

Brisley Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Brisley Parish Council held at 7.00pm on Wednesday 5th June 2019 in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Tony Irons (Resigning Chairman)
Cllr Henry Collinge (Elected Chairman)
Cllr Bobby Green
Cllr Brigid Fairman
Cllr Peter Dennis
Cllr Nicola Curl

County Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Two members of the public
Sheryl Irving (Clerk)

1. Election of Chairman and signing of declaration of office.

Following the resignation of Cllr Irons as Chairman of the Council, Cllr Dennis proposed that Cllr Henry Collinge be elected as Chairman, this was seconded by Cllr Green and agreed by Council. Cllr Collinge signed his declaration of acceptance of office form and took the Chair.

2. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies were received from Cllr Richard Savory and District Councillor Gordon Bambridge.

3. To receive declarations of interest.

Cllr Dennis declared an interest item 11f) and would not take part in the discussion. Cllr Curl declared an interest in item 11b) and would not take part in the discussion.

It was noted that all members of the Council may have an interest in item 9c).

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 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.

5. To receive County/District Councillor reports.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris congratulated the Chairman on his election. There was little to report from County Hall as the new system of cabinet and committees had only recently commenced. However, the two grass contracts (rural and urban (which is anywhere with a 30mph limit)) were now with two contractors and there will be some because of this. He also noted that the recent rural cut had been very badly done and he will be reporting back to Highways.

Cllr Curl pointed out that a cut on some rural roads was a waste of money, however, Cllr Dennis thought it could be dangerous when not cut due to visibility issues leading to more accidents.

Cllr Kiddle-Morris also reported that the B1145 junction at Litcham is to be altered soon, which should make it safer.

Unfortunately, a recent road closure at North Elmham had led to more traffic on the Gateley Road but this had now been removed.

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

A member of the public noted that the recent flyer advertising events in Brisley on the weekend of 22nd/23rd June had missed off the Cricket Club event on the Friday evening. The Chairman informed the member that the Parish Council had had no involvement in the flyer and it was believed to have been published by The Bell.

A member of the Village Hall Committee queried the ownership of the land surrounding the Village Hall and the Clerk will investigate.

7. Highways

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

- Speeding on Gateley Road, past the Village Hall – a visit with Highways Engineer was being arranged to determine if the SAM II sign can be sited there, together with a SLOW DOWN sign. It was also suggested that it would be useful if the SAM II sign could be sited in School Road.
- The cutting of the verge along School Road had been raised with Highways but it was too late to amend the schedule this year, however, it will be considered when next year's arrangements are being finalised.
- The bridleway sign on Fiddler's Lane has been reported and will be repaired.

b) To consider any new issues within the village.

- A landowner along the route of FP5 will be contacted again to ensure their part of the route is kept clear.
- The results from the SAM II sign had been circulated and it appeared that any speeding was mostly taking place late at night and the results would not be severe enough for Highways to take any action. However, it was agreed to request a visit from the local police engagement officer to explain the statistics.
- The pathways which had been cut on the green were appreciated.

8. Planning

a) Applications for consideration.

There were no applications to consider.

b) Decisions to note.

There were no decisions to note.

9. Open Spaces

a) To receive an update re the Busy Brisley volunteer initiative.

The Chairman reported that the first Busy Brisley session had been a success with six volunteers assisting in the clearance of damaged tree guards and stakes in the amenity woodland. There may be a cost implication in the disposal of the tree guards and a recycling scheme was suggested. The next Busy Brisley session will take place on the last Saturday of the month.

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

b) To receive an update re Countryside Stewardship grant applications.

Cllr Dennis reported that he, together with Cllr Savory and the Clerk, had attended two sessions with representatives regarding the Countryside Stewardship Schemes in relation to the common in Brisley. Although it now appeared that the mid-tier stewardship scheme would not be suitable, it is possible funding can be obtained via the higher-tier stewardship scheme.

Any agreement will need the co-operation of the grazing rights holders but it is hoped both pond renovation and species rich/open grassland grants can be obtained.

c) To note the changes surrounding septic tank legislation.

Changes to the legislation regarding septic tanks was noted in that all septic tanks that discharge into a watercourse or ditch must be replaced by 1st January 2020, to comply with the new Environment Agency Binding Rules. It was agreed to circulate information to local residents in the next newsletter.

C/Cllr Kiddle-Morris will be approached regarding any funding which may be available to householders to assist with these changes.

