

# BRADFORD PEVERELL PARISH COUNCIL

## MAY MEETING

Held in the Village Hall on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Starting at 6:50pm

## MINUTES

### In attendance:

#### Bradford Peverell Parish Councillors

Gloria Towner - Chairman (GT)

Paul Meaden (PM)

Neil Howard (NH)

Jon Desborough (JD)

#### Bradford Peverell Parish Council (BPPC) Officer

Clerk — Christopher Cook (CJC)

#### BPPC Representatives-

Tess Buck - Village Hall (TB)

Cathy Bishop — Muckleford (CB)

Bob Walton – Defibrillator (BW)

Colin Hawkins – Flood Warden (CH)

#### Apologies for absence:

David Taylor – Dorset Councillor (DT)

Colin Chapman – BPPC Rep. for Amenity Fields (CC)

#### General Public

There was one member in attendance.

1. The Chairman welcomed all those present and outlined the purpose of the meeting.
2. The apologies for absence were read out and noted, as per the list above.
3. No-one raised any matter in the Open Session.
4. The minutes of the meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> March were unanimously accepted and were signed as such by PM.
5. There were no matters arising that were not on the agenda for this meeting.
6. It was noted that David Taylor had been re-elected as a County Councillor. The meeting heard of the outstanding, invaluable service that David had provided to BPPC in the past. It was agreed that his re-election was most welcome and all hoped that he would continue to be a source of information and contacts.
7. Planning – PM reported that the matters to be considered in relation to relevant applications, were the “defined area”, no new building should take place in the village as it was a settlement of under 500 homes, the conservation area and any tree preservation orders. There were 2 matters that required responses and to which a “no objections” reply has been sent - Browns Cottage and New Barn.

Amenity Fields – CC was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report. The picnic table had been demolished and the plaque thereon removed. There are now two commemorative plaques in his possession awaiting new homes.

Village maintenance – NH reported that he had, as he has to every year, contacted Dorset Council to ask that they cut back the grass verge in the middle section of the road as you look left before joining the traffic travelling towards Dorchester. It obscures the view of oncoming traffic and is a real danger.

Village Hall – TB informed the meeting that the Village Hall Committee had had their A.G.M. She further reported that the ladies’ toilets were now completed and were of a very good standard. They had managed to attract two grants to cover half the cost and the other half had been covered by donations and general fund raising. Various, successful, social events had taken place. Their new web site is up and running.

Muckleford – CB informed the meeting of the terrible state of the roads in terms of the potholes and the dangers thereof. Fortunately, David Taylor had come to the rescue and following his involvement, most of the pot holes were filled in by Dorset Council. Unfortunately, more potholes have appeared since. It is a constant battle.

River/Floods – CH had nothing new to report.
8. Finance. CJC addressed the meeting and raised an item missed from the Annual Meeting, namely an increase in the Clerk’s pay by one grade on the pay scale. This equates to 22p an hour extra or £39.60 per year. The council unanimously agreed this.

All Councillors agreed to be full signatories on the bank account.

The payments made and to be made as per the agenda, were agreed.

CJC finally reported that a VAT claim covering the years 2020-2024 had been submitted and payment had been received from HMRC.

9. Although the annual accounts have already been agreed at the Annual Meeting, they need also to be accepted at this meeting. They were unanimously accepted.  
PM signed the Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR).  
It was agreed that CJC would approach Paula Harding to ask her if she would become the Internal Auditor for BPPC.  
Finally, it was agreed that the Annual Notice of Public Rights be published.
10. The dates of the future meetings were noted.
11. The Chairman asked if there were any other matters anyone wished to raise. A letter was read to the meeting from a member of the public, asking for the council's intentions on recruiting new councillors. Some discussion followed. It was noted that considerable efforts had already been put in. Several web site entries had been posted, notices had been put up on the village notice board and at least 12 individuals had been approached on a personal basis. These and similar efforts will continue.
12. It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be July 4<sup>th</sup>.