

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Brisley Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 7th December 2022 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Tony Irons (Vice Chair)
Cllr Peter Dennis
Cllr Julie Colley
Cllr Nicola Curl
Cllr Richard Savory

District Cllr Gordon Bambridge
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

In the absence of Cllr Collinge, Cllr Irons took the Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies received from Cllrs Collinge and Green were approved. Apologies were also received from County Cllr Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2022.

Cllr Savory proposed that the minutes of the meeting be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Colley and unanimously agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

4. To receive County and District Councillor reports.

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

D/Cllr Bambridge reported that he continues to be involved in housing issues and the lack of social/affordable housing; there is a huge demand for both, locally and nationally. In response to a question, the D/Cllr agreed that developers should be forced to deliver the affordable housing submitted as part of a planning application rather than being permitted not to build them later on. Council agreed to write to the D/Cllr on this issue, requesting him to take it forward.

Many planning applications remain on hold because of the nutrient neutrality issue.

As part of the Local Plan review, the new town at Bintree had been resubmitted to the call for sites and this will be evaluated by Breckland for suitability for development.

Breckland continues to support local charities who are assisting residents with the cost of living crisis and the demand is higher than ever.

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.**

- Church Street, near to the Square House – pavement too narrow for pushchairs and mobility scooters etc – Highways have said a wider pavement would require a narrowing of the road and suggested a trod be installed on the opposite side of the road allowing users to cross the road to the trod and back again further on; this option would require 50% funding from the Parish Council. Council agreed to ask for this to be reconsidered as the proposed option would be dangerous and a better solution would be that the road be narrowed to allow for the pavement to be widened, it will be pointed out that 100 yds down the road it is considerably narrower anyway so the flow of traffic would be no different .

Council noted the following updates:

- Brisley Footpath 6 – bridge from field to paddock reported to Highways and will be replaced.
- Request for better signage for the unfenced common to alert drivers to the loose sheep – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris taking this forward.
- Blocked drain near to Hall Farm/Brisley Hall – reported to Highways.
- Woods Lane (from Gateley) – 30mph sign obscured – reported to Highways and now cleared.

b) **To receive an update to the formal request submitted to Norfolk County Council for a speed limit on the B1145, from Panford Beck to existing speed limit.**

Council noted that this request is on the Highways list for consideration later in 2023.

c) **To receive an update regarding highway safety measures for Fludges Lane.**

Council noted that a site meeting to discuss any possible options is being arranged.

7. **Planning**

a) **Applications for consideration.**

3PL/2022/1026/HOU (amended) – Marpa Cottage, Church Street - proposed two storey side extension, various internal and fenestration alterations. Proposed single garage/carport and front boundary wall – Council agreed that the proposed amendment to the garage did not alter the objections originally submitted and agreed to submit those again with the additional objections:

- The modern design does not fit in with the traditional row of workers cottages, particularly as it is within the conservation area.

- There are concerns regarding drainage because of the increased roof area and additional bedrooms/bathrooms, the site is within a historic high water table area and prone to flooding. Any drainage problems feed into the Blackwater and then onto the Wensum.

In addition to the above, Council requested a site meeting with the Planning Officer and that this application be called into Committee.

b) To note any planning decisions/appeals.

- 3PL/2021/0274/CU – Caravan, Back Lane, Stanfield - change of use of agricultural and brown field land to residential caravan use for an extended Traveller family. A maximum of two static caravans and three touring caravans to be stationed on the land, on either a temporary or permanent basis (Retrospective) – D/Cllr Bambridge agreed to check with Planning regarding the current status of this application.

Council noted that no decisions have been made on the following applications:

- Planning appeal: 3PL/2021/1109/O – land off Gateley Road - First Homes application. 4, two-bedroom semi-detached properties. 3, 3-bedroom bungalow to be sold or rented under the new First homes regulations.
- 3PL/2022/0818/F – Barracouta, Fakenham Road - proposed change of use of workshop to a dwelling with associated works.

c) To receive an update regarding the 'Housing for Local People' scheme.

There was no update in respect of this item.

8. Open Spaces

a) To receive an update regarding effluent in the pond on South Green.

Council noted that the Environment Agency would not take any action at the present time. That being the case, Council agreed that this pond should be next on the list for restoration which would assist in finding the cause of the problem.

b) To consider maintenance work for the benches on the Amenity Area.

