

# BRISLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Minutes of the meeting held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023, in the Village Hall.**

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Henry Collinge, with three speakers from the organisations listed below, Cllr Peter Dennis, D/Cllr Gordon Bambridge and C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, together with eight members of the public present.

## **1. Welcome and to receive apologies for absence.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from D/Cllr Bill Borrett.

## **2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022.**

The minutes were accepted and the Chairman signed them as a true record of the meeting.

## **3. Parish Council Matters:**

### **a) Chairman's Report.**

A copy of the report presented by the Chairman is attached.

### **b) Higher Level Stewardship Scheme Report.**

A copy of the report presented by Cllr Peter Dennis is attached.

### **c) Allotment Report.**

A copy of the report presented by Cllr Peter Dennis is attached.

### **d) Brisley Common Ponds Project.**

A copy of the report presented by Cllr Peter Dennis is attached.

## **4. Reports from Local Organisations:**

### **a) Parochial Church Council.**

A copy of the report from Hugh Fawcett, Churchwarden, as presented by Tricia Stark, is attached.

### **b) Village Hall Management Committee.**

A copy of the report presented by the Village Hall Committee Chairman, Chris Abel, is attached.

### **c) Brisley Primary School.**

No response was received from the School.

### **d) Brisley Cricket Club.**

A copy of the report presented by the Cricket Club Chairman, Mark Ballman, is attached.

### **e) Age Concern Group.**

No response was received from the Age Concern Group.

**5. Councillor Reports:**

**a) District Councillor.**

A copy of the report from D/Cllr Bambridge is attached.

**b) County Councillor.**

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

**6. 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.**

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and then closed the meeting at 7.15pm.

Signed:

Date:

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## Chairman Annual Report 2023

Over the last 12 months we have continued to thrive as a community with community events being held throughout the year. It has been a year of consolidation as well as celebration.

The amenity and common continues to be maintained with regular maintenance and improvements undertaken, ensuring that we live side by side with the flora and fauna as well as grazing animals.

We have looked to tighten rules on the common and have embarked on a practical approach for all users of the common whether animal, plant, villager, or visitor can work side by side.

We have embarked on the first step towards building affordable housing in the village, having identified a need for local families and workers to have first homes in the area. Working with Breckland we have initiated a scheme to achieve a small number of houses in the village that will be ringfenced for local people at an affordable price. This is an extremely exciting project and although we are still early on we have potential sites and proved a local interest and need for the project. The play area on the amenity land continues to be well used and we regularly maintain to ensure safety and that it is a local hub for children and young people.

The parish's Christmas tree project continues; replacing trees that didn't cope with last year draught and working with the local school on joint projects, instigated by Councillor Dennis and Irons. Now in it's thirds year we are still looking to provide an income to the village in the years to come, as well as enhancing the underused allotment area.

Footpaths and bridleways have continued to be a focus, ensuring we can all use the footpaths and bridleways in the village. It includes requesting bridge repairs, new fingerposts as well as cutting back of undergrowth.

The parish grass cutting has been maintained and we have received several compliments about the appearance of the village from both parishioners and visitor alike.

We have looked to solve several highways issues within the parish including considering widening the pavement near the church, look for alternative for pedestrians on Fludges lane, visibility on the road side across the village and ensuring potholes and road issues are promptly reported.

The SAM2 sign is also in regular use checking average speeds and monitoring potential speeding issues in the parish.

In addition, the parish council has continued to support the pond project on the green, worked with a jubilee committee for the queen's jubilee celebrations, held remembrance events for the late queen and planted a reembrace tree, an oak which we hope will be a feature of the amenity area landscape for years to come.

As ever there are many more example of both councillor and individuals who have given time, effort, expertise and energy to the village over the last 12 months, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has helped out, from taking part in picking up litter, cleaning road signs, making repairs, clearing scrub, writing funding applications, working with experts, clearing ponds, to sitting on our committees and running events for everyone in the village to enjoy.

Thank you, your efforts are what makes Brisley the thriving village in which we all live.

