

BRADFORD PEVERELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in the Village Hall on Thursday April 27th, 2023

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

Democratic Period -

1 Apologies- Dorset Cllr D Taylor, Reps C Bishop and T Buck.

2 Chairman's Annual Report -

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

The Parish Council has continued to discharge its duties over a range of matters through the dedicated work of Councillors and Officers and the valued guidance of our clerk, Jackie Adlam. There have been no new appointments and we continue to carry one councillor vacancy. The role of Chairman has been shared between Sylvia Denning and myself.

We are sorry to report that our clerk has indicated her intention to retire after 20 years of dedicated service. The PC appreciate all that she has done for Bradford Peverell and we will miss her input. We have begun the task of finding a replacement to fulfil this essential and legally required position.

The work of the PC is shared between elected Councillors and appointed Officers who ensure that practical as well as statutory tasks are fulfilled. We also maintain a close relationship with the Village Hall Committee and their activities in managing this important local asset. Their most recent project being the funding and replacement of the boiler.

Amenity Fields – A significant proportion of the PC budget is spent maintaining the two Amenity Fields under the much appreciated direction of Colin Chapman. The annual safety inspection of the play equipment has been carried out by Wicksteed and its recommendations acted upon. The grass cutting contract has remained with Kevin Kirk.

Village Maintenance – has been overseen by Cllr Neil Howard who monitors practical concerns and maintains regular contact with the appropriate departments at Dorset Council. We are also indebted to Neil for his background knowledge accumulated over many years of service.

Flood Alerts – have been acted upon by the Flood Warden Cllr Colin Hawkins, whose depth of local knowledge and prompt action have ensured that appropriate warning signs have been in place to advise of hazards. This winter action has also been taken to liaise with the Police to close dangerously frozen roads.

Planning Matters – are monitored by Cllr John Harrop and myself before consideration at PC meetings. Increased online scrutiny of applications has been necessitated by reduced activity of the Planning Department in respect of notifications and the delegation of the display of notices to the applicants. This has meant that comments and/or objections sometimes have to be lodged very close to the deadlines. Both John and myself have attended consultations by Dorset Council about policy changes over The Local Plan for housing with interesting new guidelines noted for new developments in small villages such as ours. We also continue to monitor the proposed new development north of Dorchester and the details of the final phase of the Duchy's Poundbury project.

Road Safety – is monitored by all members of the council in both Bradford Peverell and Muckleford. We were disappointed that the Speed Watch initiative failed to get off the ground but have been encouraged by Dorset Council's announcement of plans to encourage 20mph speed limit applications. A working group put together a draft application but found some of the criteria difficult to meet. Others have seemingly encountered the same difficulty as only 9 councils have submitted applications to date. This concern has been taken up by Dorset Association of Town and Parish Councils (DAPTC) who are arranging webinars to investigate ways of overcoming the problems.

Cllr John Harrop has also been supporting the residents of Radio Station Cottages with their campaign for a footpath/cycleway from their properties along the A35 to Dorchester. Despite the support of the local MP, the response from Highways has been negative.

Defibrillator Replacement – has been addressed by the PC as the lease for the equipment came to an end. The original working group led by Bob Walton presented a proposal to purchase rather than lease a replacement and the new defibrillator is now in place. The PC expressed their thanks to the group for their hard work. We are now looking for new volunteers to take over the role of overseeing the effective operation of the defibrillator as the PC takes over the responsibility for funding future servicing costs.

Footpaths and Rights of Way – The PC is still seeking to appoint a warden to oversee the condition of the designated paths in the Parish. In the absence of a volunteer, Councillors have dealt with concerns as they have been raised by members of the public.

Contact with our Dorset Council Member – was raised as a concern at last year's annual report and remains unresolved. Since the demise of the District Council our points of contact with higher levels of the local government structure have been reduced from three to one. Unfortunately, our elected Councillor, David Taylor, has been unable to fulfil his duties due to ill health and no other provision is available to keep us informed about plans and policies other than general announcements on the Dorset For You website and email news bulletins from Dorset Council. This remains a totally unsatisfactory situation arising from the move to a unitary authority.

