

BRADFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held via Zoom

on Tuesday 4th May, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

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| Present: | Cllr. K. Wynn (Chairman) | Cllr. K. Burton (Vice Chairman) |
| | Cllr. A Coley | Cllr. R. Scott |
| | Cllr. S. Gunter | Cllr. R. Mitcham |
| | Cllr. V. Osborne | Cllr. A. Mackrill |
| In Attendance: | District Cllr. Z. Fairley | 3 members of the public |
| | L. Djuve-Wood (Clerk) | |

1. Introduction and welcome

Cllr. Wynn welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 2nd April, 2019 to be approved and signed

RESOLVED that the minutes from the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on the 2nd April 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Annual District and County Council Reports

Cllr. Fairley reported that in line with the end of the legal right for councils to carry out public meetings online, TDC would be returning to face to face full council meetings within the month. She noted that TDC had just had their annual meeting where the chairman and vice chairman were voted in as Cllr. Jeff Bray and Cllr. Peter Harris respectively. In the immediate future Cllr. Bray has indicated they will be promoting the Mental Health Awareness Week. On the 24th June the town hall will be lit green by floodlights in support of St John's Ambulance. A new initiative that will directly involve parish councils is the 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign on littering, fly tipping and dog faeces. More details of this campaign will follow very soon.

Cllr. Guglielmi sent his apologies.

5. Annual Reports from Local Clubs and Societies

Cllr. Osborne as Chairman of the Allotment Holders Association provided an update on the Association's behalf and said that in over the 20 years since he had been involved with the Association they had gone from strength to strength. They inherited 2.5 acres of wilderness and in that time they'd turned it around with the last four to five years seeing their membership at full capacity with 32 members. Back in 2018 a lease had been negotiated with the Diocese of Chelmsford meaning the land is secured as either allotments or a burial site should the parish require it until 2038 providing the membership meets the annual rent. In terms of the Association's history, the land was bequeathed by Mr Abraham Tweed in 1880 to the Vicar of Bradfield at the time and then given to the villagers as allotments after

the first world war. The Association currently has a waiting list of three or four people with an increase in enquiries during lockdown.

A report had been received from Friends of Bradfield School. Cllr. Wynn presented the report to all attendees. Please see Appendix 1.

6. Annual Report from the Chair

Cllr. Wynn presented her annual report. Please see Appendix 2.

7. Questions from members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.28 p.m.

Chairman.....Date

Appendix 1: Report from Friends of Bradfield School

A review prepared for the Bradfield Parish Council Annual Meeting

Firstly, I'd like to thank the Parish Council, on behalf of my fellow parents for their continued upkeep of the park. We are incredibly lucky to have such a wonderful resource for the children to use and this year, more than ever, it has been hugely appreciated. It is lovely to see children using the park and enjoying the safety and freedom it offers them, encouraging them to spend time outside.

This year has been a different year for everyone, and FOBS is no exception, with all our usual fundraising activities postponed. We have managed to keep FOBS in people's minds though.

We found a covid-secure way to continue our Cake raffle, opening this up to the wider community through our Facebook Page (@EssexFOBS). This has become a Bake raffle and we are lucky to have the support of local businesses such as The Ram and Hogget, Bob's Beautiful Bakes and Yore Mill Lane Bakery as well as other parents baking cakes each week.

Our first Pumpkin Trail was really well-received over the October half-term, with members of the community getting involved by hosting a pumpkin and sign and the wider community buying a trail map. We hope to repeat this event this year and welcome opportunities to reach into the community in this way.

At Christmas we ran a very successful Rainbow Raffle with prizes from donations from the children and other local businesses like Ragmarsh Farm Shop, Mark Morsley Associates, Kinsleigh Residential, Barn Farm Drinks, Holt Farm, the Co-op and Fairfields Crisps. We are grateful for their generosity. The children had a virtual visit from Father Christmas and received replies to their letters to Father Christmas. Their letters were heart-warming and showed how sad they have been about the pandemic and their hopes for more freedom this year.

We also had a very kind donation from Matt Coleman, a local photographer who created a calendar of local scenes. The calendar raised over £200 for FOBS and we hope we can persuade him to create a new calendar for 2022!

Our most time-consuming endeavour continues to be the recycling scheme. When we have been able to, Terry or Toni, our recycling bins have been out in the car park, collecting people's hard to recycle plastics. This has raised us nearly £300 so far, which is an added bonus to the nearly 150Kg of waste that we have saved from going to landfill. We encourage the village to get involved in recycling more - information can be found on our Facebook page, and on the school web-site.

The aim of FOBS is of course to support the school with activities and resources to enrich the experience of the children. We paid for a virtual panto experience, books for the children at Christmas, and as a well-earned treat after this most recent lockdown each class had a special activity including a visit from Little City for Bramley class, an Art workshop with First Site for Pippin and a Virtual Reality exploration of the night sky for Discovery and Blenheim.

Thank you for this opportunity to share with you the activities we have organised over the past year. Please extend our thanks to people of the Parish for their support.

Katherine Reid

Chair of FOBS

30th April 2021

Appendix 2: Chairman's Report May 4th 2021

2020 / 2021 have been unusual years for everyone, and parish councils have been no exception. I am very proud to be part of a council that has adapted so swiftly to new ways of working. Bradfield were early adopters of remote meetings, trying three different video conferencing platforms before finally settling on Zoom. With this meeting being the last virtual meeting that the council can legally hold, our next meeting will be held at the Saint Lawrence Church Hall.

Line Djuve-Wood joined us as a locum clerk in January 2020 becoming permanent in March of that year. Line has been an invaluable asset and support to the council, meticulously unravelling historic issues and enabling a highly active and dynamic council that now has eight of its nine councillors, to see many ambitious projects come to fruition of which I will now come onto.

In an effort to contribute to carbon capture the council planted an avenue of trees in The Street outside the recreation ground, a wild orchard in one corner of the recreation ground and an oak and copper beech to infill the gaps in the line of trees to the rear. Apart from the two replacements all the trees were selected for their blossom and fruit bearing capabilities that will provide food for insects and birds at different points in the year. The 8000 crocus bulbs that were planted on The Street are also beneficial to early pollinators and they certainly brightened up the area at a particularly bleak time of year!

The avenue of trees along The Street outside the recreation ground will be dedicated to the 75th anniversary of VE and VJ day. Alongside these trees a commemoration stone is to be installed with the inscription "On the 75th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day 2020. Dedicated to all victims of war, everywhere - Trees Planted and Stone Erected by The Community of Bradfield 2020". It had been planned that this would be unveiled to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day in 2020 but had to be postponed due to coronavirus restrictions. The unveiling will now take place on the 26th of June 2021, the day is planned to bring together the community for a celebration of a peaceful future together.

Discussions with St Lawrence church about the appropriate restoration of the war memorial are still ongoing with meetings in person on site planned for the near future.

The conversion of the Bradfield Village Association into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) renamed as the Bradfield Village Hall has been completed. The legal work to rewrite the lease to reflect this change of name is still ongoing.

After nearly a decade the purchase of the land next to the Mill Lane cemetery was finally completed. The council plans to install a wire fence and plant native hedging around the perimeter with a few oak trees in dispersed along the hedge. The central ground will have the grass removed and perennial wildflower seeds will then be sown.

In the playground, the Safagrass matting under some of the play equipment has been replaced with rubberised mulch which provides a more cushioned and less

muddy surface. In addition to this, the rickety picket fencing around the under-sevens area and the pedestrian entrance has been removed and replaced with iron railings. There is now a second gate to the play area and one to the entrance from The Street. The missing gate at the Southwest corner of the recreation ground was replaced with a large kissing gate early in 2020.

