

Brisley Parish Council
Bay Tree Cottage, School Road, Brisley, NR20 5LH

Minutes of a meeting of Brisley Parish Council held at 7.00pm in the Village Hall on Wednesday 4th March 2020.

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

C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
One member of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Savory.

2. To receive declarations of interest.

There were none received.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th February 2019.

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

4. To receive a Clerk's report on the progress of items from previous meetings.

The report was noted and is attached to the minutes.

5. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris gave the following update in respect of County Council matters.

The budget has been set and there will be a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care precept and a 1.99% increase in the general rate.

Highways England have commenced the consultation process in respect of the dualling of the A47 between Tuddenham and Easton. The documents are available to view in Dereham Library until the 8th April 2020.

A Minerals and Waste Consultation will commence sometime in May/June. There are likely to be three additional sites at Beetley which may impact on traffic at Brisley.

In respect of Breckland Council, the Cllr reported that although the Local Plan had now been adopted, many policies must be reviewed over the next four years, amongst those are housing numbers, gypsies and travellers, and climate change.

The C/Cllr outlined the amendments being proposed to the local bus service, with the one having the most impact on Brisley being the removal of any service to Fakenham.

The Parish Council, although they could understand the reasoning behind the decision in that the service was not at all well-used, thought it was a very short-sighted decision. Many residents identify with Fakenham as their main town, rather than Dereham although a service to Dereham is essential as it is a hub for the main bus routes throughout the county, and beyond. Given that the use of public transport is being encouraged due to the climate change emergency, a reduction in any service is not the way forward. However, an alternative service of a 'Dial-a-Bus' may be more suitable and the C/Cllr will investigate. In the meantime, the Chairman will consult the local Age UK group and the school to determine local views.

The Chairman thanked C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris for his input.

6. Open Forum: an opportunity for members of the public to raise new issues or speak in relation to items on the agenda.

On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, Mr Dave Pearson updated the Parish Council with the following improvements being made to the Hall in the near future.

- Four new halogen heaters had been purchased and will be installed shortly, this will reduce the background noise being generated by the current system and also the heating bill.
- A hard standing area is being created in the car park for disabled access for drivers and a hardstanding walkway from the road for anyone with mobility issues.
- The stone being removed from the car park will be laid in the overflow car park and rolled. It is also hoped an additional 20 tonne will be laid at some time during the year. Track matting will be laid under the gravel.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pearson for his input.

7. Highways

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

Council noted the following updates:

- FP 6 – the tenant had contacted the Clerk and made assurances that the footpath will be brought up to the required standard.
- Woods Lane flooding – Cllr Green had resolved the flooding and NCC had also cleared the pipes. It would appear that a ditch along Woods Lane has been partly filled in and has created this problem, this will be further investigated. If need be, NCC will contact the landowner and remind them of their riparian duties. The flood signs remain in Woods Lane and need removing.

Cllr Curl raised the issue of flooding from the road into the Moat at Brisley Hall as it was an ancient monument but Council agreed that this was an issue for the owner of the property to address.

- Speed Limit request on the B1145, from the Mileham direction – C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris has this matter in hand.

- Surface of CRB12 (restricted byway, Fludges Lane) – this has been reported to NCC but it is unclear what action will be taken.
- Pothole, Gateley Road – this is programmed for works.
- Pothole, Elmham Road – this will be reported to NCC.

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

The PROW Warden reported no issues other than the surface of CRB12, as outlined above, and the pathway which leads across the footbridge on School Road is now very narrow, in addition, some overhanging brambles further along this path had been cleared by the Cllr and her husband.

c) To receive an update re the Wednesday Norwich Bus Service.

The Chairman reported that there were a number of issues with the Wednesday service; the service is often late or does not run at all and there are too many unscheduled request stops which increase the delay. There has been a considerable price increase but a considerable drop in service.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris reported that he is currently following up a letter of complaint he had received and will take these issues forward too.

8. Planning

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no applications for Council to consider.

b) Decisions to note.

There were no decisions for Council to note.

9. Open Spaces

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

The Chairman had not been able to progress this matter further but will continue to try and contact the other two households.

Cllr Curl reported that Pond 1 may also have effluent discharging into it from the Old Stables, however, given the new regulations regarding septic tanks, this should be addressed during the sale of the property.

As part of the continuing project to restore the ponds, a request to restock Pond 17 with crucian carp had been received. Council agreed this could go ahead.

b) To receive an update regarding a wildflower churchyard.

Council will wait to receive a firm proposal before making any decision on this matter.

c) To receive the Grazing Rights Holders minutes and consider any actions raised.

Cllr Dennis reported that it had been a positive meeting, with the grazing rights holders in general agreement that a Higher Tier claim could go ahead, with a second meeting taking place once an application is ready. It may also be necessary to hold a public meeting to inform all stake-holders of the proposed application, with an extra-ordinary meeting of the Council also being necessary, as the claim must be submitted by 1st May at the latest.

d) To receive a report regarding an Open Day on the Common.

Council noted that The Bell will be holding events in the w/c 15th June, some of which related to the wildlife and fauna on the common and walks around the common are likely to take place.

10. To receive reports on the regular checks and discuss any issues arising.

- North Green – No issues reported.
- South Green – Council noted that many cars were now parked on the green near to the dog bin and agreed that, if appropriate, they should be advised to park elsewhere.
- Churchyard – Cllr Green reported that he is monitoring the mole situation.
- Patch Corner – Cllr Dennis reported a tree had come down but much of it had been removed by a member of the public. The rest will be dealt with in due course.
- Play Area – No issues reported.
- Allotments – Cllr Dennis reported that the fencing is due to be replaced.
In respect of refunds for allotment holders, he was concerned that, should the plots be full, this could have an adverse impact and any refunds made after the 1st January each year would set a precedence. Council agreed that no refunds should be made to allotment holders after the 1st January, when the tenancy is renewed.
- Amenity Area – There had been some storm damage and the bench had blown over a couple of times, Cllr Green will ensure the bench is fixed to the ground. Council agreed that the damaged trees should be removed and works to thin the trees needed to be considered, particularly the willow trees. Cllr Dennis will inspect and report back to Council.
Council also agreed that the ragwort would soon need a treatment and Cllr Dennis will contact the contractor.
- Harpers Green – Cllr Dennis reported that there is a blocked culvert, causing some flooding on the roadway, however, he does not think it has collapsed and will clear it out, hopefully relieving the issue.

11. Finance & Governance Matters

a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2020.

The financial report was noted.

b) To receive a report regarding Operation London Bridge.

Cllr Irons outlined the various options available to Council. Cllr Curl will consult with the PCC as to any plans they may have and Cllr Irons will prepare an appropriate wording for the website.

c) To consider the purchase of a replacement bench at Patch Corner.

Council agreed that the damaged bench should be removed, however, it was also agreed that no replacement bench was currently required.

d) To consider the purchase of a replacement stainless steel fireman's pole @£430

Council agreed the cost could not be justified and agreed to continue maintenance on the existing pole and approved the purchase of an appropriate pot of paint for the task.

e) To consider the allocation of any remaining Townlands funds

It was agreed not to allocate any funds at the present time.

f) To consider any charitable donations to Norfolk Citizens Advice, Norfolk Age UK and Priscilla Bacon Hospice.

Council had a budget of £80 for donations and Cllr Irons proposed a 50/50 split between Norfolk Citizens Advice and the Priscilla Bacon Hospice. This was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

g) To approve the following payments.

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

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|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Clerk (March – Salary/Expenses) | £325.09 |
| • Clerk (April – Salary/Allowance) | £467.10 (2020/21) |
| • Village Hall Hire | £255.00 |

12. Correspondence for consideration.

Council noted the following correspondence:

- Bus Service Changes (see item 5 above).
- In the Field – DEFRA newsletter.

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

Council agreed to add 'dog mess on the amenity area' to the next agenda.

14. To confirm the annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 6th May 2020, following the Annual Parish Meeting, commencing at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Council noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed:

Date:

Brisley Parish Council

**Clerk's Report – March 2020
(matters for information only)**

- Cllr Dennis cleared away a tree from Harpers which had fallen over. A local householder was pleased to take the wood away.
- The school children planted all the Christmas trees, a job which was made much easier by the preparation work carried out by Cllr Dennis.
- In respect of the complaint regarding trees being felled without permission at the most recent pond renovation, I can now report that no further action will be taken by Breckland Council. Permission would have been granted had we applied and we are now mindful of this requirement in the future.

Sheryl Irving
Clerk
Brisley Parish Council