

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Brisley Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 1st September 2021 in the Village Hall.

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

District Cllr Gordon Bambridge
One member of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were received from C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held 7th July 2021.

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

4. To note the resignation of Cllr Fairman and consider the vacancy for a parish councillor.

Council noted the resignation of Cllr Fairman and agreed a vote of thanks to her; although she had not been a councillor for very long, her input had been great and she will be missed.

Council noted that the vacancy had been published in accordance with regulations and they were now able to co-opt; an interested parishioner was present at the meeting.

5. To receive County and District Councillor reports.

In the absence of C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris, he had supplied a report and this is attached.

D/Cllr Bambridge reported that Breckland are now holding meetings in-person and a full Council meeting is taking place on the 2nd September. He is now the portfolio holder for Environmental Services and they have been successful cleaning up Breckland, with fly-tipping reduced by 26% from the previous year and more fines issued for littering than the rest of the county put together.

Some grants are still available, for shop fronts in the town centres, green grants funds and funding for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

He reported that the Dereham Town Plan is at the consultation stage and, in response to a question, stated that the funds were specifically for Town Centre improvements although it was hoped this would also ease congestion, which was crucial. Cllr Green suggested congestion would be improved if more bus stops were built which would take the buses off the road when picking up/dropping off, thereby not stopping the flow of traffic which is what currently happens. He also suggested moving the bus stops in Dereham Town Centre and D/Cllr Bambridge will take these suggestions forward.

In response to another query, Cllr Bambridge confirmed that the funds available for the Town Plan were specifically for town centre regeneration and could not be spent on the rural villages but said that the towns also served the rural areas. However, Breckland does provide grants for village amenities. He reminded Council that Highways were the responsibility of Norfolk County Council, the sewage is Anglian Water and the power supply the responsibility of UK Network Power but he was aware there were problems in all three areas and advised members to lobby their MP.

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

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

As D/Cllr Bambridge was due elsewhere, the Chairman agreed to bring item 8, Planning, forward:

a) Applications for consideration.

3PL/2021/0967/F – The Bell Inn, The Green, Elmham Road – Three Bay Cart Shed – additional storage for pub – no matters were raised and Cllr Curl proposed a ‘no comment’ response, this was seconded by Cllr Savory and agreed by Council.

3PL/2021/1109/O – Land off Gateley Road – as follows:

- First Homes application.
- 4, two bedroom semi-detached properties.
- 1, 3 bedroom bungalow to be sold or rented under the new First homes regulations.
- 2, 3 bedroom bungalows for self build.

A number of objections had been received by Council in respect of this application and, following deliberations, Cllr Irons proposed that objections be submitted on the grounds of highway safety, flooding and drainage issues, lack of local public transport, negative impact on wildlife and the failure of the application to comply with policies HOU05, ENV07, TRO1 and TRO2 of the Breckland Local Plan. This was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

b) To note any planning decisions.

Council noted the following decisions:

- 3PL/2021/0858/HOU – Mill House, The Green – proposed single storey side extension – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2021/0974/LB – Alms Cottage, Church Street – proposed Removal and Replacement of Roof Support Posts and Guttering - APPROVED.
- 3PL/2021/0958/HOU – Church House, Church Street - new Velux Roof light to Hall roof, replace existing front door with new door and 4 glass panels and replace rear utility room double door with a single door - APPROVED.

Council noted that no decision had yet been made on the following application:

- 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).

c) To consider requesting a Breckland presentation – Housing for Local People.

Council agreed to invite a Breckland Housing Enabler Officer to give a presentation 'Housing for Local People' which aims to provide good quality, affordable housing for local people. Council agreed to commence the meeting at 6.30pm to allow additional time for the presentation and to invite members of the public to attend.

At this point in the meeting, the Chairman thanked D/Cllr Bambridge for his input and the D/Cllr then left the meeting.

7. Highways

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

Gateley Road – covered drain – Council noted the C/Cllr will be meeting the Highways Engineer for a site inspection in early September.

