

## **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 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

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

D/Cllr Bill Borrett  
Six members of the public  
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from C/Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris and D/Cllr Gordon Bambridge.

### **2. To receive declarations of interest.**

There were none received.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.**

Cllr Fairman requested an amendment in respect of item 7b) the number of vehicles using School Road is between 550 and 700 a day and that heavy rain distorts the figures recorded by the SAM II sign.

Subject to the above amendment, Cllr Irons proposed the minutes be accepted as a true record, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and agreed by Council.

### **4. To receive County/District Councillor reports.**

D/Cllr Borrett updated Council on the progress of the Breckland Local Plan in that it had now been approved by District Council and a five year land supply was in place. A six week consultation is now ongoing and the Local Plan will be adopted unless there is a successful appeal. Unfortunately, the clause granting permission for any developments which had parish council approval had been removed. In response to a query, the D/Cllr confirmed that funding for additional infrastructure came from either central Government or the landowner, not Breckland. A query was raised regarding development in the village and the D/Cllr confirmed that in respect of a village without a settlement boundary, there would be a presumption against development.

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

The following points were raised by members of the public:

- More action is required in respect of speeding and volume of traffic in the village, possible solutions being traffic humps at entrances to village, chicanes and 20mph speed limits – Council responded in that they are currently being pro-active and obtaining data evidence in an attempt to persuade County Council to take action and, in addition, new signage and a footpath are being looked at.
- The Traffic Restriction sign is sited incorrectly at the Church Street end of School Road – Council responded that many locals used the route and moving the sign was unlikely to have any effect.
- The Norwich Distributor Road had increased the traffic coming through the village – Council responded that unfortunately higher traffic volumes were a sign of the times and there is little that can be done about that.
- What purpose is the SAM II sign – Council responded that it is a data recording device only, however, the flashing sign does result in slowing traffic.
- Support for a precept increase as the village had looked very good this year and it would be disappointing if this was to change.
- Can a regular grass cut at the School Road junction at the Fakenham end of School Road be included in the grass cutting contract – Council will obtain a quote.
- The overflow car park has been regularly flooded and impassable this year – Council did not agree with this statement but the responsibility for this car park belonged to the Village Hall Committee.
- Opposition to the proposed Fireworks ban, a member of the public felt that the enjoyment for family and friends of a firework party outweighed the distress caused to dogs (which can be mitigated) and the horses in the village. However, they were happy to publicise the event via facebook.

**6. Highways**

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

Council noted the following updates:

- FP 6 – enforcement letter being sent by NCC – no action had yet been taken by the landowner.
- Flooding on Litcham Road – the gruts had been cleared out.
- Flooding on Woods Lane – this has been reported to NCC.

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

Cllr Fairman reported the hunt had unfortunately ridden over the footpath at Harpers and the surface was now in a poor condition. Council agreed to contact the hunt asking them to avoid the footpaths in future, if possible.

The fingerpost at Fludges Lane indicated the route was a public footpath when it was actually a restricted byway and Cllr Fairman has reported this error.

The fingerpost at the footpath near Manor Farm has been installed.

**c) To receive an update regarding issues on the Gateley Road.**

It was agreed to continue to pursue the request for a footpath alongside the Gateley Road, heading towards the bus stop, and Council agreed that a fence may need to be installed to keep dogs away from any grazing sheep.

**d) To consider the option of applying for a grant to purchase a SAM II sign.**

There had been no interest from nearby parishes in the purchase of an additional SAM II sign.

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

This item was remitted to the next meeting.

**f) To receive a report re a complaint of horse dung on road and pathways.**

A complaint had been received regarding horse dung in the village and the complainant had been informed that there was no legislation requiring riders to clear up, however, they had also been reassured that horse dung held no risk to public health, unlike dog mess.

## **7. Planning**

**a) Applications for consideration.**

There were no applications for consideration.

**b) Decisions to note.**

There were no decisions to note.

## **8. Open Spaces**

**a) To receive an update regarding the invasive weed in Patch Corner pond.**

Cllr Savory is consulting with an expert on this subject and will report back to Council in due course.

**b) To nominate members to represent Council on the Upper Wensum Farm Cluster Group and to receive an update.**

It was agreed there was no need to nominate representatives and that any Council member with an interest should attend events. In addition, the Grazing Rights Holders were also to be invited to attend if they wished. Cllr Dennis reported that the assistance available from the group for grant applications would be invaluable.

Cllr Savory hoped to organise a summer event on the common, with expert speakers, for the information of residents.

Cllr Irons reported that he had submitted a grant application to the National Lottery for pond renovation.

**c) To receive an update re Christmas Tree project.**

Cllr Dennis confirmed the trees were on order and would be delivered in February. Cllr Irons had approached the School, who were keen for the children to be involved with this project.

**d) To receive an update regarding the replacement culvert pipe on the Green.**

Cllr Savory will obtain a quote for the works.

**e) To further consider any action to be taken in respect of the effluent discharge into the pond on the Green.**

Following the information published in the most recent newsletter on this subject, the Chairman will visit the local residents concerned.

**f) To consider any action re unauthorised access over the Green.**

It was agreed that a letter should be sent to the estate agency currently offering the property for sale, informing them that no easement is in place for the gateway and access cannot be presumed.

**g) To consider the option of Brisley becoming a Firework Free Zone.**

Although there had been some support for a voluntary firework free zone, it was agreed not to go ahead but to encourage the use of low-noise fireworks and the notification of any events via Facebook or other appropriate means.

**9. To receive an update regarding the NALC Well-Being Initiative.**

Cllr Savory reported that the initiative related to community engagement and it was important that parish councils tried to involve everyone in the parish. Brisley was fortunate in that there was an active Village Hall Committee and Cricket Club, together with a successful pub. However, it may be useful to look at a long term plan for the parish in the future.

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

The following updates were reported:

- North Green – no problems reported, the new footpath signage had been erected.
- South Green – there had been no reports of escaped sheep this year which was an improvement.
- Churchyard – moles are in evidence and these will be dealt with. Cllr Curl reported that a PCC grant was available for a wildflower churchyard and this would be investigated.
- Patch Corner – Cllr Green had trimmed back the trees and strimmed the grass around the fence.
- Play Area – the storage box for the safety harness had not yet been installed.
- Allotments – Cllr Dennis had made some repairs to the fencing which had been breached by rabbits recently. Quotes for new fencing are to be obtained.  
Anglian Water had recently carried out an inspection on the allotment tap and everything was in order.
- Amenity Area – tree guards are to be purchased for the new trees in the Centenary Field and grant funds are available for this. Installation will be a job for the Busy Brisley team.  
A quote is to be obtained for posts and chain at the Gateley Road entrance as this has been churned up by cars and is very muddy and rutted.  
Cllr Dennis reported that the willow trees need thinning and will investigate options for doing so.

Cllr Dennis proposed that an amount of up to £150 be approved for hedge cutting along the track to Green Farm, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

**11. To consider the Townlands Charity income and fund allocation.**

Given the small amount of income derived from Townlands, Council agreed that no changes to the current system were required.

**12. Finance & Governance Matters**

**a) To receive a financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.**

Council noted the report and that the Cricket Club had made a repayment of £450 towards the loan of £950.

**b) To receive an update regarding council banking.**

Council noted that everything was now in order and Cllr Collinge proposed acceptance of an offer of £150 compensation from the bank in respect of the many problems encountered during this process, this was seconded by Cllr Dennis and agreed by Council.

**c) To consider holding the first meeting of the Council year in May, with no April meeting being held.**

Cllr Collinge proposed that the first meeting of the Council year be held in May, following the Annual Parish Meeting, with no April meeting being held, this was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

**d) To consider a draft budget and set the precept for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.**

Council noted that the majority of responses to the recent consultation published in the local newsletter were in favour of increasing the precept and to continue the upkeep of the village as at present. Accordingly, Cllr Irons proposed the precept be increased to £11,500 for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, this was seconded by Cllr Savory. There were six votes for, with one abstention, and the vote was carried.

**e) To approve the following payments.**

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

• Clerk (December – Salary/Expenses)	£328.04
• Clerk (January – Salary)	£317.10
• Grass Contractor	£930.00
• Royal British Legion (2 x poppy wreaths)	£37.00
• Christmas Trees (x 100)	£61.20

**13. Correspondence for consideration.**

Council noted the following correspondence, no actions were required.

- Breckland Parish Forum – 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- Bus Timetable Amendments

**14. To receive any new items for the next agenda.**

The following item was received for the next agenda:

- To consider moving the July 2020 meeting due to a clash with the Royal Norfolk Show.

**15. To confirm the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.**

Council noted the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

Signed:

Date:

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