

Brisley Parish Council

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

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

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 Collinge declared an interest in item 7a) 3PL/2020/1228/F and item 8c). Grazing Rights.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2020.

Cllr Irons proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting, 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 reported that there was little to report but work was continuing in respect of matters related to Covid, the economy and the budget.

In respect of Breckland Planning, there is currently a five year land supply until March, when an annual position statement will again be published, this prevents any speculative land developments.

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.

Speed Limit request – B1145 from Mileham direction – C/Cllr taking forward but this remains on hold due to staff shortages in the Highway Team.

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

Cllr Fairman reported that the sign, which had been replaced only a year or so ago where the bridleway crosses the B1146 en-route for Back Lane, Stanfield, had either fallen over or been knocked over. It is a waste of public money and a false economy to replace these signs for them only to need further attention just months later as a standard wooden finger post costs £52.80, and with a permasoil foundation £60.17, whilst a metal post and foundation is £114.61. The metal posts are

deemed best practice by other local authorities and are much better option in terms of durability, working out so much cheaper long term.

On a positive note, this route, Fiddlers Lane, is getting a lot more foot, paw and hoof fall now it is more user friendly. It is in the most passable state it has been in for a very long time.

The County Council spending on PROW peaked in 2017 but is now half of that amount, which accounts for the poor state of many of the routes.

7. Planning

a) Applications for consideration.

- 3PL/2020/1228/F – Manor Farm, Elmham Road - proposed extension and alterations to Manor Farm house including demolition of some out buildings and conversion and extension to barns to form 2 holiday lets – Cllr Collinge left the meeting whilst this application was discussed and Cllr Irons took the Chair. Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response. Cllr Collinge then returned to the meeting.
- 3PL/2020/1204/F – Hawthorn House, School Road - change of use of detached ancillary building, currently being used as a guest bedroom and office to a holiday let – Council agreed a ‘no comment’ response.

There were no further applications to discuss.

b) To note any planning decisions.

- 3PL/2020/1045/F – Bay Tree Cottage, School Road - Alterations to existing stable block (increase the head height and material change to the southern wall) – Council noted that this application had been approved.

c) To note any views received from parishioners in respect of changes to the planning system.

Council noted there had been just one response to the recent information circulated re the planning system and that response had been in agreement with the Council position, that of agreement with the Breckland and CPRE responses to the Planning White Paper.

8. Open Spaces

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

Cllr Dennis reported that the works had been completed and the wood had been left for wildlife habitat, in line with advice from the Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Some works will be required each year and Council agreed to consider an on-going contract, to possibly save costs, and this will be explored in the future.

Cllr Dennis also reported that the trees at the School Road end which were listing, would be re-staked upright, particularly the larch which are an important tree and should be saved if possible.

b) To receive a report regarding trees on Harpers Common.

Cllr Dennis reported he had inspected the Black Poplar at Harpers Common which was a possible liability issue if any large branches broke off. Council agreed the works should be completed and requested a second quote.

There is also a section on the common which needs work, to clear gorse and bramble to allow access and light to enter and Council agreed these works too.

Cllr Irons proposed a budget of up to £1,500 for both works, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

Council also agreed that a local resident could reduce the two leylandii bushes, situated on the common near to their property.

At this point in the meeting, C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris left the meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his input.

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

- To consider terms of any offer received from RPA – no offer had yet been received from the RPA and, as there was a tight timespan to return any offer for the scheme, which would commence on 1st January 2021, Cllr Collinge proposed that authority should be delegated to the Clerk to accept the offer, assuming there were no major changes. This was seconded by Cllr Fairman and agreed by Council.

Cllr Collinge did not take part in the discussions regarding the following two issues and Cllr Irons took the Chair.

- To consider the draft Grazing Rights Holders (GRH) Agreement – the agreement of all Grazing Rights Holders is required by the RPA before any scheme can go ahead and the GRHs have been kept up to date with information regarding the application although this has been difficult due to the Covid situation. GRHs will be asked to sign up to the scheme once an offer has been received and it was hoped that all would do so otherwise the increasing costs for the upkeep of the Green fall to the precept raised by the village. Cllr Curl proposed approval of the draft agreement, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.
- To consider rates of pay to GRH for any works carried out on the Green as required by the agreement – Cllr Curl proposed that Council follow the national agricultural guidelines on fixed payments for any topping/hay-making/ditching required under the terms of the agreement, this was seconded by Cllr Savory and agreed by Council. This does not affect the current hay-making which is carried out on the Green but is for an additional, late season, cut and the GRHs will be given priority for cutting/hay.

Cllr Collinge returned to the Chair.

d) To receive an update regarding the Parish Council notice board.

Cllr Dennis plans to install the notice board at the Village Hall after Christmas. Council hoped, if the Village Hall Committee are agreeable, to also display the map of the village, which had been in the notice board before it was moved, to the Village Hall.

9. To receive reports on the regular checks.

North Green (Cllr Bobby Green) - all is well on the North Green, nothing to report.

South Green (Cllr Nicola Curl) - a lot of cars have been regularly parked by the dog waste bin on the Green. Two days ago, four cars were parked there at one stage plus two more up by the cricket pitch. This perhaps may indicate people travelling from outside the village to walk their dogs on the Green.

Sheep are being grazed below the cricket pitch and to date have escaped only once. The grazing area has been increased and they do not try and jump/break out if there is sufficient new grass.

Cllr Dennis reported that some vandalism was occurring to the electric fence and battery on the South Green, which then allowed the sheep to get out. Council thought it was important that walkers were aware of the ancient rights of the grazing rights holders and the importance of the grazing to the common in its upkeep and agreed to display a sign, with an explanation. Council also noted that householders adjoining the Green were responsible for keeping livestock out of their gardens, rather than the GRHs having to do so. This information will also be published in the UWD, Facebook and the Website. Cllr Collinge proposed approval of the purchase of an appropriate sign, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

Council did not feel it was necessary to ask the GRH to move back the electric fencing from the track and at one other place, as requested by a parishioner, as there was plenty of room for pedestrians. Council noted that the mobile cattle grid had yet to be tested and the GRH will be requested to try it.

The cattle grazing electric fence has been removed.

Churchyard (Cllr Tony Irons) - nothing to report.

Play Area (Cllr Tony Irons) - all correct and necessary signage in place. Cllr Dennis has addressed the items mentioned in inspection report and all the equipment is safe.

Patch Corner (Cllr Peter Dennis) - a tidy up of the bank and willows is needed but at the moment the water level is high so it may pay to wait until it is a little lower.

Allotments (Cllr Peter Dennis) - nothing to new report.

Harpers Green (Cllr Peter Dennis) – the four cattle have been removed.

At this point Cllr Curl left the meeting.

10. Finance & Governance Matters

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

There were no issues raised and the report was noted.

b) To consider allocation of Townlands funds.

Cllr Irons proposed approval of the purchase of a laptop, at a cost of approx. £240, for the use of a Brisley child, this was seconded by Cllr Collinge and put to the vote, with five in favour and one abstention the vote was carried.

Cllr Dennis proposed approval of a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau of £200, this was seconded by Cllr Fairman and put to the vote, with five in favour and one abstention the vote was carried.

c) To consider the budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2022.

Cllr Irons proposed that the precept be raised by approx. 3% to £11,850, this was seconded by Cllr Collinge and agreed by Council.

Cllr Collinge proposed approval of the draft budget, 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 Savory and agreed by Council.

• Clerk (December Salary & Expenses)	£354.72
• Clerk (January Salary & Expenses)	£351.72
• Tree Contractor (Willow near pond)	£425.00 (paid on 17.11.2020)
• Digger Hire (Pond Project – Grant funded)	£252.00 (paid on 13.11.2020)
• Contractor (Amenity Thinning Works)	£600.00 (paid on 23.11.2020)

11. Correspondence for circulation.

The following correspondence was noted and there were no actions arising.

- Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) survey.
- Invitation to District Superintendent Provart District Briefing – 15th December 2020 at 7pm.

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

There were no new items received for the next agenda.

13. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 3rd February 2020 at 7.00pm.

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

Signed:

Date: