

# Brampton and Oxnead Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall, The Street, Brampton  
On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.30 pm

## **Present**

Councillors:

Mark Little (ML) (Chairman), Maggie Whiley (MW), Gary Bean (GB)  
Trevor Whiteman (TW),

Also in attendance:

David Harrison (County Councillor), Karen Lawrence (District Councillor), Maggie Claridge (Clerk to the Council) and one member of the public.

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**2019/17 Richard Squires- Neighbourhood Planning-** Richard Squires, Senior Planner at BDC, gave us a second overview of the Neighbourhood Plan initiative, the first was in July 2017.

Since 2012 there have been 14 Neighbourhood Plans (NP's) produced in Broadland. Aylsham are currently going through their referendum and another 8 more NP's are in progress. BDC and South Norfolk are working together as a team.

Communities of all shapes and sizes are producing NP's including small communities such as Strumpshaw who like Brampton and Oxnead do not have a housing allocation. The focus is on development and land use and having a NP allows the community to identify and protect any important existing green spaces. The purpose is to influence local development, and getting in early means there is an opportunity to do this, by proposing infrastructure features such as play space for children.

The Government clearly wants more homes built and as an incentive to Parish Councils, those who have a Neighbourhood Plan will receive 25% of the CIL money instead of the normal 15%.

Richard Squires also discussed briefly the initiative of community led planning where groups of people can form a Community Land Trust to provide local housing for local people. This is housing at affordable prices, with the housing being put in Trust to remain in perpetuity for local people. Community groups are being encouraged to come up with innovative ideas.

The Chairman commented that he feels the PC have not been getting constructive responses from BDC where Council has commented on Planning applications. There is a groundswell of neighbourhood pride in our villages and his feeling is that we should encourage people to have their say. In Brampton and Oxnead we have areas of common land, remnants of green spaces, ancient buildings and several redundant farm buildings. The villages are in a state of change and the residents need to have a vehicle and a voice through which to get their feelings heard. He feels that going through the process of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan would provide both and could help with regeneration. The Village Hall being a prime candidate for this.

Richard Squires confirmed the Chairmans hopes and informed us that identifying and protecting local heritage, historic buildings and green spaces whilst allowing regeneration are all important elements in the Neighbourhood Plan process. He mentioned that Guestwick, another small settlement, are going through the NP process because they want to keep their settlement sustainable. Barn conversions are being carried out with the support of BDC in a sympathetic way. The NP process is not about duplicating

what others have done but rather identifying and working with the local vernacular. Green spaces can be protected even if they do not have public access.

Richard informed Council that understanding local policies are the crux of the matter and there is support available free from BDC as well as through employing specialist consultants, although that would be at a cost. Buxton PC had some training and BDC provided them with lots of relevant maps of the area.

There are downfalls in that the process of preparing a NP can get very technical, so employing a Planning Consultant is recommended. Surveys are required and there are times when lots of people with differing skills sets are needed. This provides an opportunity for the parish to work together, utilising relevant skills from within the neighbourhood.

The Chairman thanked Richard for coming out to talk to Council. The PC meeting began at 8.03pm

**2019/18 Apologies** - Apologies were received and accepted from Jon Sawyer-Stone. There are 2 vacancies on the Parish Council for Councillors and these will be advertised on the noticeboards and in The Round

**2019/19 Co-option**-Gary Bean was co-opted back onto the Parish Council. Cllr Little proposed him and both Cllr's Whiley and Whiteman seconded him.

**2019/20 Declarations of Interest** –There were no declarations of interest

**2019/21 Minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record

**2019/22 Matters Arising from the Minutes** – there were none

**2019/23 Reports**- District Cllr Karen Lawrence informed us that as she is a new Councillor much of what she is doing at present is learning and training. She is sitting on the Appeals Panel as well as the Environmental Panel, so she will get to see any plans that are put forward in the Ward. She urged Council to put forward any comments. Cllr Lawrence is happy to help with the Neighbourhood Plan, and said she will share her journey of discovery with us.

Cllr Sawyer-Stone was unavailable to give his give us his Police report.

County Cllr David Harrison arrived at 8.11pm in time to give us his report. He informed us that the extension of the NDR has been given the go ahead. Option C is the recommended preferred route for the Western Link. That is a 3.9-mile road from the A1067, travelling halfway between Weston Longville and Ringland, and linking to the A47 at a new junction at Wood Lane near Honingham. He said that upgrading the A47 would be required but there are lots of objections as this is regarded as a trunk road and is not that well used.

He also commented on the overcrowded state of education in Aylsham, due to an influx of children from all the new housing. He mentioned plans for a new £8million school to be built on the site of the former Aylsham Lodge Hotel, if and when the site gets developed.

