

BRAYBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish
Sunday 10 March 2019
in the Village Hall at 3.00 pm

Present	Councillors	G. Normand – Chairman G. Hague – Vice-Chairman A. Ayton F. Kinnear	
	Clerk		F. Allbury
	County Councillor		A. Matthews
	Police		CPSO Kirsty Ellerby
	Public		20

The Chairman opened the meeting by introducing members of the Parish Council: Gary Hague, Alison Ayton, Fiona Kinnear, Peter and Vicky Cleland who sent apologies, and the Clerk Frances Allbury. A meeting of the parish is held annually but it is not the Parish Council Annual General Meeting which takes place in May and is concerned with council administration,

Traditionally organisations are invited to give a report and it is a tribute to how lively the village is that, if each of them reported for only 5 minutes, it would last 1 ¾ hours. The Chairman thanked everyone for submitting brief reports which would be published on the Council website.

1. Apologies for Absence:

KBC Cllr. D. Howes. Parishioners: Geoff Pitcher, Jack Hartley, Rob Jeacock, Linda Davis, Cllrs Vicky and Peter Cleland.

2. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman opened his report by saying that it had been a difficult year. This time last year, the Parish Council had been carrying a vacancy for a year since the resignation of his predecessor Dinah Berry. Since then three more councillors had resigned and he had seriously considered declaring the PC unviable and asking KBC to disband it. However three new councillors joined the Parish Council - Gary Hague, and Vicky and Peter Cleland - leaving one short. Neither of the initiatives proposed last year – development of an Emergency Plan and a Neighbourhood Plan - had been able to proceed.

But having read parish council minutes from the 1960s and 70s, he noted that things were not much different then. Meetings were abandoned because they were inquorate, annual parish meetings attracted half a dozen parishioners in a good year and none in a bad one, and the Parish Clerk had to be despatched to Kettering to ensure parish comments were heard at planning meetings. Yet good work was done then, and good work has also been done during the past year:

- The Parish Council has a new Vice Chairman and River Warden – Gary Hague – and a new Footpaths and Tree Warden – Fiona Kinnear - both of whom have been very active.
- planning applications have been conscientiously considered and commented on where appropriate, even though comments have not always pleased everyone.
- The organisers of the Harborough Triathlon improved their safety measures in Braybrooke.
- The County Council were nagged over gritting and road repairs – with reasonable results
- The Borough Council were also nagged over traveller sites, especially Greenfields. He had had several meetings with the leader of the council and was confident that they have not lost sight of this subject.
- A couple of weeks before, we signed the papers to install a defibrillator on the Village Hall with Big Lottery money in the bank to cover all costs for 10 years. The Chairman thanked Frances who guided the Parish Council through the process.
- The Parish Council continues to try to explain what it is doing, through Gossip and the website. He drew attention to a page in the website under “Useful Information – Infrastructure Maintenance Issues” with links to a table of problems with roads and footpaths etc that the Parish Council is aware of.

By next year we expect to be moving towards a new unitary authority for North Northamptonshire. The Parish Council will be fighting to have structures which recognise the Parish Councils as partners who are properly consulted and informed, and whose views are heard. Meanwhile both Northamptonshire County Council, and Kettering Borough Council, have suffered staffing disruption, and some services have faltered and inevitably that will continue. Changes on that scale never go completely smoothly.

Last year a village meeting was held to discuss the Site Specific Local Plan, which set out detailed planning proposals and policies for the coming decade. Following that meeting a number of submissions were made. These were considered at meetings of the KBC planning policy committee, and the results will emerge in the form of a new document later in the year. However from the officers' reports to the Committee, and the minutes of its meetings, it seems that the inclusion of Top Orchard in the village boundary will remain, with the potential for building three new houses there. The only concessions to village objections are requirements for archaeological surveys and ecological mitigation.

This may reinforce the need for our own Neighbourhood Plan – which once agreed must by law form part of the local plan and thus give us more control over what it says. The Parish Council would like to know what sorts of things residents think should be included in such a plan.

The Chairman said that Parish Council minutes and possibly other papers for the period 1989 to 2004, are missing. They had probably been stored in cabinets upstairs in the Hall. He invited anyone who can shed light on this, to advise the Parish Council.

Cllr Normand concluded his report as ever with thanks to his colleagues especially Fiona Kinnear and Gary Hague, and to Frances the clerk and also to the Borough and County Councillors, David Howes and Allan Matthews, who are always ready with their time and support.