10. To receive reports on the regular checks.

- North Green – all is well, the sheep fencing has been removed.
- South Green – all is well, the area being used for the June event car parking will be cut for hay prior to the event taking place.
- Footpaths & Stiles – the stile at the far end of the south green may require some attention, Cllr Green will investigate and remedy, if required.
- Churchyard – a complaint had been received regarding the state of the churchyard following the grass cutting, particularly grass cuttings left on graves. However, some councillors had been to inspect and were satisfied that there was not a problem, indeed, the churchyard was looking very tidy at present. It was agreed there was no need to make any changes to current system.
- Play Area – the Fireman’s Pole will be repainted when the new equipment is installed which, it is hoped, will be prior to the school summer holidays.
- Patch Corner – all is well.
- Allotments – the toddler group have commenced work on their allotment, Cllr Dennis was thanked for spraying their plot and cutting the grass. It was agreed to make no further discount for the group for the half year. The allotment gate catch appears to be broken and this will be investigated.
- Amenity Area - In respect of the ragwort on the amenity area, a grazing rights holder had offered to cut the hay with the ragwort, Cllr Fairman was opposed to hay being produced that included ragwort. Cllr Dennis proposed that the holder cut the hay, as discussed, and the area be sprayed in September when the ragwort plants were at the rosette stage. This was seconded by Cllr Irons and agreed by Council.

11. Finance & Governance Matters

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

The report was noted by Council, there were no points raised.

b) To consider a short-term loan to the Cricket Club.

Cllr Curl did not participate in this decision due to a declared interest. The Cricket Club had requested a loan of £950 for a period of one year from the Parish Council. Cllr Irons proposed approval of the loan, in support of the Cricket Club, and this was seconded by Cllr Green and agreed by Council.

Cllr Fairman suggested a donation from the Parish Council but it was agreed that there were other groups in the village who may also benefit from donations and a draft grant policy would be considered at a later meeting.

c) To consider approval of an amendment to Financial Regulations.

A draft amendment, which included online bank transfer payments, had been circulated. Cllr Irons proposed acceptance of the amendment, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

It was agreed to contact the Business Banker in order to resolve the current difficulties being experienced.

d) To appoint an Internal Control Officer.

Cllr Fairman proposed that Cllr Curl be appointed as Internal Control Officer, this was seconded by Cllr Green and agreed by Council.

e) To consider approval of granting the Clerk access to bank accounts.

Cllr Dennis proposed approval of granting Clerk access to the bank accounts, in accordance with the Financial Regulations Policy, this was seconded by Cllr Curl and agreed by Council.

f) To review the allotment rental fee.

Cllr Dennis did not participate in this decision due to a declared interest. It was agreed that, although the allotment expenditure was higher than income, not to increase the fees. It was agreed to consider savings be made on the grass cutting next year.

g) To approve the annual inspection of the Play Area.

Cllr Irons proposed approval of an inspection, following the installation of the new equipment, at a cost of £90, this was seconded by Cllr Fairman and agreed by Council.

h) To consider approval of the purchase of play equipment & payment of a 30% deposit.

Cllr Irons reported that the grant had been approved and receipt of the monies was awaited. Due to savings made in the project, an amount of £103 is left over from the grant which, following approval from the Lottery Fund administrators, will be used for additional play equipment, as suggested by the Toddler Group.

Cllr Green proposed acceptance of the order, with payment of the 30% deposit being made once the grant monies had been received. This was seconded by Cllr Fairman and agreed by Council.

i) To approve the following payments.

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

• Clerk (June - Salary & Expenses)	£330.99
• Grass Contractor	£144.00
• Grass Contractor	£540.00
• Weed Spraying	£90.00
• Aggregate – Overspill Car Park	£535.00
• Recycling – Village Hall	£101.96

12. Correspondence for circulation.

- Western Link Update: this was noted.
- Scotty's Little Soldiers – donation request: it was agreed to consider this, together with any other requests, later in the year.
- Breckland Council – new Leader: this was noted.
- Breckland Local Plan Consultation: this was noted, Council had no comments to add.
- Local Joint Parish Councils Meeting to discuss speeding issues along B1145: the Chairman will attend the meeting and report back to Council.

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

The following item was received:

- To consider moving the notice board currently on the South Green.

14. To confirm the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 3rd July 2019 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

The date of the next meeting was noted, Cllr Green tendered his apologies.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Date:
