

BRADFORD PEVERELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday April 28th, 2022

Present – Vice Chairman Cllr S Denning, Cllrs, N Howard, P Meaden, J Harrop, J Desborough and C Hawkins. Representatives C. Chapman, C Bishop and T Buck, clerk J. Adlam.

Democratic Period -

1 Apologies- None

2 Chairman's Annual Report -

The purpose of the report is to inform parishioners of the work of their Parish Council.

Councillors

This year the role of chairman has been taken on a rolling basis mainly shared between myself as vice-chair and Paul Meaden. We have shared chairing of meetings and Paul has been particularly active in leading between meetings so many thanks to Paul.

Towards the end of last year Cathy Bishop and Tess Buck resigned, but continue as officers of the council. Cathy as representative for Muckleford and Tess as our representative on the Village Hall Committee. We continued with only five councillors for some time, but in November co-opted John Harrop. We still have a vacancy for one councillor and advertised in the Chalk Stream, but did not have any response.

Councillors do so much more than attend Parish Council meetings: they are in frequent communication between meetings, they read and comment on circulated documents and emails, meet with outside agencies and take special responsibility for particular aspects of the Council's work. They even cut back brambles, pick up litter and do maintenance jobs. Many thanks to all Councillors for their dedication and initiative.

In no particular order

The effect of the re-organisation of the District Council

1. It has reduced our contact with councillors and we have missed the presence of councillors at our meetings. Our new area representative, David Taylor, has been unwell for most of this year and has not been able to attend our meetings, but we hope this is about to change. He has made himself available to us by telephone and email.

2. The new planning procedures which were instituted without consultation with Parish Councils have proved unsatisfactory, for example in making planning applicants responsible for displaying planning notices and the cessation of directly informing neighbours. It has been difficult to keep on top of the many applications and we decided, at John Harrop's suggestion, to form a planning sub-committee. This is working well and thanks are due to John and Paul. We now respond to every planning application even when it's just to say 'No objection'.

3. We continue to monitor Dorset's Local Plan, with particular reference to housing development.

4. The Town and Parish enquiry helpline has now been set up for councillors and clerks to help with issues with Dorset Council that have not been resolved via the website.

Speed

Several villagers expressed concern about vehicles travelling at dangerous speeds through the village. We supported a Speed Watch initiative by Nicola Finley, but it was delayed by Covid restrictions and, when it was finally given the green light, it collapsed because several volunteers then felt that they could not commit. It is hoped to revive it in the future.

Village Hall

Our village hall management committee have undertaken the replacement of the roof. They made a donation to the Parish Council (who are the legal owners) to cover the cost, and we paid the contractors and reclaimed the VAT paid. They have also done considerable refurbishment to make the hall a more attractive letting proposition.

Amenity Fields

The play area was resurfaced. Thanks to Colin Chapman for researching and organising this, for all his work on the fields and his repair of furniture some of which may need to be replaced next year. Thanks also to those who have assisted, notably Colin Hawkins, Jon Desborough and John Harrop.

Minutes and Publicity

Our minutes are now published in the Chalk Stream and Terry Putnam has retired as publicity officer. Thanks to Terry for his many years in the role.

Neighbouring parishes

As part of the Dorset Council Community Governance Review we received a letter from Stratton Parish Council suggesting an amalgamation, but we again decided that although more cooperation between neighbouring parishes was important, the village identity was more important.

Village maintenance

Several issues arose such as: the safety fencing and brickwork on the approach road, the cutting of grass on the central reservation on the A37 to improve visibility, the noisy pump under the railway bridge on the A37, the stability of the bench in the bus stop, accumulated rubbish, and the condition of the guttering. All were negotiated with the authorities and dealt with swiftly and efficiently by Neil Howard. Thanks, Neil.

Defibrillator

The Council continue in their support of the defibrillator group and suggested in November that perhaps the sign should again be repositioned to be more obvious and visible.

Donation

We received a donation in January. It is likely to be used for improvements to the fields such as a new picnic bench, but its use is still under discussion.

Anti-social behaviour

We received complaints about late night noise and littering on the Jubilee Field and were asked to deal with it. This was not something we could do, but we said we would support the complainants and advised them to inform the police which they did.

Some of the culprits were persuaded that they were causing considerable distress and they apologised and promised to stop. With the help of the Community Support Officer, following further incidents, a resolution was achieved through a meeting between the VH committee and some of the individuals.

There has been an increase in dog fouling and disposal of waste bags in the village particularly around the Jubilee field and both churchyards, with bags being thrown over the wall from the parking area in front. The installation of signs or bins was discussed and the Dog Wardens are being contacted as well as Environmental Health.

A notice has been put in the Chalk Stream asking all dog walkers to be considerate and dispose of their animal's waste sensibly.

Poundbury

The Parish Council continue to monitor the development. Most recently there is concern that there might be a planned entry and exit point on Roman Road in contravention of the Duchy's undertaking about access to Roman Road. Since this is the section without a wall the Parish Council is seeking further assurances from Dorset Planning and the Duchy that this commitment given by Prince Charles will be honoured.

Clerk's salary

In line with Dorset Council recommendations, we raised the Clerk's salary by 1.5%. Thanks to Jackie for all her hard work.

Precept

We increased the precept for 2022-2023 by just over 5% to a figure of £7,100. This does not cover our essential running expenses (administration, salaries and training and the fields) which means that we are dipping into our reserve each year.

Last year the precept was £6,600 and our total receipts were £10,506.13. Our essential expenditure was £12,442.08 of which insurance was £682. This left a deficit of £1,935.95. reducing our reserve from

Folio 205, Page 3 of 4

£9,877.94 to £7,941.99. Deficits like this will eat up all our reserve in four years Sylvia Denning (Vice Chair and co-acting Chair)

4 **Representative's Reports -**

- Village Hall T B had nothing to add.
- Amenity Fields C C reported that the Jubilee Field play equipment and furniture was checked weekly and a monthly report completed.
- Muckleford C B reported that the fingerpost repair was still pending due to the need for county approval before it could be taken down.
- Footpaths and Rights of Way - **New representative needed!**

5 **Officer's Reports -**

- Village Maintenance Cllr N H reported that there had been no response to his communication with the landowner regarding the missing fence on the corner of the A37 and approach road but they had answered Highways enquiry to say that the work was "in hand". Grass cutting of the central reservation on the A37 has been done recently and the bus shelter cleaned.
- Flood Warden - Cllr C H, nothing to report.
- Planning - Cllr J H. 1 Frome View, new bungalow application has been refused on the grounds that no new buildings are allowed - only conversions of agricultural buildings. John will follow up on the land at Muckleford.

6 **Open Period -**

BRADFORD PEVERELL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1 **Apologies** - as previous (Annual Parish Meeting)

2 **Appointment of Chairman** – As no councillor was elected as Chairman, Cllr S D proposed that she and Cllr P M would continue to share the role. Seconded by Cllr Howard.

3 **Appointment of Vice Chairman** –. Cllr S D would remain.

4 **Appointment of Councillors, Representatives and Officers –**

Amenity Fields	C C
Village Hall	T B
Village Maintenance	Cllr N H
Footpaths	NEED NEW REPRESENTATIVE
Muckleford	C B
River/Flood Warden	Cllr C H
Planning	Cllrs J H and P M

5 **Appointment of Internal Auditor** - Mark Stevenson

6 **Minutes of meeting** held on Thursday, March 3rd, 2022 Proposed by Cllr P M, Seconded by Cllr N H

7 **Matters Arising -**

- a) Missing fence by river on A37 corner - already covered
- b) Land at Muckleford - already covered
- c) Poundbury Access - Cllr P M is still investigating but a large portion of the land in question was transferred from Duchy to another landowner for development. He will attempt to contact them direct for assurances. He is also following up with Wessex Water about the messy state of the new sewage plant fencing and the missing gates!

8 **Correspondence -**

Has all been circulated or forwarded electronically.

Folio 205, Page 4 of 4

9 **Planning** - P/HOU/2022/01209 Lower Muckleford House, erection of carport. Noted but no objections as not visible from road.

10 Finance -

a) Payments made since last meeting - Kevin Kirk grass cutting £450.00

Payments to be made

Clerk's salary and expenses £1202.69

Insurance due June 1st (£682 last year)

DAPTC subs due June (£150 " ")

b) Accounts - Copies of the Receipts and Payments had been circulated and were handed to those who hadn't already examined them. Figures were discussed and the accounts approved. Proposed by Cllr S D Seconded by Cllr J H. They will be published on the website when the Annual Return is completed at the next meeting.

c) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Parish Council had been approached by an organising committee for a donation towards the cost of celebrations planned for the weekend of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. After discussion it was agreed that we were not in a position to offer all of the amount requested but we would be willing to donate £70 (for the 70 years) to be used as prizes for the proposed competition. Proposed by Cllr JD, Seconded by Cllr JH. Reply to be sent.

11 Future Meetings Arranged - June 16th, Sep 1st and Nov 3rd. All in the Village Hall.

12 Any Other Business - Yarn bomb event planned for village.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.