

Brampton and Oxnead Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council

Wednesday September 7th 2022

Held in the Village Hall

Present

Councillors:

Mark Little (ML) Chair

Gary Bean (GB)

Trevor Whiteman (TW)

Also in attendance:

Karen Lawrence (District Councillor)

2022/26 Apologies – received from the Clerk who has tested positive to Covid. District Councillor Lawrence kindly agreed to stand in to present papers etc and record the meeting for the Clerk in order for the meeting to go ahead and to enable the Clerk to write up these minutes

The Chairman informed the Parish Council that the Clerk had received an email from Jon Sawyer-Stone saying that he was resigning from his position as Councillor. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would thank Jon S-S for all the work he has done for the Brampton & Oxnead during his time as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman also thanked the remaining Councillors for their continued support in dealing with Parish Council issues and asked them all to rally round to help find more Parish Councillors.

2022/27 Minutes - Minutes of the meeting held on July 13th 2022 were circulated, agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record

2022/28 Matters Arising from the Minutes – Cllr Lawrence read out a report written by the Clerk as a result of her visit with Mike and Margaret Huish to discuss the on-going maintenance of the Brampton Village Sign. The report will be available to be read on the Parish Website under Village Sign but the essence of the meeting is that the iconic, much-loved sign is now over 30 years old, made of timber and therefore going through the natural processes of aging and deterioration. Whilst Mr and Mrs Huish have done a magnificent job of keeping it in good order through their hard work and dedication, they are concerned that the timber sign is not structurally strong enough to withstand people climbing on it. They are happy to continue with their regular painting but asked for reassurance from the Parish Council that they are not personally liable for any children who might get hurt should they climb it.

It was agreed that, whilst the village sign is insured, the Clerk would double check with the Parish Council insurers that the sign is fully insured against liability from those doing external work on it.

It was also agreed the Clerk would send Mr and Mrs Huish a message of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council for their enormous contribution to the village with their dedication, painting and on-going maintenance of the sign.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should Assess the sign annually and act accordingly. A discussion was had as to whether a 'Do not Climb' sign should be put on the sign to deter people damaging the sign further and **it was agreed** that Cllr GB would look into purchasing a suitable sign.

2022/29 Adjournment- There were no members of the public present.

2022/30 Reports- District Cllr Karen Lawrence reported that there was a meeting at BDC in July where the cost of the wicker corgis for the **Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration** was discussed. £20,000 was spent on commissioning and purchasing seven corgis to be displayed at a Jubilee party at Blickling Hall. The weekend was a wash out and not many people turned up for the party at Blickling. Talks are on-going as to how the wicker corgis should either be sold or re purposed with a new life for the benefit of more people.

Cllr Lawrence and Brampton PC members got an invite for the **special BVR train journey** in September. Cllr Whiteman will be taking part in the train journey as the representative for Brampton & Oxnead Parish Council on September 2022.

Oxnead Hall Cllr Lawrence was informed by Roger Crane about an ongoing issue with noise at Oxnead Hall. She has been meeting with local residents and has been in discussion with Broadland District Council to monitor any local disruption.

There are three security guards at Oxnead Hall most of the time, who have been helpful. Planning permission for the barn did not include sound proofing. There are in the region of 100 weddings per year with up to 60 cars per wedding. Local residents are being asked to collect noise data. This issue has been on-going since February, but it is since August that there has been more disruption.

The wedding business is now run by Unique Norfolk Venues, based at Sedgeford Hall Estate.

Day Trippers using the Oxnead Meadows Roger Crane has been in conversation with Lime Kiln Farm regarding the meadows. With lots of day trippers coming to use the meadows, it has become a go-to place. The owners are happy for people to use the traditional parking spot by the Pill Box, but are concerned about the continuous rows of cars who turn up at weekends and during summer holidays, blocking farm entrances etc.

Cllr GB is happy to pick up and take on board the Crime report from J S-S and the Chairman and Cllr Lawrence outlined where to find the information.

County Cllr Steve Riley

Cllr Riley was not present, as he has been unwell. Cllr KL will ask Cllr Riley to do a summary of what has been happening

2022/31 Planning- Enforcement Issues: Oxnead Hall sound disturbance: nothing enforceable and The Island are both on going issues. The White House application has been passed.

2022/32 Finance-

- a) The Bank reconciliation was approved and signed
- b) **It was agreed** to approve the following payments

St Peters PCC rent for Comm Land	78.00
St Peters Grant for grass cutting	133.00
S Turbett Grass maintenance	79.44
HMRC Clerks tax	17.00
ICO (previous cheque lost in post)	40.00
Clerk's salary and expenses	428.19

Gary agreed to take on the Bank Mandate issue (replacing J S-S's role) to become authorised as a signatory to enable the Parish Council to finalise on-line banking.

The PC and Clerk await confirmation regarding on line payments

2022/33 Highway and Footpath Matters- It was mentioned again that the steps down from the railway line at Brampton Station and at the Mermaid end are in need of attention and repair. The people at BDC we need to e mail regarding repairs to the BVR footpath, steps and new fencing are Michael Horton and his boss George Denton as they are now the people in charge of Community Assets at BDC. These steps are still a concern and Karen has flagged these up yet again. They should be on the next maintenance board. The Mermaid steps, rails down and toes of all the steps are all in a poor state of repair.

A discussion was held again about the need for a proper wildlife escape route through the fence, mainly for deer who can now get on the railway line but cannot safely get off it as the fence wires are too close together, an issue that was not addressed by the fencing company who erected it. Cllr Lawrence informed the PC that she intends to write to the RSPCA as this is now an animal welfare issue.

Highways Issues: Rangers need to have a good go before next February when things get bad again. Large pot hole near the Huish's house. Make a request to highways re informal passing point.

There has been a call from parishioners to the Chairman reporting that the hedges along both sides of The Street are getting very overgrown and are affecting visibility. **It was agreed** that the Clerk would contact highways to request that they are cut back.

2022/34 Late Correspondence and refer as appropriate to next meeting November 9th 2022
An e mail was received from village residents and was read out to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a reply.

Over the past few years Brampton Church grounds have been carefully maintained by Stewart Turbett, a local contractor who liaises closely with the Chairman. The Churchyard in spring has an outstanding display and is a mass of mostly native daffodils.

2022/35 Closure of Meeting: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.29pm.

Approved

Date