

**Notes of  
BRADWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
held in the Methodist Hall at 7:30 p.m.  
on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL 2008**

**Present:-**

Parish Council Members

Cllr A Briggs, Cllr J Byrne, Cllr R Davies, Cllr P Downing,  
Cllr S Eyre (Chair), Cllr C Furness, Cllr B Hardy,  
Cllr J Lawson, Cllr A Nash, Cllr A Slater

Steve Lawless                      Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council  
Richard Jarman                     Responsible Financial Officer

Cllr Mrs J Goodison              Derbyshire Dales District Council

Around 20 members of the public were present

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from DCC Cllr J Twigg, PC D Eyre.

**2. Notes of Annual Parish Meeting – 3rd April 2007**

The notes of the previous meeting were agreed to be true record of the meeting.

**3. Parish Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported on the following aspects of the previous year:-

- a) The Youth Centre had been a great success, with over 30 young people regularly attending and many volunteers on the rota to help.
- b) Carnival 2007 had been very successful, enjoyed by all and many village organisations had made money from the event. Carnival 2008 would be held on the Beggars Plot in response to many requests received.
- c) The two playing fields continue to be main amenities of the village. These playing fields are checked annually by RoSPA and are subject to routine on-going care and maintenance. This year the play equipment had been repainted with the paint provided by Lafarge.
- d) The PC continues to meet with Newburgh to keep a close eye on plans for this site, and once the plans have been submitted, then the PC will decide whether to object of to support them.
- e) The Housing Needs survey conducted by DDDC and Northern Counties has shown a need for 27 affordable houses in the village.
- f) The precept had been raised by 53% in order to fund the many improvements and new projects as described above. Further details of the finances will be given by Financial Officer.
- g) Other points mentioned by the Chairman included:-
  - Some money had been donated to village organisations, but more was available. Organisations were encouraged to apply in the coming year.
  - The Parish Council's website had been re-launched and contained much new and interesting material.
  - In the coming year it was planned to register a number of sites as Village Greens in order to give them enhanced protection into the future.
  - The suggested plan by Lafarge to build a road from their works into Bradwell would be closely watched and vigorously opposed should it be submitted for planning approval.

**4. Parish Clerk's Report**

The Clerk reported on the following aspects of the previous year:-

- a) 2008 had been an election year, two councillors had stood down, one new councillor was elected and another co-opted to bring the council up to the full complement of ten members. Contact details of the councillors had been made available in a Bradwell News insert and are currently available on the website.

Besides working on the council and associated committees, members also represent the council on nine other local bodies e.g. Lafarge, Memorial Hall. Also, some members of the village have been co-opted onto a number of council committees, particularly the Youth Centre and Carnival committees.

Over the past year members have attended 45 meetings of the council and committees.

b) In order to be effective in delivering improvements for the village, the Parish Council must engage with many outside bodies and agencies. Over the past year the council has worked closely with the DCC, DDDC, & PDNPA, and also with Derbyshire Constabulary, RoSPA, Lafarge and Northern Counties. In addition, it has had a series of meetings with Newburgh in order to understand their plans.

21 Planning Applications had been reviewed over the year.

c) The Clerk then mentioned some of the many activities carried out over the year, e.g. organising the filling of grit bins, working with DCC re Smalldale heavy traffic, repairs to bus shelter, & grants given to village organisations.

The Clerk also made particular mention of the on-going care and maintenance work on the Playing Fields e.g. annual inspection of play equipment and associated repairs, the cutting of the grass, the regular litter picks, wall repairs and other maintenance. In addition, new fencing had been installed on Town Bottom, and improvements carried out at Town Bottom and in the Rose Garden.

d) The Clerk stated that the plans for the coming year would largely be covered in the reports of the various committees, but in addition, the basketball equipment would be erected on Beggars Plot, the War Memorial would be refurbished and cleaned, the Millennium Plaque and a Village Information board would be erected in a central location.

The Clerk concluded by expressing his thanks to all who had helped over the past year, especially the RFO and the village caretaker.

## 5. Responsible Financial Officer's Report

The Parish Council's accounts are maintained in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 with the financial year ending on 31st March.

We are required

- To appoint an internal auditor
- To prepare our accounts for inspection by the Audit Commission
- To advertise to members of the Parish the timetable for the audit process

The 2007/2008 accounts were approved by our internal auditor as being well managed and the Audit Commission approved our 2007/2008 Annual Return without adverse comment

This year we intend that the June meeting of the Parish Council will consider the draft accounts prior to internal audit. The Audit Commission will review the Parish Council's Annual Return by end of August at which time the notice of audit will be displayed for the information of members of the Parish

The Parish Council has a Finance Committee whose function is to give detailed consideration to all financial matters and to make recommendations to the full Council for approval.