Henry Collinge  
Chairman, Brisley Parish Council

## **Harpers Green Higher Level Stewardship**

This last year we have continued to manage the green so that a grazing regime is maintained whilst preserving a very special wildlife habitat.

In what was an exceptionally hot, dry summer the grazing numbers of livestock had to be reduced to provide sufficient grass.

In February mulching work was carried out to limit scrub encroachment and encourage grass regeneration particularly around stands of trees.

### **Allotments**

Despite the hot, dry summer the allotment holders managed to grow some excellent produce even though it entailed endless watering sessions.

The tallest sunflower and largest pumpkin competition was keenly contested with Andrew winning the tallest sunflower and the children's group the largest pumpkin. Well done to both.

During the year we lost two of the tenants but also gained two who have made excellent progress on their plots.

We planted another 90 Christmas trees in February 2022 which have suffered from the very extreme conditions of the summer. Hopefully this years batch will fare much better.

### **Pond Restoration**

In September we carried out pond restoration on two ponds on the common, one on the South green and one on the North green. The funding for the work was facilitated by the Wensum Farmers group . The South green pond is an ELMS test and trial pond and the North green comes via District level funding. Both ponds will be monitored over the coming years to assess how well they regenerate, both in plant growth and species abundance (plant, insects, birds etc.).

## Churchwarden Report for Brisley PC 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### 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: John Clark, Dennis Ackroyd, Nicholas Varnon and Andrew Davey. There was one wedding and two Christenings but no funerals. We were delighted to see the return of the school after their covid absence and we look forward to seeing them on a regular basis. The Carol service, as the biggest of the year, was much enjoyed and thanks go to all those who took part. The continued use of the Taverner bible readings adds to the proceedings.

We were able to carry out our usual fundraising events with Walk with a Fork, the BBQ, Harvest Supper and Soup and Sweet all making a good contribution to our funds. Our grateful thanks go to Iain and Nick for allowing us to use their barn area. Thanks also go to all those who helped at all the events as, without them, none would have happened. The Food Bank continues to be well supported by Brisley people, though more is always wanted, and grateful thanks go to those who have been generous enough to support it.

Serious work is to be done for the repair of the south aisle roof and investigations have been carried out on the north side to see if it has the same problems. If this turns out to be as bad as the south side the cost will be substantial. Our grateful thanks go to Mary Carden who has put in a huge amount of work applying for grants.

The PCC agreed to the setting up The Friends of St Bartholomew's Church to help raise funds for the restoration of the church. It is early days but the signs are that it will be a big help as they have a good diary of events planned for 2023. Gemma Bidewell must, in particular, be commended for setting up the village Yard Sale last summer on behalf of the Friends. She will be doing so again in June.

The bat project continues, in theory, but nothing of any importance happened during the year, though there was a decline in bat numbers caused, we believe, by the warm summer. 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. More volunteers would be most welcome.

# **Brisley Village Hall Report**

**May 2023**

It has been a busy year at the Village Hall with many varied events for the community and our regular hirers – Christine, Amy and Dreaming Void – providing us with reliable monthly income to help pay our bills.

During the past year we have held a number of events. There have been regular cinema showings with a short break during the cricket season but with a 'Filmfest' in September allowing cinema-goers to see four films in consecutive weeks for the princely sum of £10. This was well attended. New to Brisley during the past twelve months have been two live theatre shows. The first featured the songs and stories of Joyce Grenfell and the second an evening of the songs of Edith Piaf and Charles Aznavour. We've had a quiz, jointly with the cricket club, a craft fayre, and have shown football and rugby internationals on our big screen. All of these events have contributed to our coffers to keep the lights on and the hall heated – a much needed boost to funds in these days of high energy bills. In addition the committee was involved in the planning and organising of events that took place over the Platinum Jubilee weekend in June.

With the purely 'community' events which are not profit-making, we have continued to support the monthly 'Chat n Chips' organised by Ian Edwards. We have also organised food franchises to come to the village hall car park. A new event for the younger members of our community was started by Katie Longwill in the summer. The monthly Art Club has been highly successful, evidence of which will shortly be displayed in the village hall thanks to large boards donated by Richard Savory. Talking of art work, we are indebted to Graham Bell and Geoff Ward who have donated paintings to be hung on the walls at the village hall. They depict scenes of life around Brisley. We also have 'promises' of pieces from other members of our talented village.

Just prior to Christmas the interior of the village hall was repainted to freshen up the rather tired-looking paintwork.

We would like to thank all our patrons, whether they attend classes or come to events. Without their regular support we would be unable to maintain and run the hall. I would personally like to thank Dave, Faith, Holly, Matt and Katie – the committee – who give up enormous amounts of time to organise and run events during the year.

Chris Abel  
Chair, Brisley Village Hall Committee

## Brisley and North Elmham Cricket Club Report



Season 2022 saw the beginning of the informal partnership between North Elmham CC and Brisley CC with the two clubs sharing the ground, players and equipment but maintaining separate committees and finances. The aim was to establish mutual trust, working relationships and cooperation to prepare for a more formal merger if successful. The union was aimed at ensuring the continued provision of local community cricket for players of all abilities, ages and gender in an age where recruitment and retention of players is a major challenge across all team sports. The project was overseen by respective chairs Andrew Savage and Mark Ballman.

- Saturday team played in the Norfolk Cricket League Division 3 West and enjoyed a highly successful season winning a second successive promotion as champions and reaching the final of the T20 Plate competition
- Ladies team recorded maiden victories in the Norfolk Women's League clearly benefitting from the bespoke training sessions run by former Norfolk player Steve Goldsmith whose expertise will be re-engaged in 2023
- Social team enjoyed a highly successful tour to the Isle of Wight both socially and on the pitch.
- Friday evening matches both Women's and Social attracted large numbers of enthusiastic supporters in what proved to be a gloriously warm summer.

In October, over 60 members attended the Awards Evening kindly hosted by Marcus and Amelia at the Brisley Bell and presentations made to individual players and volunteers.

In view of the successful integration of the two clubs, in the Autumn the Co-chairs drew up a new constitution and Committee structure to formally establish Brisley and North Elmham Cricket Club. The committee included members from all 3 teams and all members were

tasked with specific roles to address via working parties to develop a bottom up approach to club policy and direction. These roles include Social and Fund-raising (Sophie Hall), Grounds and Facilities (Dave Pearson) Communication (Josh Hall) and Playing (Ollie Hall) in addition to the more regular duties of Chair (Mark Ballman) Secretary (Lindsey Wood) Treasurer (Billy Fordham) and Safeguarding (Iain Sinclair).

A new club badge was selected by members vote from various proposed designs (see above).

The constitution was approved and the Committee were elected at the AGM in December. This meeting marked the formal merging of all assets and is a significant milestone in the history of the two clubs. The combining of financial assets and a growing membership ensures that the club is on a sound financial footing.

### Season 2023

- Clubhouse clean and ground preparation Day took place in April
  - A full set of fixtures is in place, with 22 home games across the 3 teams
  - Winter nets were held for all players at Greshams School
  - A new website is under construction
  - Fundraising events (Ploughing Match, Quiz Night, Coronation Hospitality) have already enabled the purchase of a boundary rope and playing kit
  - Many new sponsors on board including Premier Seeds, Thurlow Nunn Standen, Snag Doctor, Payne Crop Nutrition, FG Personal Trainers and CTM Root Crop Systems.
  - Inter club women's tournament planned for a Sunday in August
  - Links to be explored with girls' cricket at Litcham HS starting with hosting a school fixture in May
  - Provision of scorers' hut planned.
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# **Gordon Bambridge**

## **Upper Wensum Ward - Breckland Council**

Having represented this ward or its earlier incarnation for some 20 years and this being an election year I have decided to stand for another 4 years if the people of Upper Wensum continue to support me.

The past year in Breckland has been very positive despite the whole community still feeling the effects of the tail end of the covid pandemic, we will probably have some fall out from that for a few years. Breckland remains a council producing a balanced budget and still levies a low council tax.

With 15 villages in the ward attending parish meetings has been less regular than I would have hoped, and for this I am sorry, but I am always willing to attend village meetings at other times or arrange to meet with parish clerks or councillors, or indeed members or groups of the public between meetings. These can be in the parish or in the Breckland offices. Inevitably we often get two or more parish council meetings on the same evening, nobody is at fault it just happens, but I will normally attend if asked.

Planning within the ward has ground to a stop on housing applications because of nutrient neutrality limitations, although planners from across the county are hopeful we will have some better ideas of mitigation by the end of this year.

Two things have arisen in this area.

1/ The proposed new town, which is the biggest public issue in our area, I am opposed to the principle of it on this site and have recorded that at Breckland, plus if it goes any further I will oppose the fact of it on two wide ranging grounds - infrastructure matters and environmental matters - if re-elected I will be speaking to all parishes about these.

2/ The introduction of Exception Sites policies. That is 'Local homes for Local people' two villages in the ward are already going down the road of considering these and any village could talk to Breckland about this form of housing provision.

Breckland are still able to provide some grants and match funding, so please raise any questions or place bids if needed. The big project funding is still mainly coming from the lottery as that is how it is set up nationally, but except for things like new halls this is not often needed in villages. I am normally supportive of community efforts and willing to write support letters for your applications.

During the election I have been publishing a daily blog of almost 100 promises Breckland have kept in the past year. I believe Breckland administration has fulfilled its manifesto promises.

I continue to support all the villages of Upper Wensum in practical ways and by promoting them within the council wherever possible.

Apart from the normal ward work I serve on Breckland Cabinet with responsibility for Housing and Homelessness. This means I am pretty much a full time councillor, Cabinet meets weekly in some form or another and I also attend many Breckland committee meetings.

Also like many other conservative councillors I meet with other organisations and levels of government regularly. For me I am pleased to meet with:- MP's and County Councillors as well as parish councils and both national and local organisations who influence how we all live. Plus I represent Breckland on:-

Norfolk Police and Crime Panel,  
Norfolk Rivers Internal Drainage Board,  
Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance,  
Water Resource East Strategic Advisory Board,  
A47 Alliance. (As substitute)

During my time as your councillor I have always regarded my prime job was to represent you to Breckland, I have a secondary duty and that is to represent Breckland to you. I do try and fulfil both these roles.

I hope we meet again after the election and will answer any questions anyone may have.

Gordon Bambridge  
07540973229

# County Councillor for Necton and Launditch

## Annual Report April 2022- April 2023

### Budget and Council Tax:

The Council Tax and budget for 22-23 was set at a meeting of the Council in February 2022. An increase in council tax of 1.99% in the general precept and an increase of 1% for additional adult social care. However, even before the start of the financial year in April 2022 work was begun to tackle the budget for 23-24. There was projected to be a shortfall of some £60m for the year from April 2023 which had to be addressed. A strategic review of the council, “doing things better for less”, was initiated to address the shortfall.

A balanced budget, for 23-24, was set in February which maintained all the council services at the previous level and included a net spending increase of £29.6m to meet rising costs. The government had increased the referendum limit from 2% to 3% for 23-24 so the hard decision was taken to increase the level of council tax to the maximum allowed. This will increase the County Council’s share of band D bills from £1516.95 to £1592.64.

A reminder; local government cash is divided between revenue (broadly what we receive in income) and capital (normally capital grants from government and money borrowed to fund capital projects). Any goods and services and routine maintenance are paid for out of revenue and new projects, major refurbishments, and new equipment are paid for out of capital.

The projected revenue spend for 23-24 is as follows:

- Adult Social Services £249.5m
- Children’s Services £232.6m
- Community and Environmental Services £177.1m
- Strategy and Transformation £12.8m
- Finance and Commercial Services £35.8m

The capital budget for 23-24 is £956.5m. The highlight schemes include the Yarmouth 3<sup>rd</sup> River Crossing and the building of new SEND schools in places nearer to where pupils live. Other projects include:

- County Farms (refurbishments and carbon reduction) £9.4m
- Technology improvement Programme £8.2m
- Scottow Enterprise Park £8.6m
- Highway Improvements £2.5m
- New Fire and Rescue Equipment £1.2m

### County Deal for Norfolk:

The County Council has entered negotiations with government on a “County Deal” for Norfolk and signed an “in-principle” deal in December 2022. The deal would see a grant of £600m paid over 30 years to fund economic development, infrastructure projects and skills training. As a condition of the deal the government require a directly elected leader, in addition to the 84 elected members, to take control of the budget. The governance model proposed requires legislation and this will not be passed until late in 2023 after which the

changes required to NCC's constitution will be debated at a meeting of Council in December 2023.

#### Bus Service Improvements:

During 2022 the County Council negotiated with government for an allocation from the Bus Service Improvement Fund and received an allocation of £50m, one of the largest in the country. The first £10m phase of this funding was received in November 2022. Since then, NCC have worked closely with bus service operators to implement enhanced routes and services as well as reviewing infrastructure and fares to encourage passenger growth and improve bus service reliability and sustainability. The revised and improved bus timetables will come into use on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2023.

#### Social Infrastructure Fund:

The 2022 was the third year that Social Infrastructure funding has provided capital grants to improve facilities for communities and boost the level of community services. £775,000 was awarded to communities to fund individual projects and £225,000 awarded to Norfolk Community Foundation to expand their Nourishing Norfolk food hubs across the county. Look out for this year's funding to go live.

#### Major Infrastructure:

Norfolk county Council are working to deliver 2 major road improvement projects; the Long Stratton bypass on the A140 and the much discussed Norwich Western Link (NWL) which will join the A47 to the A1067 effectively completing an outer ring road to Norwich (The greater Norwich Local Plan envisages 49,000 homes being built during the plan period to 2038).

Improvements to the A47 being brought forward by National Highways should also help the economic development of Norfolk by allowing better connectivity and slightly shorter journey times for commuters. The NWL and the A47 improvements should divert traffic currently using the B1145 (through Brisley, Stanfield, Mileham, Litcham, Lexham and Rougham) to use the new improved routes to access Kings Lynn and the east Midlands.

#### Necton and Launditch Division:

I represent some 8,600+ electors in the Necton and Launditch division which covers approximately 80 square miles and has 22 parishes within its boundaries. 19 parishes have parish councils, there are 2 parish meetings, and one parish is administered by the district councillor. 5 parish councils meet monthly, the rest on a bi-monthly basis (except Rougham), the parish meetings are only obliged to meet once a year.

#### Your Councillor:

I have, in the past year, been a member of the following committees/working groups at County Hall, all meetings are held during the working day usually commencing at 10:00:

Full Council, the ultimate decision-making body for policy and governance which meets 6 times in a year (plus extra-ordinary meetings).

Scrutiny Committee, which meets every month to scrutinise internal policy and to hear "call ins" of executive decisions from members. Can call in external organisations that serve the residents of Norfolk.

Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub Panel: chairman of this committee which scrutinises the progress of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership in delivering the aims of the Partnership. Reports to the Scrutiny Committee.

Audit and Governance Committee; meets every 3 months or so to monitor the financial performance of the Council, now has responsibility for the members code of conduct.

People and Communities Select Committee; (until July 2022) reviews and formulates policy relating to community matters. Meets every 6 weeks.

Standards Committee as Chairman (until subsumed into the Audit and Governance Committee). Monitored the effectiveness of the Members Code of Conduct.

Adult Social Care Performance Review Panel (meetings held via Teams); monitors the progress of adult social care reforms, working towards an inspection from government.  
Planning (Regulatory) Committee; substitute member (must maintain training and be available on each day a meeting is called).

Parish Councils; attended as many of the scheduled 18 meetings as possible, usually bi-monthly. These are always evening meetings as they cannot be convened before 6:00pm.

Mark Kiddle-Morris,  
Member for Necton and Launditch Division,  
Norfolk County Council.