balanced, robust and allocates our resources across Norfolk's people and communities in the best way we can.

The Council has absorbed significant and ongoing cuts in government funding, a total of £204m between 2010-11 and 2018-19. There are significant cost pressures such as inflation, demographic changes, unfunded burdens such as the National Living Wage and the need of vulnerable social care users becoming increasingly complex. Despite those pressures the Council is continuing to deliver savings and has plans in place to deliver £79m of savings by 2021-22. This includes £32m of saving in this financial year.

The Council has also agreed a £549m, 3 year, capital programme which will pay for investment in infrastructure, property and equipment. £120m will be spent on new special schools and resource bases for children with special educational needs, £120m on the third river crossing at Yarmouth, £9m for extra care housing to help older people live independently as part of a total investment of £29m. Most of the expenditure for capital projects is borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board, a department of HM Treasury, and repaid from revenue over a long period.

Adult social care costs continue to escalate, and the Council has made provision in the budget to invest £6m to address growing demand. Although the 3% adult social care precept was not raised this year all council tax rises from 2016-17 to 2018-19 are expected, by government, to be spent on adult social care. Thus, this year's council tax bill shows an adult social care precept of £96.05 for a band D property with no increase for this year. Additionally, government has awarded the Council a grant of £4.2m to help alleviate winter pressure on the Counties health and social care services. The money will go towards measures to avoid unnecessary delays in hospitals for people with mental health difficulties; bolster the short term capacity in the care market

and to provide reablement support to enable people to regain their ability to live independently.

There are also substantial financial pressures on Children's Services. The Council has around 200 statutory responsibilities for children and the government has increased the top of the age range from 18 to 25. There are 1200 children in the care of the Council (the numbers have stabilised), 3000 children in special and complex needs schools, 2,900 children in need (590 with CP plans) and 20,000 children with special educational needs. The under 25 population of Norfolk is 243,00. As an example, home to school transport costs £27.7m pa, placements and support for looked after children costs £57m pa and education and care for children with SEN £56.4m pa out of a total budget of £186m.

The government awarded the Council £12.7m to fund pot hole repairs and highway improvement schemes. The highway team have been doing a good job over the summer and have largely caught up with the backlog of work. The extra cash must all be spent by the end of the financial year so some improvement schemes which have been shelved though lack of funding have been resurrected. In my area much needed resurfacing of 2 miles the B1145 was completed in February. Resurfacing work at 3 busy junctions will be carried out before the end of March. Norfolk has been ranked 4<sup>th</sup> out of 28 similar councils in a national highways and transport survey. The highest scores for the county were for traffic levels and congestion and the condition of roads and footpaths.

The Council continues to lobby government and the Highways Agency, through the A47 Alliance, to fund the dualling of the A47 from Peterborough to Yarmouth. The stretch of road between Tuddenham and Easton has been approved and work will start in 2021/22, this will provide a continuous dual carriageway link between Dereham and Norwich. Other schemes in Norfolk to 2020 include junction improvements at Thickthorn and at Yarmouth and dualling between Biofield and North Burlingham. Another top priority for the Council is the so called western link, the construction of a road between the A1067 and the A47. This would link the newly completed Broadland Northway (the NDR) with the A47. The final account for the construction of the Broadland Northway has been settled in the sum of £205m.

Last May the Council took the decision to revert to the Cabinet system of governance from May 2019 (an earlier transition was not possible legally). The

recent departure of the Managing Director has given rise to an opportunity to move to an Executive Leader model. This would mean that the Council would be run on a day to day basis through weekly meetings between Cabinet members and the Senior Management Team (the paid Directors) with the Leader as Chair with all decisions being put through Cabinet or promulgated for consideration by Members. A Scrutiny Committee chaired by a member of the opposition will monitor outcomes and will run a call-in system where decisions taken by the Executive Members and Cabinet can be called in by Members for discussion. 3 Select Committees will develop policies and make recommendations to Cabinet.

An additional £11m contract has been let to increase the superfast (>10mbps) broadband coverage from 92% to 95% in Norfolk. This will typically give coverage to properties and businesses that cannot be connected by Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) solutions and will use other technologies including Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). The small improvement in coverage for a sizeable investment reflects the difficulty in reaching premises remote from the FTTC solution. NCC have secured a government grant of £8m to allow a full fibre broadband connection to 208 of Norfolk's schools, 108 of NCCs corporate buildings and 34 fire stations. This will allow broadband speeds of 1Gigabit (about 20 times faster than the average speed currently). Additionally, nearby businesses will be allowed to piggyback on to these connections and government grants will be available to cover part of the cost of the connection.

NCC has won praise for its approach to improving mobile phone coverage. A survey was carried out on mobile phone signals across the county and the results were used to create an interactive map and more than 200 council owned sites have been identified in areas of poor mobile phone reception. These sites are being offered to mobile operators as potential sites for new masts.

Mark Kiddle-Morris

April 2019