

# **BRADFORD PEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 16th November 2023**

**Starting at 6pm**

## **MINUTES**

### **In attendance:**

#### **Bradford Peverell Parish Councillors-**

John Harrop – Chairman (JH)

Sylvia Denning – Vice-Chairman (SD)

Neil Howard (NH)

Gloria Towner (GT)

Jon Desborough (JD)

Colin Hawkins (CH)

Paul Meaden (PM)

#### **Bradford Peverell Parish Council Officer-**

Clerk – Christopher Cook (CC)

#### **Representatives-**

David Taylor – Dorset Council (DT)

Tess Buck – Village Hall (TB)

**1** **The Chairman** welcomed all to the meeting and expressed his pleasure at a full turn out. He then announced that his personal circumstances dictated that he would not be able to continue as Chairman or even as a Parish Councillor beyond this meeting.

**2** **Apologies for Absence**

Colin Chapman, the Representative for Amenity Fields, was unable to attend but had sent in a written report.

**3** **Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2023**

These had previously been distributed to all those present as well as being published for general availability. All present agreed that they were a true and faithful representation of the meeting and the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**4** **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes that were not already covered in tonight's agenda.

**5** **County Councillor D Taylor**

Before DT started his report, JH offered him thanks on behalf of certain village residents whose home had been in danger of flooding before DT arranged for Dorset Council to speedily apply sandbags to protect the property.

DT recalled that the recent torrential rain had caused many, serious flooding problems and that he was pleased with the relatively good outcomes from the combined efforts of Dorset and Parish Councils, villagers and volunteers.

DT further reported on an example of the kind of problem they have difficulty in dealing with - A farm causes its lands to raise through its choice of crop and this in turn results in water running down from the fields into vulnerable adjoining lands and roads.

With winter well on its way, DT encouraged the Council to be prepared by having sufficient sandbags to hand, having designated 'disaster' plans in place and generally being prepared. Dorset Council have emergency packages that can be had for households - go online to [dorsetemergencypackages](https://www.dorset.gov.uk/emergency-packages) . Check all salt bins are replenished. NH will attend to this and if necessary, will notify Dorset Council via DT of any not full.

DT further encouraged councils to ensure that all villagers have all necessary emergency telephone numbers to hand including DT's own mobile and home numbers.

DT further revealed that he is a Safeguarding Officer for Crime. In this capacity he warned Council of the dangers of leaving homes looking unoccupied and warned that burglars also keep a watch on the likes of Facebook and other social media - so please don't advertise your holiday dates for them to see.

In terms of good news, DT confirmed the next stage of development of the A35 would be in March. He also informed Council of a new recycled bitumen based road surfacing that was being applied to the A37 and the A 352. This is both anti slip and anti wear as well as being much quieter.

In response to a question, DT advised that he would make enquiries at Dorset Council about the lack of road and gulley sweeping in the village.

**6** **Elections May 2024**

CC advised the meeting that he had as yet received no more information than had already been circulated to Councillors. He assured all that as soon as he received any more information he would immediately pass it on. Hw further advised that the cost of the election if there were no more candidates than vacancies, would be £50. If there were more candidates than vacancies the cost would be greater but is not yet known or calculable.

It was unanimously agreed that CC would pass on to NH for displaying on the noticeboard, a copy of the DAPTC circular inviting new applicants to put themselves forward for election.

## **7 Waste Bins**

JH passed over to GT to inform the meeting on these.

GT informed the meeting that to remove the old bin and replace it with a new bin where the Council wished it to be on the Millenium Field, would cost £451. To simply site a new bin would cost £351. Dorset Council would continue to empty the bin weekly in line with the historic agreement. They also informed GT that they do not provide bins for dog mess. JH asked GT to enquire whether the Parish Council could simply provide their own bin and if so, would Dorset Council continue to empty it.