3. Reports were received from the following village groups:

Footpaths and Tree Warden

A report was read by Cllr Fiona Kinnear.

River Warden

A report was read by Cllr Gary Hague. Cllr Hague confirmed that the meeting with the Environment Agency would take place on 21st May 2019 at 2 pm and asked if anyone could provide information in order to identify landowners/holders of adjacent land as there were some gaps in identification.

Northamptonshire County Council

A report was read by NCC Cllr Allan Matthews.

Kettering Borough Council

The Chairman read a report prepared by Cllr David Howes, referring inter alia to the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. The Chairman commented that an appeal against refusal of planning permission by Daventry District Council is being held on 4th April 2019 and will be a test of their GTAA approach.

Northamptonshire Police

PCSO Kirsty Ellerby said that apart from recent incidents relating to the cricket club buildings and theft from a vehicle, crime rates in Braybrooke were extremely low. However parishioners should never be complacent and always ensure that cars and properties are locked when unattended.

Neighbourhood Watch

A report was read by Sue Fellowes

Braybrooke Gossip

A report was read by Cllr Normand on behalf of the Gossip.

BEER

No report available but the Chairman thanked the group for their work on behalf of the village.

Village Fete

A report was read by Stephanie Canning. Responding to a question from Cllr Normand Stephanie said that funds raised were very good but probably not enough to support the church.

Bazaar

Alison Ullman said that 2018 had been very successful raising over £1,606 which was all donated to the church.

Braybrooke Village Website

A report was read by Beverley Sawyer

Braybrooke Heritage Group

No report available.

All Saints Church

A report was read by Alex Corderey. The legacy mentioned in the written report amounted to £26,000 but this did not cover church running costs and would be used for other purposes ie installation of toilet facilities. Cllr Normand commented that the Parish Council had in the past made contributions towards maintaining the churchyard. However due to current financial constraints it was not possible to reintroduce this donation and he felt it was also not just a decision that could be made by the Parish Council.

Braybrooke Baptist Church

A report was read by Stephanie Canning

Village Hall

A report was read by Cllr Normand adding that a defibrillator would soon be delivered and installed on an external wall of the Hall.

WI

A report was read by Lisa Templeton

Braybrooke Cricket Club

A report was read by Glyn Panter.

Braybrooke Morris Dancers

A report was read by Cllr Normand.

Braybrooke Singers

A report was read by Stephanie Canning

Table Tennis

A report was read by Pru Normand.

Knitting Group

No report received.

Copies of all reports are filed with the minutes and also published on the website and available from the Clerk on request.

4 Discussion on priorities for the future

The Chairman said that over the past few years there had been a number of surveys and questionnaires about the future of the village and parish, but these have not been fully developed into a plan and consequently have not been as helpful as they might in guiding the PC and other local authorities on priorities. They also tended to have been addressed in the context to opposing something, so they have focused rather negatively on what is not wanted, rather than what is wanted.

Developing a full Neighbourhood plan is a long and potentially expensive process and understands people's reluctance to commit to it, but was keen to begin a discussion, without commitment, on the sorts of things it might contain which would at least guide the PC.

A flyer prepared by the Chairman and delivered to most households listed the sorts of topics to consider and asked those present if there was anything on the list which parishioners would actually like to pursue. What is it that people want to preserve about Braybrooke, and what would they like to have that is new.

Cllr Normand suggested the possible provision of affordable housing to attract young families. However it was generally felt that the village did not have sufficient amenities for this purpose and that more infrastructure was needed although a wide variety of activities was provided which emphasized that the village was thriving. A parishioner commented that the size of the

village had increased by one third over the past 25 years and those present did not support further expansion.

Preservation of the green corridor and the countryside views around the village was important and people located to villages such as Braybrooke to experience this. A Neighbourhood Plan could protect the village against future expansion and it was also important to maintain those parts of the village what were located in a conservation area. The rules relating to a conservation area needed to be obtained so that everyone knew what could and could not be done.

Other subjects suggested by the Chairman were the adequacy of utilities in particular the sewerage system, street lighting, condition of some pavements which needed siding out and bridge maintenance. Car parking around The Swan still continued to be an issue. The Chairman said that it was important that any issues relating to parking should be reported to the police by the 101 telephone service. Although this would not result in a police presence, the call would be logged and in that way the police would be aware of the ongoing problems.

It was agreed that this general discussion had been very useful and that further meetings would be arranged in the future.

The meeting closed at 4.40 pm