

Minutes of Bradenham Parish Meeting on Tuesday 8th February 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Mr C Allhusen, Mr J Reading, Mr S Welton, Mr P Jarvis, Mrs Les Baxter and Ms T Frost with Helen Crane and Tim Birt– District Councillor, the Clerk Mrs D Ruppert and 12 residents.

APOLOGIES – Ms K Findlay – Unwell and Edward Connolly – County Councillor

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

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare an interest in any of 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 interest in the Permissive path, Chris will be answering questions regarding the Permissive path on behalf of Bradenham Hall Farms.

Helen Crane – District Councillor

Local plan update-As part of the executive member group overseeing the local plan I have been attending meetings regarding Breckland Landscape and settlement character assessment. I have been able to comment on the draft by Tibbalds. There are two stakeholders workshops regarding this on 23rd February at 2pm and 6pm. These will be held via zoom and any resident can attend, please register with rachel.gibbs@breckland.gov.uk.

Refuse collection-There is going to be a change to some collection days. All residents will be notified and those with assisted bins and commercial waste will have a more personal approach. The change in collection will not only be cost saving but will have better environmental impact.

A balanced budget was approved by Cabinet and there will be a rise in council tax of £4.95 for a band D property. 75% of residents live in bands A-C and therefore will incur a smaller rise. Breckland Council remains the lowest district council tax. We understand that Council tax is one of the highest bills for any household, therefore a further £35k has been added to the hardship fund for our residents in need to access.

Armed Forces Covenants-Breckland has the silver status but is going for the gold award to support our members of the Armed Forces even more. Support will be given to members of staff who are armed services reserves, to go on leave to train. An extra 2 weeks service leave on top of the 2 already in place will be available.

Fly Tipping-An illegal waste carrier from Swaffham has been fined £1k after being caught fly tipping in Ashill. A Kings Lynn waste carrier who sub-contracted their waste collection work has been fined £1900 for fly-tipping in woodland near Swaffham. 150 abandoned vehicles have been removed from the streets of Breckland.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee-It was felt that Breckland should have a lasting legacy to celebrate this historical milestone for Her Majesty the Queen, therefore a bursary scheme and 5 apprenticeships that concentrate on our core values and corporate plan will be introduced as a fitting tribute. Along with the lighting up of Council buildings, a new signed portrait of The Queen was unveiled at Elizabeth House.

Match funding grants-The window for match funding grants will open on 2nd June and will be limited to £500. I will be happy to support grant applications.

The Trod-I have had meetings with the enforcement manager and leader of the council. I want to reassure residents that this is not being swept under the carpet, but being dealt with in a robust manner. It is at the top of the list for the enforcement team. I will update the chairman as things progress.

Tim Birt - District Councillor

Council Tax Cabinet have recommended a £4.95 increase in council tax for a band D property which just over 5% and a smidgin under the maximum permitted. The emphasis on it being a 'balanced' budget is a distraction because it has to be balanced; however it is pushing some problems into the future with an Evolve Programme of escalating savings. £25k, then £250k, £1m and £1.7m.

I still can't talk about capital assets and what is happening because of claimed 'commercial confidentiality'. The Green Britain Centre was sold, but I can't tell you for how much ... yet!

Opposition and Scrutiny The three opposition parties are working effectively together. There is different emphasis but a great deal of common ground, for example in our concerns over the 3-years when our Local Plan will be out-of-date by choice! There isn't a cliff edge but the longer it remains out-of-date the more developers have the upper hand in deciding where to develop and ultimately there may not be a 5-year land supply and the 'wild west' of planning we had a few years ago.

Jubilee Grants Back in September last year it was announced in Cabinet that they would "make sure we give grants out to Towns and Parishes to make sure they have sufficient funds for a celebration"

I had heard nothing further so I asked at Monday's Cabinet and was told: "There are no grants for Towns and Parishes".

What is annoying is there change in policy was made without notification.

