

Brampton and Oxnead Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 9th Sept 2020

Held in the Community Field, Brampton at 7.00pm

Present

Councillors:

Mark Little (ML) (Chairman), Jon Sawyer-Stone, (JS-S) Gary Bean (GB), Trevor Whiteman (TW),

Also in attendance:

Karen Lawrence (District Councillor), David Harrison (County Councillor)

Maggie Claridge (Clerk to the Council)

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic and the gradual 'unlocking from lockdown' this PC meeting was held outside in the Community Field and was a shorter than usual meeting. Government legislation has been granted to allow Parish Councils to hold virtual meetings, and also to postpone the need to hold an Annual Village Meeting this year, with the usual elections. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will remain in post until May 2021.

2020/22 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Maggie Whiley

2020/23 Minutes - Minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2020 were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record

2020/24 Matters Arising from the Minutes – There were none

2020/25 Reports- District Cllr Karen Lawrence reported that Environmental Strategy has been approved at BDC and improvements continue to be made within the committees that she sits on. The Covid recovery plan has also been approved at BDC and Cllr Lawrence asked that Environmental issues should also be factored into the plan. The recovery plan has made allowance for grants of up to £300 to be made available, upon request, to local groups who might have lost out on funds that would normally have been raised in events that were cancelled over the Spring and summer because of Covid.

Cllr Lawrence informed the PC of highway issues occurring in Lammas, due to the increase in numbers of visitors using the Canoe Man access point to the River Bure. It is necessary that the larger numbers of vehicles and pedestrians using the narrow roads around Buxton, Lammas, Brampton and Oxnead are managed carefully as a free-for-all approach does not work. She recommended a book called 'The Psychology of traffic Calming' as a good starting point. Cllr Lawrence is to discuss the issue with Ben Rayner.

County Cllr David Harrison updated the Parish Council on news from Norfolk County Council by saying that the County is £45 million in the red due to the overspend because of Covid. Despite this, plans are still in place for the go ahead for three new Special Needs schools which are needed because the area has been under resourced in the past. He reported that Norfolk County Council employees are still not back working in the Council offices, and that Council meetings cannot be held there either because of the large numbers of Councillors. Capital Projects are still going ahead.

Cllr Sawyer -Stone updated the Parish Council on the crime figures for Brampton & Oxnead and said that there has been a huge reduction in crimes being reported in Brampton following his telephone call to the Police, after the inaccurate reporting of historic crimes regarding the Red House. It was reported that a white Ford Transit van has been seen going round the lanes with men carrying rifles and poaching deer. Two burglaries were reported in Brampton during June and July.

2020/26 Adjournment: there were no members of the public present

2020/27 Planning Application No 20201282

No decision has yet been made on the application for Change of use of barn to residential use at Limekiln Farm, Hall lane, Brampton, NR10 5HP

2020/28 Finance- The Bank Reconciliation was approved

It was agreed to approve the following payments:

SW Turbett	£59.44
M Claridge	£482.65
URM(UK)	£16.20
Norfolk ALC	£20.00
BVHMC	£60.00

2020/29 Highway & Footpath Matters

The Parish Council left the Community area and proceeded to walk to the BVR via the steps on Back Lane, where the Chairman pointed out the damage caused by the adverse management of the steep embankments adjacent to the railway line. A large area of embankment is now devoid of any vegetation covering a strip approximately 1.5 metres above ground level as a result of glyphosate spraying. This has removed all signs of primroses that once covered the area, leaving a long stretch of bare earth exposed and numerous rabbit holes which only add to the degradation of the steep slope. A tall row of poplar trees remains above the exposed area. The Parish Council continued to walk the BVR footpath towards the Brampton BVR stopping point discussing and viewing further areas of damage to the vegetation and loss of wildlife habitat.

Annie Sommazzii (BDC) had been invited, but was unable to attend the evening meeting. The Clerk is to report back from a future meeting further along the railway line where delegates from Hautbois and Coltishall will meet to discuss the use of glyphosate on their areas of railway track. It is hoped that all Parishes along the track will be able to voice their opinions and aid in advising BDC and NCC officers in the production of an overall management plan that provides protection for nesting birds and other wildlife and flora.

2020/30 Late Correspondence and refer as appropriate to next meeting on November 11th 2020

2020/31 Closure of Meeting: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Approved

Date