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

Due to the resignation of Cllr Fairman, there was no longer a PROW Warden and, in the absence of a volunteer, Councillors agreed to add public rights of way to their regular checks.

Council noted that the C/Cllr will be inspecting the footpath across the maize field, which was once again impassable.

c) To receive an update regarding the SAM II Speed Sign.

Council approved the offer from a member of the public to manage with the speed sign and report to Council when appropriate. The sign is shared with one other parish and it is currently at that location.

d) To receive an update regarding the installation of cattle grids near the Green.

Council were informed that Highways would not permit the installation of cattle grids on the B1145 and it was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

e) To consider the frequency and timing of verge cutting by Norfolk County Council.

Cllr Curl requested that this item be remitted to the next meeting when the C/Cllr is present but Council agreed that the cut this year had been far from satisfactory.

f) To consider any applications under the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme.

No suggestions for an application were received and Council noted the closing date was in December if any ideas arose.

8. Planning (this item had been dealt with earlier in the meeting).

9. Open Spaces

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

Cllr Dennis reported that no major works were required this year and they could be carried out by volunteers. However, there is some ash dieback on the trees on the perimeter and Cllr Savory will investigate appropriate machinery for the works and obtain quotes for consideration.

b) To consider any maintenance works required on the Green.

Cllr Curl reported that the willow had been removed from a recently renovated pond and she continued to pull the ragwort. Spraying was considered but Council agreed this would also kill off many of the wildflowers which were present which was not desirable.

Cllr Dennis had met with a representative of the Water Management Alliance who would supply a quote for the works at Panford Beck. The representative had advised the installation of a silt trap as this would stop the damage to the banks being caused by the grazing cattle. He also advised that much of the clearance of the beck could be carried out by volunteers and Council will check if it is safe for Busy Brisley to resume, following the Covid pandemic.

Cllr Dennis had also met with a representative from the Norfolk Rivers Trust who may be able to assist with funding for silt traps/clearance etc.

Council agreed to obtain a quote from the grass contractor to clear Green Lane and to add these works to the annual contract.

c) To consider a wayleave request for the South Green – telephone cables.

Council approved a request from Open Reach to remove telephone cables from two high voltage poles for safety reasons and to bury them in the ground, on the South Green. A small one-off wayleave payment will be received.

d) To consider a request to site a repaired Patch Corner bench on The Hill (Section 38 consent required).

Council agreed that the bench, which had recently been replaced as it was in a dangerous condition, should not be repaired and sited elsewhere as it would continue to be a Council responsibility and the same maintenance issue would arise again in due course. Council maintenance responsibilities are considerable and it was agreed it would not be prudent to add to them. However, Council thanked the member of the public for their interest.

e) To receive the Play Area annual inspection report and consider any recommendations.

Cllr Irons reported that there were no urgent or dangerous matters raised in the report. The Adult Cycle handgrip has been referred to the manufacturers and it was hoped this was still under warranty. Cllr Irons advised Council that no action was required in respect of the worn grass areas on the football pitch as these would grow back in time. Neither Cllr Irons nor Cllr Dennis had been able to find the loose stepping wood in the report.

The report had advised consideration of safety chains on the swing but as it had been rated as low risk, Council agreed not to proceed.

Council noted that the area continued to be well used by children.

10. To receive reports on the regular checks.

- North Green (Cllr Bobby Green) - most of the thistle areas have now been topped.
- South Green (Cllr Nicola Curl) - the electric fence has been removed and the bottom area cut. Cattle had been grazing but it appeared to be more random rather than mob-grazing. The thistles are beginning their seed heads and would benefit from topping, Cllr Green will make the necessary arrangements.
- Churchyard (Cllr Tony Irons) – no problems raised and the grass has been cut. Four moles have been removed which seems to have solved the molehill problem reported by the grass contractor.
- Play Area (Cllr Tony Irons) – nothing to report (see item 9e above).

