

Minutes of Bradenham Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 13th August 2024 in the Village Hall

Mr C Allhusen, Mr J Reading, Ms T Frost, Steven Parker, Lisa Johnstone with the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert and Helen Crane (District Councillor) and Peter Bate (District Councillor) plus 5 Residents.

APOLOGIES – Ed Connolly (County Councillor) and Victoria Short (Parish Councillor)

The minutes of the last meeting were signed by the Chairman as a true record.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interest in the following items on the agenda.

Dispensation is granted to all Parish Councillors in order to discuss the Precept and other financial matters. Chris Allhusen declared an interest in the Cricket Club Lease

Resignation – Victoria Short emailed the PC – ‘Due to work commitments and my new work with Norfolk Federation of Young Farmers Clubs I will have to resign my position as Parish Councillor’.

Chris Allhusen – ask the clerk to thank Victoria for her work with the PC.

The Mardle will advertise the vacancy.

Helen Crane – District Councillor

Car Park charging. At cabinet on 15th July it was resolved to implement changes to the councils car parking policy to change to a charging model.

Councils are facing extreme budget pressures that are forcing us to take a look at how services are delivered. We have to make changes to enable us to continue to provide this facility, which costs £450,000 per year to run and maintain our 30 car parks across the district.

This is not a money making scheme. We need to cover these costs which are borne by every tax payer in Breckland whether they use the car parks or not. Car parking is not a statutory service. If there is a surplus then that money will be spent in the market town.

The cost of implementing the charges has been included and taken into account and are part of the overall figure.

It is a fair system to ask those who use the car parks to pay for the car parks. (20% of our residents do not own a car).

There will be one hour free concession every day in one car park per town, being increased to 3 hours free on one of the Market days. The most important thing is that we have turnover in our car parks, allowing the public and visitors to have space available. Evidence from the council's recent enforcement trials at both Swaffham and Attleborough and national evidence shows that the ability to be able to park is more important than the payment. There will be free parking on 'special days' such as Christmas tree light up and other events in consultation with Town Councils.

By charging a very small amount for car parking we can protect this service and also protect our statutory services and our budget allocation for vulnerable residents.

The finer details regarding residents and business permits are under discussion.

Consultation will take place later this year.

Housing Target figures released

The new government has released its housing target figures. The new local plan was allowing for 661 dwellings per annum but will now have to allow for 917 a 39% increase. Where this leaves us with our local plan is yet to be defined and I will keep you updated.

There will be 4 Town and parish forums in September and the Parish Council should receive notice of these.

Fly-tipped leaflets at Half Mile Drift-Still under investigation and one of the magazine's has been spoken to and has given the name of the 3rd party that was to distribute. The distributor is being contacted and I will be kept informed.

Peter Bate – District Councillor –

At the council meeting on the 11th July: the opposition asked questions mostly about the plans for parking charges.

First up was querying that there appeared to be no increased budget for traffic wardens. There were also questions about the impact the parking proposals will have on the local towns. A full report was released

to the public on the afternoon of the 15th July. There is a video record of the cabinet discussing the charges.

A question was asked on why there were charges being implemented in Watton when it was originally said that Watton didn't have the footfall for it. The answer, the consultants changed their minds.

A question was asked about the sale of Barnham Broom: there has been no progress.

Listening to the mood music it seems to be a done deal that parking charges will be implemented. I will oppose this, but I don't expect to be successful. I will push for a full report on the impact of the changes because if it proves to be that the changes are for the worse, they can be rowed back.

PUBLIC SESSION

Car parking charging was discussed. The PC felt it was unfair to charge people that have no transport options, apart from a car, travelling to Dereham. It was suggested that local councils would have to cut other council services if we rejected car park charges.

Mr Simson asked if it would be possible to have a flag pole up near the village hall, so that the Union flag could be raised on special occasions. The PC agreed that this could be looked into further.

Although the location of defibrillators machines are on the website, could there be a sign to the village hall and a sign over the door. The PC felt that everyone in the village knows where both the defibrillators and hall are situated. Also, when you ring 999 to get a code, they can give instructions on how to get to the closest defib in your area.

Resident asked if the Lord Nelson is ever going to open again. Chris Allhusen advised that the pub is closed and still registered has a Public House. The PC does not have to purchase the pub but it cannot be sold without the PC being informed. We have an 'Asset of Community Value' for the next 5 years.

Mr Jones wanted to know why HGV lorries are increasingly using Mill Street. The PC cannot comment on why but these vehicles are entitled to drive through the village.

