

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of a virtual meeting of Brisley Parish Council held virtually at 7.00pm on Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

Under the Coronavirus Act, the Secretary of State has published meetings regulations which remove the requirement to hold annual meetings and allow virtual meetings up to 7 May 2021. These are contained in The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

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

District Cllr Bill Borrett
County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris

Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, there were no apologies for absence.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr Dennis declared an interest in item 9h, relating to the allotments and will take no part in the discussion.

Cllr Savory declared an interest in item 7a – 3PL/2020/0859/F and will leave the meeting whilst the discussion takes place.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2020 and the extra-ordinary meeting held on 22nd July 2020.

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

4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris circulated a written report which is attached to these minutes. In response to a question, he reported that the bus issue as outlined in his report was yet to be resolved and he was in contact with our MP to try to do so.

D/Cllr Bill Borrett reported that the Chief Executive of Breckland had resigned. The position, together with other senior management roles, was shared with South Holland in Lincolnshire, which had resulted in a £1M saving for Breckland. However, South Holland were now looking for a partner in their neighbouring districts which leaves Breckland to try and find another partner.

He also reported that a White Paper is due in Autumn regarding local government reorganisation but there is no detail available at present.

The Chairman thanked both councillors for their inputs.

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.

- Woods Lane Flooding – update re filled-in ditch – Cllr Dennis reported that he will be meeting with the tenant of the land to resolve this issue.
Cllr Green reported that he will be clearing the outlet of the nearby pond, on the common, in due course and it was noted that this pond would need major works in due course.
- Speed Limit request – B1145 from Mileham direction – C/Cllr taking forward but currently on-hold.

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

Cllr Fairman reported that Footpath 3, which runs from the footbridge in School Road towards Harpers Green, is now useable and visible as the rape has been harvested. Where it stops being a cross-field path and runs alongside a hedge, the grass has been cut. Further along, where it does a right-angled turn to run across a paddock, someone has put up a “private” notice on the finger posts. Discouraging lawful use of a right of passage with such notices is not permitted, although this may not be the intention of this notice.

Restricted byway 12, through the bluebell woods, is very overgrown and does not appear to benefit from any ongoing maintenance, although a fallen tree has been chopped up. At the Bilney end where it goes across a boggy piece of ground, the planks to raise those on foot above the morass are askew, slippery and dangerous to use, and it is impassable for horse riders and cyclists. Cllr Fairman has photographed and reported it.

Footpath 6 which runs through the maize field to the green is just about passable.

The Norfolk Local Access Forum is highlighting the sorry state of repair and neglect of the county’s rights of way. Whilst Cllr Fairman understands lack of money is the root cause, she believes maintenance of Norfolk’s roadside verges, where traffic sight lines are not affected, could be reduced to once a year, with huge benefits to biodiversity, and the resulting savings spent on the PROW network. Other councils have taken this route. The verge in School Road has been cut twice this year, very badly, destroying lots of plants that act as pollinators, a complete waste of public money and environmentally unfriendly.

D/Cllr Borrett informed Council that clearance of the footpaths is the responsibility of the landowner, however, Cllr Fairman disputed this and will send the relevant legislation to the D/Cllr.

At this point, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting.

7. Planning

a) Applications for consideration.

- 3PL/2020/0564/HOU – Shoemaker’s Cottage, Church Street – Conservatory extension – there were no issues raised and Cllr Collinge proposed a ‘no comment’ response, this was seconded by Cllr Fairman and agreed by Council.
- 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 – Cllr Savory was moved into the waiting room during this discussion. There were no issues raised and Cllr Collinge proposed a ‘no comment’ response, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and agreed by Council.

b) To note any planning decisions.

Council noted the following planning decisions.

- 3PL/2020/0592/F – Willow Bank, School Road - construction of Manege and Stable block to rear of Willow Bank – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2020/0685/HOU – Church Cottage, Church Street – single storey extension to side – APPROVED.
- 3PL/2020/0710/F - Maltings Farm, Gateley Road - New Single Dwelling, swimming pool, Garden Studio - Change of Use 0.5 Acre Agricultural Land to Domestic Curtilage – Undecided.

8. To consider the GIKO suggestion as recommended by the NALC Climate Action Group.

The Chairman proposed promotion of the Giko Zero website, which is free to use and a step by step guide to help people understand, track and reduce their carbon footprint. This was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council. It was agreed to promote the site via the next newsletter and the website.

At this point, Cllr Curl left the meeting.

9. Open Spaces

a) To receive an update in respect of the effluent discharge into the pond on the Green.

The Chairman reported that he had now spoken to all the households with responsibility for the discharge and they will be working together to resolve the issue. Council will continue to monitor.

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

Cllr's Dennis and Savory reported on the works required at Jubilee Wood, including tree thinning, re-staking and topping between the trees to remove willow and aspen saplings. This work will be required each subsequent year and it was important that a start was made before the trees became too large. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust had been consulted on the plans to ensure there were no detrimental effects on the wildlife.

Cllr Irons proposed a budget of £500 for the works to be carried out this year, this was seconded by Cllr Green and agreed by Council. Cllr's Dennis and Savory will make the necessary arrangements.

A licence to fell will be obtained from the Forestry Commission prior to any works commencing.

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

Council noted that the application was moving through the system with the draft prescriptions being agreed with Natural England, in consultation with the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and our active grazing rights holders. The application is currently at the review process and a formal recommendation will then be made to the Rural Payments Agency, with any scheme commencing on 1st January 2021. A full meeting of the grazing rights holders will be held in due course.

d) To consider the purchase of a replacement tree for the Play Area.