Public Session

Resident ask if there was any news on the Trod path for Hale Road that was promised by Clayland. – See above – Helen Crane's report

Permissive Paths – The agreement is up for renewal soon. Residents of Southend have found that closing off the top end of the road has been excellent. The paths have been a benefit to Bradenham. Cyclists are a problem on the paths. It was asked if paths could be made available to horse riders, this is something that will have to be considered. All comments will be taken into consideration. The PC agreed to renewal the agreement and the legal contract does not need amending.

The ditch on the green needs strimming, this will be done by TTSR.

Ditch near number 11 get backed up, Chris will have a look.

MATTERS ARISING

Village Green Bylaws – These are with the Secretary of State to make a decision. Still no response. Chris has now written to George Freeman and Michael Gove

Clayland Footpath – See Helen Crane's report above

Speed Gates – These have now been installed and look good. The Clerk will thank Ed Connolly for helping in match funding

Speed Bin Signs – We have sold a few more. Payments received so far £246.75.

Bench for New Lane – This has now been installed with the original plaque. We have already received some positive comments from residents.

Picnic Table – This has now been ordered and delivery will be March 2022

Trees re Queens Jubilee – These were planted in November 2021 and are thriving. Julian Reading will add our new trees to The Queen's Green Canopy Map

CORRESPONDENCE

Breckland Council and Serco have both given permission for a Bench and bin to be installed at the Ford. The bin should be installed by the give way sign, which makes it easier for the binners to empty. Anglia water have already levelled the man hole cover on the Ford. The bench has already been ordered and paid for with TTSR and the bin(Topsy Jubilee) will be ordered by the Clerk from Glasdon

Zurich Insurance Renewal date 10th February 2022, amount £1246.49 which is lower than last year, due to the Play area inspection amount reduced. The PC asked the Clerk to renew.

CAB – Asked if Bradenham would consider making a donation to the charity. After the PC discussed the pros and cons, Chris thought that he would approach the two charities in the village (Bradenham charity and the Ada Tait) to see if they would consider making a donation..

Shipdham Parish Council – Have arranged a Transport Strategy meeting on 18th March, will meet representatives of Highways, Norfolk County Council and Breckland Council to look at the road network across the area. Paul Jarvis agreed to attend.

Vattenfall's Community Benefit Fund – Chris attended the meeting held in January 2022 at Necton. The Building will be very tall and we will be able to see them from Hale Road. They plan for more than £15 million in direct community funding to Norfolk, this will be given for green projects. We could consider solar panels for the village hall.

Breckland District Council – Sent a map advising which grass Norfolk County Council will be now be cutting in the village. Part of Hale Road, Mill Hill, Area of the pump Station on Mill Street and School Road and The Ford.

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Permissive paths – See Public Session above

PLANNING

APPLICATION :- Demolition of existing lean-to Extension and Conservatory.
Construction of new Kitchen Extension, Cladding of existing external walls, replacement windows to side extension & new rooflight
High Farm 28 Southend by Mr & Mrs Roberson – **No Objection**

APPROVAL :- **NONE**

FINANCE**Opening Balance £12059.57****Nationwide - £4425.99****Lloyd - £7633.58****Nationwide Account - £4425.99****Expenditure****Income**

Transferred to Lloyds

4426.81

Interest

0.82

£ 4426.81

£ 0.82

Balance £ 0.00**The transfer to Lloyds also includes the £0.82 interest****Lloyds Account £7633.58****Expenditure****Income**

TTSR – Installation of Bench

180.00

Cricket Club Rent

350.00

Barcham Trees

42.00

Bradenham Community Group

323.62

TTSR – Grass Maintenance

1093.97

Money from Nationwide

4426.81

KBS Depot – Picnic Bench

873.00

Clerk's Wages

173.90

PAYE

38.60

TTSR – Bench for Ford

180.00

£2581.47

£5100.43

Balance £ 10152.54**Any Other Business**

Les advised that Highways once again examined the work carried out over a year go on Church Street (re tarmacing the pavement). They have now stated that they do not think the work is needed,

Julian – The bin near the Cricket Club is missing it's lid. The clerk advised that the bin did not belong to the Parish Council. Chris will write to the Cricket Club.

Chris informed the PC that fibre broadband was coming to Bradenham Hall Cottages and Bradenham Hall.

Next Meeting AGM and Parish Meeting Tuesday 10th May 2022