In an effort to discourage villagers from taking their dogs onto either the Jubilee Fields or the Millenium Fields, **from both of which dogs are already banned**, it was suggested that new signs could be placed on posts at the entrances. CH volunteered to provide the posts and to install them.

## **8 D-Day Celebrations - 80th Anniversary in June 2024**

CC informed the meeting that it was already apparent that there would be hundreds of beacons lit all around the country on the day. He suggested that a suitable site in the village might be found for a bonfire or a/some beacon/s. He further suggested that, as Brdford Peferell was in the middle of farming country, some sort of acknowledgement of the Land Girls might be appropriate.

Discussion followed during which the case of the Hurricane fighter, flown by Flight Lieutenant Wakeley, that came down behind New Barn, was mentioned. It was also suggested that Matt, at New Barn, be contacted to see if he would be willing to be involved. JH summed up by agreeing with Councillors that the council would do something but that decisions could wait until the new year.

## **9 Bank access and signatories**

CC offered his thanks to SD for drawing his attention to the actual law governing this matter. While CC can draw up the request to the bank to make payments, these must be authorised by 2 Councillors who are authorised signatories.

CC further pointed out that until existing signatories authorise the bank to allow him (CC) access to the bank account, he is in fact unable even to see it let alone draw up requests on it. He further pointed out that until this matter is dealt with and an HMRC account has been set up for the Parish Council, he could not be paid despite already being in post for 3 months. In addition, to enable the HMRC account to be opened, HMRC requires the N.I. number of the new Chairman

## **10 Representatives reports –**

Amenity Fields – Colin Chapman

JH read to the meeting, Colin Chapman's update: The bench has been removed from the Millenium Field. The brass plaque on the bench has been retained pending a new site for it. The Jubilee Field has been mown and looks good. However, there are some overhanging branches that need attention. JD knows the owners and undertook to contact them about this.

Village Maintenance – Neil Howard

NH reported that he had had a conversation with the local police officer who continues to keep a watch over the village. NH went on to report the less than satisfactory state of Church Road. He has been in contact with the Dorset Council over tis but it appears they are only planning limited filling in of gaps and holes. NH added that he had also spoken to Dorset Council about the possibility of repairing the paving in front of the bus shelter.

JH suggested that if Dorset Council could be persuaded to tarmac the whole area after the

Parish Council took up the paving slabs, it would save a lot of potential future inconvenience and cost.

Village Hall - Tess Buck

TB reported that the new boiler had suffered a few teething problems but all appeared now to be in order. The next job is the refurbishment of the ladies toilet facilities. Chri the plumber will be providing quotes and project managing the whole job. The intended Sunday carvery did not happen because the person offering the carvery was involved in a car accident. He has stated his wish to try again as soon as he has a new car. Cathay Thornton is still working on the web site.

Muckleford – Cathy Bishop

Cathy was not present and had not issued any report.

River/Flood Warden – Colin Hawkins

JH reported on the continuing problems of gullies and drains in the village not being cleared. DT offered to meet with Highways staff and see that something would be done.

**11 Finance –**

a) Payments made since last meeting

To SD in reimbursement for Jackie's leaving present - £59.00

b) Payments to be made

To CC as reimbursement for the laptop, software and usb stick - £614.95

**12 Future meetings arranged –**

2024 dates have been booked with VH Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 4<sup>th</sup>, Sept 5<sup>th</sup> and Nov 7<sup>th</sup>.

**13 Any Other Business –**

NH reported that the recent session on using the defibrillator was very well attended. The filing cabinet retrieved from Jackie is now in the village Hall store room where it is an unwelcome guest. SD suggested that all future record storage be digital rather than paper based. PM offered to look through the boxes in which Jackie had kept the records and retain whatever records were necessary. JH thanked him for his offer. Discussion followed as to who would be the next Chairman. As no-one was yet willing to put themselves forward it was resolved that a Chairman of the Meeting would be elected at the January meeting.

The Council agreed to invite Chris Loder to the next Parish Council A.G.M.