

Brampton and Oxnead Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 10th March 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)

Jerome Mayhew (MP for Broadland)

Maggie Claridge (Clerk to the Council)

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

2020/52 Apologies – Apologies were received from Cllr Maggie Whiley

2020/53 Minutes - Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2021 were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record

2020/54 Matters Arising from the Minutes –The Parish Council discussed the possible repair of the 2nd WW Pill Box adjacent to Oxnead Bridge, and the poor state of the Fletton brick outer casing, and the need to remove the overgrowth covering it. **It was agreed** that the PC need to look into the ownership of the structure and the land it stands on.

Cllr J S-S informed the Parish Council that the new noticeboards will be installed on the Village Hall when current restrictions allow.

2020/55 Reports- District Cllr Karen Lawrence reported on a variety of issues from BDC. The consultation on GNPD has been extended until the 22nd March.

Cllr Lawrence commented that, with the country coming out of lockdown and with 106% increase in people applying for payment dispensation' this is not the time to increase the Council Tax, which has been set at 3.5%.

Cllr Lawrence put forward that BDC should raise the amount of their award fund from £500 to £1000 to match the amount that S Norfolk give out, but this was rejected. A total sum of £2,600 has been handed out to 7 local community groups in 2020 through Cllr Lawrence's Cllr fund.

Cllr Lawrence has been involved in providing signs saying '20 is Plenty' in Lammas to aid in reducing traffic speed through the village, and has suggested that if this is something Brampton would like to try, she is willing to help. Signs are put in visible positions in private gardens and not on the highway, as a precursor to getting the speed limit reduced by Highways, which costs £6,000.

Huntercombe Hospital has been taken over by new owners and Cllr Lawrence has been invited to meet with one of the new Drs working there to find out what is happening.

Cllr S-S asked about the continuing fly tipping of shredded wood chippings along the pedestrian footpath side of the BVR, and also commented that he had not heard back from Ben Rayner after attempting to contact him by e mail three times. Cllr Lawrence agreed to look into both issues.

County Cllr David Harrison arrived at 8.15pm following his meeting with Burgh PC. This will be Cllr Harrison's last meeting with Brampton as County Cllr. He informed us that the NCC has ceased to function as a normal council, and that he is developing Zoom psychosis from too many long on-line meetings. He commented that there has been an abject failure of Social Services, and asked why places like Aylsham hospital needed to be closed down, when they served such a useful place in our society. Local care works well in Denmark where his daughter is a nurse.

Cllr Sawyer -Stone updated the Parish Council with his Police report saying that only 1 crime had been reported in December and January. He attended the SNAP meeting on Zoom where the anti-social behaviour during the lockdowns was addressed, as well as focussing on speeding and scam awareness. Cllr S-S reported on the Covid response in the beat that PC Lucas Ward deals with.

2020/56 Adjournment: there were no members of the public present, so the Chairman introduced Jerome Mayhew, our Broadland MP to the Parish Council. Cllr Little asked Mr Mayhew a number of questions the first about Localism, by saying that Brampton is a small but active community. The Parish Council respond as statutory consultees to planning applications, using local knowledge, but nothing gets listened to by the Planners. Mr Mayhew informed us that planning is not one of his key areas but he can get involved, not to express an opinion, but to highlight where things are going wrong. He agreed that feedback through the Parish Council expertise is necessary to get a sensible application. Cllr Lawrence commented that one of Broadland DC's challenges is that they have shared officers with S Norfolk, so the Parish Council voice becomes more important.

The Chairman raised the issue of the wind farm cables and associated trenches to Mr Mayhew saying that we had been in the firing line for one of the cable routes, although this is no longer the case for Brampton. Mr Mayhew informed the Parish Council that he has been greatly involved with the wind farm issue, and that each wind farm was required to have its own point to point connection, an issue that he had pressured for a review. There are a large number of new wind farms being developed in the southern part of the North Sea, off our coast, with one new turbine being built every day, and everyone agrees that having to stick with the old regulatory system is not a good way forward. With so much investment already the connection contract is forcing a sense of urgency. The trench digging issue is a big problem, especially for Cawston. Local businesses want to get the work of digging them and while it will be great for them financially, it will be at the expense of the local residents.

2020/57 Planning There were no Planning applications.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Cllrs were asked to read the Strumpshaw Neighbourhood Plan to get a good idea of what is expected from the Parish Council. All Cllrs were in agreement that it seems to be a necessity to prepare a Neighbourhood plan, and if all are generally happy then it will be necessary to contact Richard Squires at BDC for his advice.

Cllr Lawrence said that she is more than happy to share with others the Buxton Neighbourhood Plan

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 2nd 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.

2020/58 Finance- The Bank Reconciliation was approved.

It was agreed to approve the following payments:

M Claridge £412.95 (includes £14.39 for Zoom payment)
Norfolk PTS £45.45

2020/59 Highway & Footpath Matters

Highways

The roads have all taken a battering during the bad weather, a lot of potholes have appeared since the snow. **It was agreed** that the Clerk will inform the Cllrs when the Rangers are next due to come to Brampton.

Parking

There has been a lot of unofficial parking in the passing bays, and close to Oxnead Bridge, due to lots of people wild swimming in the river.

Public Footpath

The Island and FP12 were discussed regarding the clearing of the sheds etc.

BVR

The issues of vegetation clearance by BVR were discussed and Jerome Mayhew asked the Parish Council to send him our concerns so that as our MP he could put pressure on BDC to force a response. **It was agreed** that the Chairman (ML) would send a summary to Jerome Mayhew.

2020/60 Late Correspondence and refer as appropriate to next meeting 19 05 2021

It was agreed that the Parish Council would like to renew the Grass Maintenance contract with Stewart Turbett, and that the Clerk would make contact with him to start cutting the grass.

The Village Hall has been mothballed since the Pandemic began and it needs to be checked over in time for the elections on May 6th. A working party is needed to clean it up. The Village Hall have some working capital to get things repaired and renewed.

Jerome Mayhew thanked the Parish Council for inviting him to our meeting and suggested that at periodic times we invite him back, giving us a voice into a Westminster.

2020/61 Closure of Meeting: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.56pm.

Approved

Date

DRAFT