

# Brampton and Oxnead Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Held on Zoom at 7.30pm

### Present

Councillors:

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

Also in attendance:

Karen Lawrence (District Councillor)

Maggie Claridge (Clerk to the Council)

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*Due to the third lockdown of the Covid 19 pandemic, this PC meeting was held on Zoom 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.*

**2020/42 Apologies** – Apologies were received from Cllr Maggie Whiley and District Cllr David Harrison

**2020/43 Minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record

**2020/44 Matters Arising from the Minutes** – The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the new noticeboards have been delivered and has been assured that they will be installed on the Village Hall when current restrictions allow.

**2020/45 Reports-** District Cllr Karen Lawrence apologised for not attending the last PC meeting in November and said this was due to a calendar failure. In her report from meetings at BDC she said that within the 5 key strategies in the Environmental Strategy Statement there is a plan to plant one tree for every resident of Broadland.

She informed us that within the green Infrastructure budget there is an allocation of £228,000 which amounts to £12,000 for each of the 19 bridges on the BVR, so if residents come across issues there is a budget for use on areas such as the steps (see item 2020/49)

There will be another £500 Cllr fund that the PC are eligible to apply for.

Councillor Lawrence informed us that there have been several expressions of concern over the clearance work that is currently being carried out by the BVR along the entire nine mile stretch of the line, and especially in the Brampton section. The Parish Council encourage complainants to write to Broadland District Council, who are the landowners, and in particular to contact [hazel.ellard@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:hazel.ellard@broadland.gov.uk).

County Cllr David Harrison did not attend the meeting, due to a double booking.

Cllr Sawyer -Stone updated the Parish Council saying that 3 crimes were reported in Brampton & Oxnead in November but he feels that these could be historic offences.

**2020/46 Adjournment:** there were no members of the public present.

**2020/47 Planning** There were no Planning applications.

**Neighbourhood Plan** The Chairman stated that he would strongly advocate that the PC develop a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) His concern is that without a NP, local issues are not being listened

to at BDC. With one, local planners would have to take it into consideration in all planning applications, especially when dealing with those in the open countryside. **It was agreed** that the Parish Councillors should start to think collectively about his subject and look at examples of parishes of similar sizes to ours, who have prepared a NP. Help is available from Broadland District Council.

**Future Projects** The Chairman, also asked the Parish Council to consider what other projects within the parish would be worth considering, eg infrastructure repair type projects such as the old 2<sup>nd</sup> WW Pill Box adjacent to Oxnead Bridge. It is a building of local historic importance and interest which is deteriorating badly and is in need of repair. Unless the Parish Council initiate repairs urgently, it is likely that the Pill Box will crumble further and be lost forever. The Chairman also remarked on how well used the Ping Pong table has been during the lockdowns over the past year, and how the PC might further improve the Community area with more activities for social events. suggesting that a Boule Court might prove to be a popular feature.

**Village Hall** Cllr Bean was able to forward to the Clerk, the quotation he had received for the replacement doors and windows for the Village Hall. **It was agreed** that the Clerk is to forward this to all Cllrs for approval, so that this essential work can be agreed in order to make the Village Hall secure.

**2020/48 Finance-** The Bank Reconciliation was approved.

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

M Claridge	£418.95
Whitehall Direct	£238.80
URM (UK)	£16.20

**The budget** was approved subject to minor adjustments. **It was agreed** to add in the figure of the annual subscriptions, and to change the wording from 'annual grant' to 'annual application' from the Church for help towards grass cutting in the Churchyard.

**The Parish Precept** **It was agreed** to set the Parish Precept for 2021-22 at £4,545.00 which equates to an increase of 1% from 2020-21 Precept.

## **2020/49 Highway & Footpath Matters**

**Delivery Drivers causing damage to Highway verges:**

Cllr Sawyer Stone had met Ben Rayner to discuss the issue of HGV's and delivery drivers causing damage to public and private verges throughout the village. Bens advice was that a TRO would take a year or more to install, and would not be enforceable as a delivery vehicle can cross the TRO point if doing a delivery. Instead, Ben recommended putting signage at the entrance to each of the roads into Brampton from the Aylsham to Buxton Road. Cllr J S-S agreed to contact Ben to follow this up. During their walkabout up The Street they discussed the drainage hole through the embankment adjacent to the allotments, and Ben agreed to get a better drainage option installed. He also agreed to get the Passing Places cleaned up after the wet and muddy winter weather. The Chairman stated that the Passing Places have been an enormous success this winter.

## **BVR and Public Footpath**

The BVR was discussed at length in Cllr Karen Lawrence's report (see 2020.45). With money allocated to the BVR in the Inter-reg fund, there is money to improve the bridges and the steps up to the BVR footpath, and it was noted that the steps up to Brampton Station are

very slippery. The Parish Council encourage complainants to write to BDC, the landowners of the BVR and to contact [hazel.ellard@broadland.gov.uk](mailto:hazel.ellard@broadland.gov.uk) who is also responsible for the maintenance of the steps and BVR footpath. Attaching relevant photos and location will assist in identification of the area in question.

**2020/50 Late Correspondence and refer as appropriate to next meeting 10 03 2021**

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the MP for Broadland, Jerome Mayhew, had sent the PC a Christmas Card and asked that we invite him to a meeting this year. The Clerk is to send him the dates of the next two meetings.

**2020/51 Closure of Meeting:** There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37pm.

Approved

Date

DRAFT