Funding – of Parish Council activities also continues to be a concern. For 2023/24 a 15% increase in our Council Tax precept was approved, since, in recent years, our spending commitments have only been met by drawing on reserve funds. This increase should generate a total of £8000 but with costs rising in line with the cost of living this still may not be sufficient to fully cover the legal and statutory requirements.

Cllr Paul Meaden

Acting Co-Chairman.

3 County Councillors Report- Cllr David Taylor was unable to attend.

4 Representative's Reports -

- Village Hall T B not present, but Cllr Meaden reported that the new boiler is being sited outside the hall shortly. Also, there are plans to update the toilets but the installation of disabled facilities is still under review.
- Amenity Fields C C reported that the Jubilee Field play equipment and furniture was checked weekly and a monthly report completed. The advisories of the annual inspection are being carried out now that the weather is more clement. The table and benches are okay for another year but we still have the donation from Gillian Hawthorne to use for the Jubilee Field when required.
- Muckleford C B not present.
- Footpaths and Rights of Way – Not really necessary now but a new representative would be welcome if anyone is interested.

5 Officer's Reports -

- Village Maintenance Cllr N H reported that the pavements in Giles Close and Frome View have received a treatment to prevent the growth of moss/lichen which causes slipperiness when wet.
- Flood Warden - Cllr C H, nothing to report.
- Planning - Cllr J H. nothing to report

6 Open Period – No issues

BRADFORD PEVERELL ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1 Apologies - as previous (Annual Parish Meeting)

- 2 **Appointment of Chairman** – Cllr Harrop was proposed for the post by Cllr NH, Seconded by Cllr JD and unanimously voted in. He accepted the office.
- 3 **Appointment of Vice Chairman** –. Cllr S D would remain.
- 4 **Appointment of Councillors, Representatives and Officers** – No changes
 Amenity Fields C C
 Village Hall T B
 Village Maintenance Cllr N H
 Footpaths
 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 2nd, 2023
 Proposed by Cllr P M, Seconded by Cllr N H
- 7 **Matters Arising -**
 a) 20 mph speed limit application. As mentioned in the Chairman' Report the criteria are very difficult to meet. PM has signed up for the DAPTC webinar to discuss the problems.
 b) Flagstones repair in front of bus shelter. Clerk has been unable to get hold of Handyman Hardy but she would try again. She was also given a villager's contact details to see if he would be interested in doing the job.
 c) Councillors online Register of Interests forms. After sending the links to all councillors, only 1 person was able to successfully complete them. Clerk to try sending the links again (except JH)
 d) A35 cycle/footpath - As previously reported the application was turned down by Highways despite the local MP's support. The road was recently closed for re-surfacing and it could have been done then without any extra disruption but the opportunity was ignored. An official complaint has been lodged. Chris Loder (MP) was unable to attend this meeting but he would try and get to one soon.
- 8 **Correspondence -**
 Has all been circulated or forwarded electronically.
- 9 **Replacement Clerk** – Enquiries with other local councils are being made and an advertisement put on website and in The Chalkstream magazine.
- 10 **Planning** - The system that has been adopted of plans being first scrutinised by JH and PM before going to the other Councillors is working well. The only problem being the shorter consultation period and the reliance on applicants displaying their own notices.
- 10 **Finance -**
 a) Payments made since last meeting - None
 b) Payments to be made

DAPTC membership	£144.71	Prop by SD
Chalkstream donation	£ 50.00	
Internal Audit (2years @ £25)	£ 50.00	Sec by JH
Insurance due June 1st	£301.01	

- c) 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.

Annual Governance and Accountability Forms were completed and it was proposed by SD and seconded by JH that they were signed.

11 Future Meetings Arranged - June 22nd, Sep 7th and Nov 2nd. All in the Village Hall at 7pm

12 Any Other Business –

Concerns raised about the condition of the trees on the bank below Frome View and a villager's request to cut them back. The ownership of the plot is in question and this is being investigated by PM and JH. In the meantime any information that long-term residents may have would be much appreciated.

Meeting closed at 8.20pm