Council agreed that this could be a job for Busy Brisley as the benches just need cleaning.

c) To consider scrub mulching works on Harpers and the Green.

Council noted that two days work have been booked, one on Harpers and one on the Green, and this will help to keep the gorse in check. This will be funded from the HLS reserve.

9. To receive reports on the regular inspection checks of village sites where the Council has a responsibility.

North Green (Cllr Bobby Green) - the cows are back grazing on the north green and the pond has been secured with fencing.

Cllr Dennis reported on pending works by UK Power Networks and explained the route a new power cable would be taking. Cllr Curl proposed that this be approved, subject to the land being reinstated and a wayleave paid, this was seconded by Cllr Colley, with four in favour and one abstention.

South Green (Cllr Nicola Curl) – the cricket pitch car park has been fenced off as it is too wet for parking. Dog walkers are parking cars around the dog bin and this will be monitored to ensure no damage is done.

Churchyard (Cllr Tony Irons) – nothing to report.

Play Area (Cllr Tony Irons) – nothing to report.

Patch Corner (Cllr Peter Dennis) – nothing to report.

Allotments (Cllr Peter Dennis) – the tenants who have not worked their plots recently will be asked to tidy them up.

Amenity Area (Cllr Peter Dennis) – the late Queens commemorative Oak tree was planted on the 19th November and the Queens Green Canopy hedge was planted the following Saturday, adjacent to the play area. Many thanks to a local resident for their help in planting the memorial tree and preparing the ground for the hedge, and many thanks to the seven volunteers who worked hard to get the hedge planted on Saturday 26th November. The post on the gateway on School Road will be repaired.

Council thanked Cllrs Dennis and Irons for their work in organising the hedge planting on the Amenity Area.

Harpers Green (Cllr Peter Dennis) – the Clerk and Cllr Dennis met with Helen B from Norfolk Wildlife Trust to review how the HLS agreement was working and to get advice on any works she felt were needed. Overall, she was delighted with the Green and how it has improved since the start of the agreement. She advised we needed to continue the management approach that is in place and offered suggestions on how to deal with a ragwort problem that has appeared this year, and also how to deal with a long term creeping thistle problem on the largest grazing area.

10. To note meeting dates for 2023.

Council noted the dates of 2023 meetings.

- 1st February
- 1st March
- 10th May (change of date due to elections)
- 7th June
- 5th July
- 6th September
- 4th October
- 1st November
- 6th December

11. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2023.

The financial report was noted.

b) To further consider the Townlands Charity options.

The fund will be advertised once again in the newsletter before any decision is made.

c) To receive an update regarding the grass cutting contracts for 2023.

The grass contractor had been contacted and was unable to lower his quote for 2023, mainly due to high fuel costs and additional work. Cllr Curl proposed that the quote be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and unanimously agreed by Council.

d) To receive an update regarding the outstanding Jubilee invoice.

Council noted that an anonymous donation had been received for £100 which, together with a kind donation from The Bell, meant that Council would have to contribute £246.79 to settle the bill. Cllr Dennis proposed approval of the payment, this was seconded by Cllr Savory and unanimously agreed by Council.

e) To consider the draft budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2024.

Council was hesitant to increase the precept in the current financial climate and agreed that some of the increases in the next financial year could be offset by the use of the general reserve. Cllr Dennis proposed the draft budget be approved and the precept be increased by 2.5%, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and unanimously agreed by Council. This results in a precept of £12,454 (rounded up).

f) To approve the following payments.

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

• Clerk (Dec Salary & Off All)	£376.37 (SO)
• Clerk (Jan Salary & Off All)	£408.09 (SO)
• Clerk Arrears (Pay Award)	£229.28
• HMRC	£56.20
• Knotweed Treatment – The Hill	£25.00
• Hedging Mat etc for Amenity Hedge	£83.80
• 100 x Christmas Trees	£102.60
• UWECG Membership	£80.00
• Grass Contractor	£70.00
• Toilet Hire (Jubilee Event)	£732.00

12. Correspondence for consideration.

Norfolk ALC .gov.uk Email Pilot Scheme – Council agreed not to take part in the trial.

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

There were no new items for the next agenda.

14. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 1st February 2023 in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the Chairman then closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Date:

BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 01/12/2022		
Balance per bank statements		
Barclays Current Account	25,191.63	
Less any unpresented cheques	35.00	
Add any outstanding payments into bank	0.00	
		25,156.63
The net balance reconciles to the Cash Book for the year, as follows:		
Opening Balance as at 1st April 2022	24,231.50	
Add receipts in the year	14,732.22	
Less payments in the year	13,807.09	
Closing balance per cash book		25,156.63
which includes the following reserves:		
Brisley Green	336.42	
Higher Level Stewardship Scheme	7,115.71	
Defibrillator	1,152.65	
Townlands	728.00	
Admin - Office Equipment	59.17	
Jubilee Fund	130.71	
Open Spaces:		
Pond Project	200.00	
Allotment Deposit	100.00	
Knotweed at The Hill	15.00	
GENERAL RESERVE		15,318.97

**BRISLEY PARISH COUNCIL - DECEMBER 2022
BUDGET REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2023**

PAYMENTS*	BUDGET 2022/23	SPEND TO DATE	AVAILABLE	% SPEND	RECEIPTS	BUDGET 2022/23	RECEIVED TO DATE	DUE	% RECEIVED
Salary	4,641	3,560	1,081		Precept	12,150	12,150	-	100%
Admin	1,817	1,270	547		Burials	-	-	-	
Open Spaces	5,720	4,132	1,588		Bank Interest	-	-	-	
Amenity	3,410	1,873	3,410		Wayleaves	509	509	0	100%
Donations	-	-	-		Allotments	395	75	320	19%
TOTAL	15,588	10,836	4,752		Amenity	2,028	-	2,028	
					Admin	-	101	101	
HLS	900.00	275.00	625.00		TOTAL	15,082	12,834	2,248	
TOWNLANDS	264.00	0.00	264.00		HLS	728	-	728	
DEFIBRILLATOR	226.00	226.00	0.00		Defibrillator	-	-	-	
					TOWN LANDS	264	264	-	

*includes payments as listed on agenda

Norfolk County Council
Member for Necton and Launditch
Report: December 2022

Devolution – A “County Deal”:

Norfolk County Council is one of 9 local authorities in England that have been invited to negotiate an agreement with government on establishing a devolution deal. There are 3 levels of “entry” into a deal the most attractive in terms of direct funding from government is level 3. Level 3 would see an annual cash input from government (rumoured to be £20-£30m) for 30 years, the money being split between capital and revenue. Level 3 would also require the election of a directly elected leader of the council, a post which will be in addition to the 84 existing divisional elected members. The directly elected leader will be the single point of contact with government and have direct powers over spending on infrastructure, skills and economic development and will appoint a cabinet from elected members to assist him.

It is emphasised that this is not a reorganisation of local government. Existing city, borough and district councils will retain their autonomy and their responsibilities as at present.

Suffolk County Council have already signed an agreement to proceed with a level 3 deal.

Any intention to proceed with the deal, if approved by Council, will be subject to a public consultation.

Council Tax:

The proposals for council tax and spending for financial year 23/24 are still open for comment until 16th December. Submissions can be made at norfolk.gov.uk/budget .

Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan:

A reminder that submission of comments on the proposed plan must be made by 5pm on 19th December, 2022. The publication document, background documents and a downloadable and printable representation form are available on Norfolk County Council’s website at: www.norfolk.gov.uk/nmwdf on the “Norfolk Minerals and Waste Local Plan Review” page.

Avian Flu:

The flu outbreak continues to cause havoc with commercial poultry operations locally as well as domestic flocks and wild birds. There are currently 4 confirmed outbreaks within my division. “control zone” notices have been placed on all roads within 2km of an outbreak where strict precautions should be taken.

Parish Partnership:

A reminder, applications to the Parish Partnership Scheme will be accepted until 9th December. There is over £600k of money set aside to fund 50% of small highway improvements requested by parishes plus over £62k from the Safety Cameras Team to support successful bids for SAM2 and flashing wig wag signs. Please let me know if you want to make a last-minute bid!!

General:

As more information of interest becomes available during the month, I will pass this on either for inclusion in your net meeting or for immediate transmission to councillors as required.

Finally may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year.

Mark Kiddle-Morris., 5th December, 2022.