Cllr Harrison sits on the following Committees- Health, Museums, Education and Adult Education.

The Clerk ask Cllr Harrison if he had received her request for funding to help with getting the ball rolling on reducing the speed limit through Brampton to 30mph. His reply was that if his Councillor funding was all allocated this year then we could have it for next year.

**2019/24 Public Participation**-there was one member of the public present but the Chairman agreed that her topic of interest would be discussed under Projects – Village Hall.

**2019/25 Planning** – there were no new planning applications for consideration.

**2019/26 Finance-**

- 1) The Bank Reconciliation was approved and receipts were noted

**It was agreed** to approve the following payments:

£40.00 to Information Commissioner

£193.32 to Norse

£14.40 to URM (UK) Ltd

£404.81 to M Claridge

**2019/27 Update of Parish Council Documents- It was agreed** to accept the updated versions of the following parish Council Documents, as presented to Council

- Standing Orders
- Code of Conduct
- Data Protection Commitment

The Clerk will continue to go through all other documents and present the updates for approval to the PC at future meetings

**2019/28 Correspondence-** the Clerk read out two emails from Andrew Barnes of BVR. Mr Barnes informed the Clerk whilst he had previously reached an agreement with BDC for BVR to take over responsibility for the footpath, and had been monitoring the state of the path and financing additional maintenance work, the agreement has now been withdrawn by Broadland District Council while they explore alternatives. As a consequence, the Bure Valley Railway is no longer monitoring or financing any additional works on the footpath.

Any complainants should send a photograph of any damage to the footpath, steps or fencing between the railway and the footpath to [jamie.henry@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.henry@broadland.gov.uk)

**It was agreed** that the Clerk is to reply to Andrew Barnes thanking him for his correspondence which has been received and noted.

The Chairman commented that the Parish Council are most interested in the footpath not only as a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists but also as a wildlife and wildflower corridor. Council are highly concerned at the amount of weedkiller that is sprayed on the path and verges. He commented that under the original arrangement BDC took ownership and rented out the railway on a long lease, firstly to a previous owner who went bankrupt and then to Andrew Barnes who is running it on a long-lease.

**2019/29 Highways and Footpaths-**

Cllr Sawyer-Stone reported that the white lines and SLOW signs were now in place on the junction of Marsham Rd with The Street. The 'Passing Places' are working well and **it was agreed** that the Clerk should thank Ben Rayner for the speed with which he is getting highway projects sorted for us in the villages of Brampton and Oxnead. **It was agreed** that the clerk is to inform Highways that there is a big dip in The Street opposite the barns.

Cllr Bean has walked from Oxnead to Burgh Church recently and commented that it was all nicely cut.

### **2019/30 Projects:**

**Kiosk:** The Chairman informed Council that the paint and brushes are still ready to give the kiosk a further coat of paint and there is a bookcase available for use inside it for a book exchange.

**Bus Shelter:** The Chairman informed Council that the bus shelter still needs some superficial 'tarting up' and will look again at this project when Cllr S-S returns.

**Village Hall:** The Chairman informed Council that the Village Hall is ageing and is a big problem. Whilst disabled access to the Hall is available with a ramp, once inside there is no disabled toilet. Cllr Beans quote for front door and window in the ladies toilet at £4,727.39 was too expensive and he agreed to look at cheaper alternatives. With rotten floorboards in two areas it is thought that contractors are not happy to quote for fear of finding more damage and rotten wood underneath. There is a small fund for repairing the village hall but it is not enough to cover costs

A member of the public was present and asked about the guttering and ivy on the outside. The Chairman described the Village Hall as a sad building. It is possible to get the ivy removed but it may be holding up the guttering. These jobs are all do-able and the cosmetic side of repainting the outside is being done.

To clarify there are four organisations involved in the Village Hall. They are -

- The Trustees of the Village Hall
- The Parish Council who are ultimately responsible for the structure and own the land
- The Village Hall Management Committee pay the insurance
- The Village Club hold the alcohol licence and run regular meetings in the Hall

The Chairman would welcome enthusiasm and commitment from any parishioners who are interested in helping.

**2019/31 Late Correspondence-** Although not in time to be discussed at the meeting the Clerk had received further notification regarding availability of a free Ping Pong table from Broadland District Council. **It was agreed** that the Community field would be a good place to site it and that the Clerk is to look into taking this project further. The only expense to the Parish is £400 installation costs and adding the table to the Insurance quote.

### **2019/32 Closure of Meeting and refer as appropriate to next meeting**

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07pm. The next meeting will be held on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

Approved

Date