The highways playground sign at the entrance to the carpark has been moved further along The Street and the old 'Community Centre' sign has been removed and replaced with a single fingerpost that indicates the village hall, carpark and recycling point. In addition to these modifications the 'village sign' has been completely restored.

In a joint project with the owners of The Stranger's Home the dilapidated directional fingerpost outside their premises has been replaced with a metal, black and white version similar to the fingerpost that was in place in the 1950s.

The telephone kiosk outside The Stranger's Home has been transformed from a crumbling wreck to its former glory and repurposed as a village book exchange by Councillors Vince Osbourne and Roger Mitcham. Local resident Brenda Wells has taken on the role of custodian of the exchange and provides regular updates on Bradfield Buzz and the Grapevine

Over the last year expenditure on streetlights has been a great deal more than was budgeted for, mainly due to large number of sodium lamps coming to the end of

their lives that were replaced with the more expensive but longer lasting (25 – 30 years) LED lights. In addition to these there was an entire column on Heath Road that required replacement due to corrosion at its base, the cost for its replacement including the electrics was in excess of £3000. Unfortunately, due to recent damage another column on Steam Mill Road will require replacement also.

The council had always planned to install a second defibrillator at the village hall, but due to the closure of the Methodist Church, the existing defibrillator had to be moved to the village hall late last year. Brenda Leek kindly offered to host the second defibrillator outside The Old Ram & Hoggett where it now stands. Training will be offered to parishioners once restrictions allow.

The council now has a fully accessible website that is much simpler to use than its clunky predecessor and it works seamlessly across different devices, providing easy access to agendas, minutes, policies and more.

On the 7th of July 2020, the Secretary of State confirmed the extension to the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB to include additional areas along the southern edge of the Stour estuary in Tendring which includes the beach at Bradfield. After 20 years of hard work by many involved bodies this was very welcome news. Because of the associated publicity and various lockdowns, the footpaths in this area have become very popular with walkers of all kinds. The council is now seeking funding for the installation of information lecterns to give visitors guidance on how to least impact the area when visiting.

Over the course of the last year several litter picks were planned but unfortunately these had to be cancelled due to heavy rain and Coronavirus restrictions. This did not stop various councillors and members of the public from going on individual picks in the local vicinity to help keep the growing litter problem under control. A special thanks must go to Howard Whurr for his extraordinary efforts to clear waste of all sorts from across Bradfield and Mistley.

I would like to thank County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi for his support with various schemes and issues on and around the local highways, it would have been difficult to achieve as much as we have without his assistance.

The scheme to improve the Junction of Wix Road and Heath Road in a bid to slow traffic and reduce the number of accidents is now part of the Local Highways Panel programme for the 2021/22 financial year. All being well the work should be undertaken within the financial year.

Following our complaints about the devastation wreaked on the local verges in May 2020, we were given the opportunity to exempt certain roads from blanket trimming. Further to this, ECC ran a pilot scheme in the Braintree area for verge cutting to only take place once a year in the autumn and it has been agreed that this will be trialled for another year county wide!

Throughout the year there have been many complaints about speeding throughout the village. Various speed and volume surveys have been carried out, but unfortunately due to the generally good compliance with speed limits the Local Highways Panel will not sanction any further measures to address the issue. The same applies to HGV usage of the village as a cut through, the LHP did not find enough evidence to support the installation of weight limit signs at points on the A120 or B1035. So pinch points at the shop and outside the school will continue to be an issue and unsuitable vehicles will follow their satnavs and use Cansey Lane.

The project to install gate style village signs at the four entrances to the village is progressing well. The sites have been approved by the LHP, designs have been drawn up and we are just waiting to see some plywood mock-ups of the signs before the signs are produced ready for installation.

I would like to thank Cllr Alan Coley for the excellent knowledge and experience he brings to the council on planning matters. There have been five applications in the past year that the council has commented on:

20/01367/OUT, Outline application with all matters reserved except for access to deliver a cartlodge and up to 5 no. dwellings and associated hardstanding, fencing, outbuildings and drainage, Steam Mill House, Steam Mill Road, Bradfield. The Council agreed to support the application, noting that with the exception of the chalet bungalow on Steam Mill Road, the type of houses proposed for this development are in line with village needs. It was agreed that the site is suitable for the size of the development being proposed and will cause minimal damage to the local environment. The application has subsequently been refused by Tendring District Council.