- Patch Corner (Cllr Peter Dennis) - the old bench has been removed and the new one installed and thanks to Cllr Green for doing this work. The pond sides will need to be strimmed and tidied up as soon as convenient. Two moles removed but Cllr Collinge will continue to monitor as there appears to still be activity.
- Allotments (Cllr Peter Dennis) - nothing to report other than it would be nice to see the new allotment holders on their plots.
- Amenity Area (Cllr Peter Dennis) - the hay bales need to be moved to allow the grass to recover beneath them. The footpath around the perimeter of the area will be mown up to the hedge and the trees just once to stop encroachment of scrub onto the walking section. This will be carried out prior to the perimeter hedge being cut this autumn.
- Harpers Green (Cllr Peter Dennis) - the Green has been topped which has controlled the gorse that was growing away and the area is looking good with the grass growing well. It has been noticed that a bull has been added to the livestock and whilst is a placid one it cannot be on the common. The grazier has been contacted to remove it.

On the right hand side of Harpers Lane on a small bit of the Green there is a problem with Himalayan Balsam which has appeared in quantity. Fortunately, the residents there have kindly tackled the problem by pulling and burning the invasive weed - many thanks to them for their work.

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

Cllr Dennis reported he had been in contact with a locally recommended company who supplied a conversion unit for existing septic tanks, effectively converting the tanks into a small treatment plant producing a clear, odourless and harmless effluent which could then discharge into a ditch. The unit is in high demand and, consequently, the company is not interested in a joint village initiative. There is another local company which had also been recommended. Council agreed to pass on these two recommendations to anyone who wished to upgrade their existing septic tanks as many were now causing problems due to the high water table.

12. To consider a joint parish commemoration to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Cllrs Irons, Curl and Savory volunteered to form a working party to meet with representatives from the Church, the Cricket Club, the Village Hall Committee and The Bell to discuss a joint parish commemoration.

13. To consider becoming a member of a Parish Council Group calling for a Norfolk Offshore Transmission Network for the Offshore Wind Farms.

Cllr Dennis proposed that the parish council join the Norfolk group calling for an offshore transmission network to feed in from the offshore wind farms, rather than continue to dig up pipelines. This was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

14. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2022.

The financial report is attached and was noted.

b) To approve the following payments:

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

| | |
|---|-------------|
| • Clerk (Sept Salary & Expenses) | £366.66 |
| • Grass Contractor (1 – July) | £492.00 |
| • Grass Contractor (2 - July) | £320.00 |
| • Grass Contractor (1 – August) | £162.00 |
| • Grass Contractor (2 – August) | £480.00 |
| • WAVE (Allotment Water) | £41.42 (DD) |
| • CPRE (Annual Membership) | £36.00 (DD) |
| • Recycled Plastic Bench – Patch Corner | £351.60 |
| • Community Heartbeat Trust – VETS | £120.00 |

15. Correspondence for circulation.

- Draft Dereham Town Delivery Plan – this had been discussed at item 5.

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

There were no new items received.

17. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 6th October 2021 in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and the meeting closed at 8.51pm.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch
Report for September 2021

Grass Cutting: The second cut of the year to highway verges and junctions was due to start on August 9th and when completed should have addressed all the inadequacies of the first cut of the year which was, quite frankly, a shambles. Please let me know if there are still problems in your area with the standard of the cut.

One Million Trees: Norfolk County Council (NCC) acknowledges that trees are a vital resource in combating climate change alongside rewilding for carbon sequestration. As reported previously NCC have committed resources to work with communities, landowners and partners to plant 1 million trees over 5 years which must amount to a net increase. NCC's tree planting scheme will work in harmony with the unique "Queens Green Canopy" initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. There are packs of trees and hedging plants available to parishes to "kick start" the project. If there is any interest, please contact me for further detail on how to apply. The planting season runs from November 2021 to March 2022.

