

BRADFORD PEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 4th January 2024
Starting at 6pm

MINUTES

In attendance:

Bradford Peverell Parish Councillors-

Paul Meaden – Chairman of the Meeting (PM)

Neil Howard (NH)

Gloria Towner (GT)

Colin Hawkins (CH)

Bradford Peverell Parish Council Officer-

Christopher Cook (CC)

Representatives-

David Taylor – Dorset Council (DT)

Villagers-

Angela Haynes (AH)

Janet Collins (JC)

Apologies for absence:

Bradford Peverell Parish Councillors-

Jon Desborough (JD)

Sylvia Denning – Vice Chairman (SD)

Abbreviation used for Bradford Peverell Parish Council - BPPC

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting it was proposed and unanimously agreed that:

The order of items as laid down in the Standing Orders can be altered, amended and changed in any way the Council wish, whenever they so wish. That a new, permanent item be added, early in the agenda, designated “Open Session”. This would be for villagers to raise matters of concern by addressing the Councillors directly.

Following this agreement, the item numbers in the following Minutes do not necessarily correspond with the item numbers in the Agenda.

1 **The Apologies for absence** were announced in accordance with the list above.

2 **Councillors formally agreed, unanimously, that PM be Chairman of this Meeting.**

3 **Open Session**

The 2 villagers in attendance raised a number of matters:

a) The overgrowth of greenery outside the Old Rectory.

CH responded that Council was aware of this but that he would cut it back as soon as he was able to.

b) The old, green telecoms box was unsightly.

PM responded by saying he had reported it. DT added that he had used his Dorset Council authority to try to have something done about it. The telecoms cables will be going underground and the box is or will be obsolete.

c) The litter bin by the bus shelter is often full to overflowing and has too much dog waste in it.

GT replied that it would cost the Parish Council a lot to provide a separate dog bin as the Dorset Council will not.

d) The paving in front of the bus shelter is rough and uneven.

Dorset Council claim that it is the Parish Council's responsibility even though it is pavement. JH has offered to attend to it.

4 **Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 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.

5 **Matters arising –** There being none not already provided for within the agenda for this meeting, PM asked GT to give her report on "Bins" as this was a matter left over from the last meeting.

6 **Waste Bins –** GT advised the meeting that she had received a reply to her enquiry of the Dorset Council stating that, for Health and Safety reasons, Dorset Council would not be replacing the bins in the Millenium Field or at the bus stop, in the foreseeable future. They are however, happy for BPPC to buy their own bins which the Dorset Council will empty if they approve the bins and if they agree the siting. GT further advised that each new bin would cost £351 and that BPPC would have to instal them as well. It was unanimously agreed that no action would be taken yet.

7 **County Councillor D Taylor**

DT reported on the horrendous effects of the torrential downpours the county had suffered and ave instances of where he had organised Highways to come to the rescue of Bradford Peverell residents in danger of having their homes flooded. All were saved. He further reported that the pumps and other works employed by the Dorset Council had succeeded in avoiding the A37 not being flooded for the first time in ten years. Much discussion ensued between the councillors and Dt. PM advised that the most low-lying properties had had pumps installed to be turned on as and when necessary. CH informed the meeting that he had managed to clear a number of ditches and had also cleared a fallen tree. NH reported that the grid I Church Lane had collapsed and DT promised to have that dealt with. Another matter into which DT agreed to investigate was current situation with regard to the Crown Gate Continuing Care Community development planned for the final area of Poundbury. Planning permissions has been granted and renewed but no work has been undertaken. BPPC continues to monitor the situation regarding any access points to the roman Road. Finally, DT was pleased to report that Dorset Council was looking at a balanced budget for The Financial Year 2024/2025.

8 Elections on 2nd May 2024 –

CC reminded everyone of the comprehensive information already circulated to Councillors. He then drew particular attention to various key dates. Finally CC suggested that all Councillors complete the nomination forms pack and bring them or send them to the BPPC meeting on 9th March, 2 days before the pre-election period, so that he could take them all together to County Hall.

CC further informed Council that the website needed to be updated with information about the Council and what Councillors do. He was advised to contact SD about this as it is SD's son who runs the web site.

9 D-Day Celebrations –

PM advised Councillors that a Village Hall Planning Meeting would be taking place in a few weeks and suggested that Council bring to the notice of that meeting the need to organise something for the village for the June date.

10 Bank Access and Signatories –

CC reminded Council that:

- a) He still did not have access to see the bank statements or to set up payments for approval.
- b) There were still only 3 authorised signatories on the bank account.
- c) He still had not been paid because of the lack of information needed to open an HMRC account.

After some discussion, it was agreed that CC would once more attempt to deal with the bank himself to ascertain who would need to do what to allow him access.

11 Representatives reports –

Amenity Fields – Colin Chapman

Colin was not present to make his report.

Village Maintenance – NH

Gave a general update on the cutting and tidying he had undertaken. He commented favourably on the work done by Highways in filling the grit bins and clearing some roads. He expressed concern over the road out to the A37, which had been scoured out on one side by the floods. He also expressed concern over two cycle ways. PM expressed his pleasure that the hole in the bridge that opens up above the pipes, had now been filled in by Highways. DT offered to bring to the attention of the appropriate people at Highways, the several matters mentioned as still in need of attention.

Village Hall - Tess Buck

Tess was not present to give her report.

Muckleford – Cathy Bishop

Cathy was not present to give her report.

River/Flood Warden – Colin Hawkins

CH reported that the effects of the recent heavy rain had already been commented upon under other headings. He further advised that he will be unable to continue putting up the flood warning signs after 20th January.

12 Finance –

a) Payments made since last meeting

C C for laptop, software and USB stick	£614.95
K Kirk for grass cutting	£1,350.00

b) Payments to be made

C C for monthly wages due since August 2023

Council accepted and agreed the items unanimously.

13 Budgets and Precept for Financial Year 2024-2025

The precept for 2024-2025 Financial Year was agreed to be set at £9,430, an increase of

15% on last year's figure. CC will submit the necessary form to Dorset Council.

14 Future meetings arranged

2024 future dates booked with Village Hall are now March 7th, May 16th, July 4th, Sept 5th and Nov 7th.

15 Any Other Business –

CC undertook to pay attention to the reclaiming of V.A.T. Some discussion took place between Councillors about the possibility of installing some speed cameras. PM informed the meeting that the prohibitive cost involved meant BPPC could not afford to do it.