Application 19/01937/FUL, Fieldley House, Steam Mill Road - Alterations and improvements to the existing two storey dwelling, formation of a private drive and the erection of three bungalows with associated parking facilities, was refused by Tendring District Council in June 2020. The applicants have since appealed the decision to the Planning Inspectorate. The parish council have reiterated their objections which are in short; that this is a 'Backland Development' which can only be achieved by creating another junction onto Steam Mill Road, carrying out alterations to a perfectly adequate family home to provide an access road which would not allow the safe passing of vehicles accessing and leaving the new homes and the visibility splay would be inadequate.

19/00738/FUL, Erection of 5no. detached bungalows, Land rear of 1 & 2 The Paddocks, Windmill Road, Bradfield. This application had been refused by Tendring District Council and the council has submitted its objections to the inspector that are in summary; The type of dwelling proposed does not meet the affordable homes requirement of the parish, is 'back-land development' that is also outside of the settlement Development Boundary and has wholly inadequate access for so many houses away from the main highway.

Appeal Ref:APP/P1560/W/19/3238064 Land South of Harwich Road, Mistley. The erection of up to 100 dwellings with associated vehicular access, landscaping, open space, car parking and pedestrian links. The council's objections were, the merging of Mistley Heath with Mistley, the development's immediate proximity to the Essex Way, additional pressure on the already creaking local infrastructure and that the site is within the Zone of Influence for the SPA, SSSI and Ramsar designated Stour estuary and the disturbance and damage that the inevitable increased footfall from the finished site will have on this important area. The Inspector allowed this development, and its construction is presently under way.

20/01676/FUL Change of use from agricultural land to 80 pitch camp site between 1st April to 1st October. | Land West of Shore Lane Bradfield

The council's objections to this application are to do with the siting of this proposal and the damaging impact that large numbers of people, their vehicles and dogs will cause to the delicate ecological balance of this area. The identified field is integral to the unique coastal foreshore area at Bradfield which has the designated status of Special Protected Area (SPA), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), is a Ramsar site, is in the Coastal Protection Belt and is part of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The lanes accessing this site are both single lane and access to and from the

B1352 are dangerous at best and are wholly unsuited to level of traffic that will be generated by the campsite for six months of the year.

In October, Age Concern Colchester and North East Essex met the council and explained what we can do to build our own dementia Friendly Parish Council and Community. Councillor Karen Burton was appointed the lead of this initiative to coordinate making this a reality. All Parish Councillors agreed to take part and have attended a Dementia Friends online session, this was completed on 29th April 2021 and enabled them to improve their understanding of dementia and of the difficulties

those affected by dementia can encounter. Once coronavirus restrictions have eased, we aim to have bi-monthly Dementia Tea Room morning meetings at the Old Ram & Hoggett Tea Rooms. Those living with dementia and their care givers will be invited to attend alongside The Dementia & Befriending co-ordinators.

The Finance Committee have met quarterly over the last year with the most recent being held on the 27th of April 2021. The committee will be recommending approval of the annual accounts as summarised below at the Annual Parish Council Meeting which will begin at 7.30 after the conclusion of this meeting.

Over the 2020/21 year the council had an income of £90,234.09. Gross expenditure was £98,218.33, including £11,516.08 VAT. The council's year-end balance brought forward to the 2021/22 financial year was £70,233.09, a decrease of £7,984.24 from the previous year.

The balance brought forward includes £51,084.85 earmarked or ring fenced for specific projects, a balance carried forward of £3,804.00 and a £26,508.09 contingency reserve kept for unexpected loss and repairs.

Kreon Wynn

Chairman of Bradfield Parish Council.