Offshore Transmission Network (OTN): There has been a lot of discussion between our local MPs in both Norfolk and Suffolk and government ministers about the number and length of cable routes crossing both counties bringing wind generated electricity to connection points on land. To minimise ecological and commercial damage to the countryside an OTN has been proposed. The OTN would allow connection of all future wind farm electricity output to a cable system lying offshore which would only require one overland route to a connection point with the National Grid. NCC have been involved in the initial Offshore Consultation Project in 2020 and are currently responding to an OFGEM consultation which is asking for comments on proposals to amend regulations to allow the use of an OTN.

Highways: Despite the lack of revenue funding in NCCs coffers there is still some capital available to put towards some highway schemes such as resurfacing (not surface dressing) and junction and other highway improvements. If you have any work that you would wish to be carried out, please let me know.

Mark Kiddle-Morris

BRISLEY PARISH COUNCIL
BANK RECONCILIATION AS AT 10th August 2021

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Balance per bank statements | |
| Barclays Current Account | 18,414.74 |
| Less any unrepresented cheques | 36.00 |
| Add any outstanding payments into bank | 0.00 |
| | 18,378.74 |

The net balance reconciles to the Cash Book for the year, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Opening Balance as at 1st April 2021 | 19,901.50 |
| Add receipts in the year | 7,593.99 |
| Less payments in the year | 9,116.75 |
| Closing balance per cash book | 18,378.74 |

which includes the following reserves:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Higher Level Stewardship Scheme | 6,511.71 |
| Amenity Area | -1,075.00 |
| Defibrillator | 1,152.65 |
| Townlands | 244.00 |
| Admin - Office Equipment | 200.00 |
| Open Spaces: | |
| Pond Project | 190.00 |
| Knotweed at The Hill | 100.00 |
| GENERAL RESERVE | 11,055.38 |

BRISLEY PARISH COUNCIL - SEPTEMBER 2021
BUDGET REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2022

| PAYMENTS** | BUDGET | SPEND | AVAILABLE | % | RECEIPTS | BUDGET | RECEIVED | DUE | % |
|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|---|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| | 2021/22 | TO DATE | | SPEND | | 2021/22 | TO DATE* | | RECEIVED |
| Salary | 3993.00 | 2104.50 | 1888.50 | 53% | Precept | 11850.00 | 5925.00 | 5925.00 | 50% |
| Admin* | 1651.00 | 1616.37 | 34.63 | 98% | Burials | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Open Spaces*** | 5270.00 | 3351.78 | 1918.22 | 64% | Bank Interest | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| Donations | 0.00 | 100.00 | -100.00 | | Wayleaves | 508.00 | 508.63 | -0.63 | 100% |
| TOTAL | 10914.00 | 7172.65 | 3741.35 | 66% | Allotments | 455.00 | 10.00 | 445.00 | 2% |
| | | | | | Admin* | 0.00 | 627.15 | -627.15 | |
| HLS | 270.00 | 275.00 | -5.00 | 102% | TOTAL | 12813.00 | 7070.78 | 5742.22 | 55% |
| AMENITY AREA | 3460.00 | 1372.84 | 2087.16 | 40% | HLS | 1469.00 | 0.00 | 1469.00 | 0% |
| TOWNLANDS | 240.00 | 0.00 | 240.00 | 0% | AMENITY AREA | 2028.00 | 0.00 | 2028.00 | |
| DEFIBRILLATOR | 451.00 | 100.00 | 351.00 | 22% | Defibrillator | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | |
| *includes Village Hall Recycling and SAM II costs | | | | | TOWN LANDS 240.00 44.00 196.00 18% | | | | |
| **includes payments awaiting authorisation at this meeting | | | | | *Village Hall Recycling and SAM II refund from Litcham PC | | | | |
| ***includes £921.60 for Village Hall car park which was not in the budget | | | | | | | | | |

Open Spaces includes the Churchyard, Patch Corner, the Play Area and the Allotments & the Christmas Tree project etc.