Cllr Irons reported that a replacement for the storm damaged tree would be approximately £30 from a local nursery, with funds available in the play area reserve. Cllr Fairman proposed approval of a purchase of a tree up to £30, this was seconded by Cllr Green and agreed by Council.

e) To consider the purchase of 'no dogs allowed' signage for Play Area.

Cllr Irons proposed the purchase of two signs at a cost of £9.05 each, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and agreed by Council.

f) To receive an update regarding the dead tree at Woods Lane.

Cllr Green reported that the tree was dead but there was no danger of it coming down on a member of the public or any buildings at present and it was agreed to continue to monitor.

g) To consider the way forward in respect of a split tree on the South Green.

Council agreed that a local resident could take the tree down and remove the wood. The Clerk confirmed that no permission was required as the tree was so damaged.

h) To consider a reduction in rent in respect of a new allotment holder.

Cllr Collinge proposed that no charge was made for the remainder of this year for the new plot holder, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

i) To review the grass cutting contracts for 2021 and beyond.

Council agreed that no changes were required to the contracts for next year and agreed that three-year contracts should be obtained, if possible.

At this point, D/Cllr Borrett left the meeting.

10. To receive reports on the regular checks.

- North Green – Cllr Bobby Green - nothing to report this month, everything looks good.
- South Green – Cllr Nicola Curl - nothing much to report but the electric wire became broken and lengths lay hidden in the long grass. It has been wound up and removed as it could have been a hazard for humans and animals crossing the Green.

Thistles are growing again and there are small patches of ragwort which are being pulled and burnt when the ground is wet enough to ensure that the root system is removed but the thistles would shortly benefit from topping before they seed. Middle section of South Green has been cut yesterday from Pond Farm gate down to ditch cutting across Green and further down the west side to Old Hall Farm.

Council agreed to take no action regarding the thistles as it was hoped these would be dealt with next year under the stewardship scheme.

- Churchyard – Cllr Tony Irons – the churchyard is looking very neat although the grass contractor has reported that the moles are becoming an issue once again. The Chairman reported that Cllr Green had trained him to use the mole traps and the issue would be dealt with.
- Play Area – Cllr Tony Irons – the area has been nicely cut. Everything looks to be safe and all signs intact.
- Patch Corner – Cllr Peter Dennis - the area is fine but will need clearing up later in the autumn.
- Allotments – Cllr Peter Dennis – all is well at the moment so nothing to report.
- Amenity Area – Cllr Peter Dennis - the hay has been cut and baled which has tidied the whole area. Sadly the quantity of hay was poor which is a reflection of the year, so thank you to the Grazing Right Holder for cutting it. The contractor should be mowing out some aspen saplings in the next few days which are beginning to cause a problem in certain areas.
- Harpers Green – Cllr Peter Dennis – the common has been topped and most of it is fine although it could have been cut a bit lower on the gorse regrowth. There are now just four young stock grazing the area but considering there is very little grass for them that is probably acceptable.

10. Finance & Governance Matters

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

There were no queries raised and the report was noted.

b) To consider allocation of Townlands funds.

Council noted that there will be £670 in the fund in October and agreed to consider donations, for the purpose of relieving poverty in the village, at the next meeting.

c) To consider approval of the recommendations contained within the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2020-21.

Cllr Dennis proposed approval of the recommendations, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

d) To approve the following payments.

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

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| • Clerk (September Salary & Expenses) | £356.53 |
| • Grass Contractor (August) | £156.00 |
| • B Green (purchase of mole traps for council use) | £24.00 |
| • Royal British Legion (2 x wreaths) | £37.00 |
| • Grass Contractor (July) | £480 (paid on 3.8.2020) |
| • Grass Contractor (July) | £300 (paid on 3.8.2020) |

11. Correspondence for circulation.

There was no correspondence for consideration.

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

Cllr Fairman requested that the Council notice boards be added to the next agenda.

14. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 at 7.00pm and to consider holding either in-person or to continue meeting virtually, as currently advised by NALC.

Council noted the date of the next meeting and agreed to meet in person in October, subject to there being no second Covid wave.

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Signed:

Date:

County Councillor for Necton and Launditch Division
Report September 2020

Covid-19:

The latest information from NCC on the measures and response to the Covid-19 outbreak in Norfolk has been forwarded to you all. The recent outbreak in the Banham Poultry facility in Attleborough is being addressed through the Norfolk Local Outbreak Control Plan. This is a multi-agency operation involving NCC Public Health, Public Health England, NHS and Breckland Council. So far (Monday) 96 people have been tested positive out of 477 tests carried out. All staff at the plant are being asked to self-isolate for 14 days if they have not tested positive and for 10 days if they have had a positive test. Households of those workers who have tested positive should isolate for 14 days. Contact tracing is taking place to alert anyone who has been linked to a Banham Poultry worker. Support for those families in isolation who need food and medicine supplies is being given by the Norfolk Assistance Scheme.

Local Government:

A White Paper is expected this month which will outline the government's plans to reform local government. The proposals are widely expected to include the compulsory formation of unitary councils and to arrange several unitary councils into combined authorities which will be obliged to have an elected "mayor".

Waste Amnesty:

NCC are holding free hazardous waste disposal days during September and October at the recycling centres. The following are the dates and times for the nearest ones:

Dereham 2nd, 3rd, 4th October.

Hempton 9th, 10th, 11th October. Both centres are open from 9am to 4pm.

School Transport:

Changes in regulations regarding public transport mean that any bus or coach company offering fare paying transport to the public must use disability access buses (ie crouching buses). Unfortunately, this rule also applies to children whose parents purchase a discretionary seat on a home to school transport. Currently none of the school transport providers have purchased crouching buses. I have asked the local MP to make representations to government to reverse the decision, I await a response.

Mark Kiddle-Morris.