Brian Stebbing – Asked the Clerk to bring the following to the attention of the PC. House near the Ford, (number 33 School Road) He's asked if the new owners are allowed to install a double gate and have access to the road without any permission from Breckland or Highways. The position of the entrance is very close to the ford and the path that runs along the bridge and onto the road. This could be dangerous and they have also removed the path from the Ford Bridge. The Clerk agreed to go and speak to the new owners.

MATTERS ARISING

Highways – Ed Connolly- County Councillor confirmed that 34 Hale Road's verge is now on the rota. This was not cut by the Council but by Tufts due to a near collision between a car and resident.

Bradenham Lane toward Scarning – The pot holes have been getting larger due to Vattenfall lorries, the Clerk emailed Highways and they have required Vattenfall to fill in the holes.

Church Street – Cars still being parked on the verge. The police have informed us that parking on the verge does not cause any issue. Another householder also reported to be parking on the verge but this is mainly to stop speeding vehicles at a narrow spot.

Cricket Club Lease – This is still with the Solicitors

ACV – This has now been renewed for 5 years. Also see Public Session

Bench in Play Area – Needs repairing and was not mentioned on the play area inspection recently completed by Zurich. Julian Reading offered to repair the bench, if possible.

Litter Pick - Steve and Lorraine Parker have agreed to take this on. The next pick will be: 7th September. The clerk will ask Zurich Insurance if all volunteers are covered by the policy. The PC thanked them for taking this on and helping to keep the village looking good

Garden Flooding on Mill Street - The resident have not been in contact with the PC since the last meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Audit – The exemption certification was approved and there is no fee to pay. Chris Allhusen thanked Serena Barns for signing off the Internal audit.

Zurich Ins- Confirmed that employees & volunteers are covered automatically under the employers liability Insurance. Risk assessment should be done. Teresa Frost offered to sort this out and also for the Litter Pick.

Play Area Inspection – Most of the repairs mentioned were dealt with last year. The clerk has phone Zurich but the inspector Chris Sanders is away and his Manager will look into the matter

Car Parking in local Towns - Discuss in the public session above

Lisa Johnston – Can stay on the PC until the next election

Mrs Bush – Sent an email regarding the speed limited on Scarning Road Daffy Green, which is 60mph. For a narrow country lane with many bends to navigate. There are numerous children and animals living along this stretch of road. Therefore, I would like the speed limit reduced to 30mph. 60mph encourages drivers to use this route rather than other more major routes where additional speed limits are in place. When there are accidents on the surrounding more major routes, a lot of drivers to choose to use Scarning Rd as a diversion. There have been accidents and numerous near misses as drivers are driving to the national speed limit rather than to the conditions of the road. I feel a lower speed limit would warn these drivers that they cannot drive at the national speed limit as it is not safe to do so. The Clerk has forward this onto the Highways and Ed Connolly

APPLICATION :- Proposed extension to create hobby room at Twizel Barn New Lane by Mr & Mrs Salmon – **No Objection**

APPROVAL :- None

FINANCE:-

Opening Balance Lloyds - £11944.45

Expenditure		Income
TTSR Ltd – Grass Cutting	1403.86	
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Clerk Wages	205.72	
PAYE	51.40	
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	£3064.84	£ 0.00
Balance	£8879.61	

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Michael Bell – Speed report - Bradenham speed data survey

The Bradenham speed data collection and analysis continues and is about 75% complete. Hale Rd is essentially finished and Church St is one site away from completion, leaving School Rd and Mill St.

The average traffic volume on Hale Rd is about 600 vehicles/day.

The results are in line with expectations with around 20% of drivers exceeding the 30mph limit. Worryingly, the highest percentage of speeders is approaching Littleproud's Hill, going towards Swaffham which is, obviously, the narrowest part of hale Rd. Worst cases so far have been:

60mph past the Lord Nelson heading towards Nelson Close

60mph past the football ground heading for Littleproud's Hill

55mph at virtually all locations with 45mph to 50mph a common occurrence.

Norfolk Police conducted their own survey between June 5th and 12th on Hale Rd, close to the entrance to the football club, and Church St. The Hale Rd data indicated that 47% of vehicles were speeding, a higher percentage than that gathered from the speed signs. Unfortunately, the data from Church St was corrupted so a second survey will be carried out there.

By the time of the next PC meeting, the survey should have been completed and some relevant data will be available for distribution to the committee.

Asked if it would be possible to do speed checks on Mill Street. Mr Jones who lives on Mill Street asked for this not to take place and that the post should be removed for near his home.

Speed Sign – Michael Bell asked if it would be possible to do speed checks on Mill Street.

Mr Jones who lives on Mill Street asked for this not to take place and this would invade his privacy

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 12th November 2024

MEETING ENDED: - 8.45pm