The Finance Committee particularly looks at budgetary control prior to the Council's precept setting which is required to be completed by November for the year beginning the following April

The Parish Council has over the last few years set a number of objectives which have affected its decision making and the level of the precept. These objectives are:-

1. To ensure that the Parish Council assets (predominantly play equipment) are valued properly, insured adequately and that sufficient financial provision is made for their replacement - to this end we have established a fixed asset sinking fund
2. To ensure that the administration of the Parish Council is consistent with its responsibilities – to this end the Parish Council now employs a Clerk and a Responsible Financial Officer
3. To ensure that the public rights of way, play areas and other open spaces are maintained appropriately and are fit for purpose – to this end we employ a Village Caretaker
4. To ensure that the Parish Council has sufficient resources to finance or contribute towards initiatives and projects which are of genuine benefit to the parish – to this end (and separate reports will be made on each at the meeting) The Parish Council has underwritten the net costs of Bradwell Carnival, has enabled the establishment of a successful Youth Club and has established a Rights of Way and Open Spaces Committee with a separate budget to improve these amenities
5. To establish a grants fund for local groups and organisations to apply for financial assistance
6. To hold sufficient funds and designated reserves to meet the projected liabilities of the Parish
7. To set the Precept at a level sufficient to maintain general funds whilst ensuring that sufficient current funds were available to meet proposed expenditure

The headline costs for administering the Parish Council during the 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 financial years are as follows:-

	2007/2008	2008/2009
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<i>Administration</i>	12,236	12,987
<i>Playing Fields</i>	3,026	1,655
<i>General Maintenance</i>	9,471	10,678
<i>Grants Budget</i>	2,888	6,000
<i>Bradwell Carnival</i>	3,644	0
<i>Transfer to Fixed Asset Sinking Fund</i>	5,000	10,000
<i>Bradwell Youth Club</i>	3,000	3,000
<i>Rights of Way &amp; Open Spaces</i>	3,000	5,000
<i>Contingency</i>	0	4,500
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>42,265</b>	<b>53,820</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
<i>Precept</i>	32,200	49,125
<i>Bank Interest</i>	2,250	2,310
<i>Recharges to District &amp; County Council</i>	2,385	2,385
<i>Sundry Grants &amp; Donations</i>	1,720	0
<i>Transfers from General Funds, Designated Funds and Prior Year Adjustments</i>	3,710	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>42,265</b>	<b>53,820</b>

Notes:

- The value of the fixed asset sinking fund at March 2008 will be £29,000 whereas the value of the play equipment in Town Bottom, including installation costs, was £40,000. The rising value of this fund will also pay for the eventual replacement of play equipment in Beggars Plot
- A reduction in proposed expenditure on playing fields is due to the transfer of some of these direct costs to the Rights of Way & Open Spaces Budget – in 2008/2009 there will be an increased net expenditure on grounds maintenance/ contract grass cutting due to the increased charge from our contractors (Derbyshire County Council) and the decreased grant from Derbyshire Dales District Council
- In 2008 the grants budget will be set at the maximum permissible (£6,000) and the Parish Council invites local organisations to make application for support
- In 2007/2008 the Parish Council agreed to continue underwriting the direct costs of the Carnival and has established a designated fund for this purpose, the balance of which at the end of March 2008 was £5,000
- The Parish Council proposes to continue the direct funding of the Youth Club and in 2008/2009 its funds will support the salary costs of a Youth Club Coordinator – we will look to other Councils, grants and fundraising to cover the programme costs
- At the end of March 2008 the Parish Council's proposed General Fund Balance will be £41,000 – as this represents the value of the forthcoming year's precept we are in accordance with the guidelines of the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils on reserve balances
- In addition to these funds, the Parish Council holds a further reserve of £12,000 designated as the Bradwell Community Fund – these funds had been previously earmarked to support the Bradwell All Sports All Weather developments but as an application had not been received to draw down on this allocation, the Parish Council (on the advice of its Internal Auditor and Finance Committee) took the view that these funds – which represent the net balance of the surrendered lease on the former British Legion site in Softwater Lane) – should be relocated in a designated fund allowing the Parish Council to direct them towards a suitable future purpose including a re submission from All Sports – returning them to general funds would distort the Parish Council's long term financial planning
- The precept for 2008/2009 necessary to meet all the above objectives is £82.39 for a Band D property – this represents an increase of 53.4% over 2007/2008 but in cash terms, that increase equals a weekly rise of £0.58p per week per property

## 6. Committee Reports

Cllr Briggs gave a presentation on the establishment of the Youth Centre. The initial task was to obtain premises and this was solved by the kind offer from Newburgh Engineering Ltd. The insurance for the Centre was provided by the Parish Council which also contributed £3,000 for equipment, and much equipment and furnishing was provided by people in the village. The work and enthusiasm of the volunteers made the setting up of the Centre possible, with the High Sherriff making the official opening in September. It is planned to recruit a permanent co-ordinator and to provide further training for the volunteers. The future of the Centre is bright and it is hoped to build self esteem and self confidence of the village youth.

Cllr Slater gave a review of the Carnival committee. He explained why the Parish Council became involved in order to safeguard the future of the Carnival, and of the limitations and restrictions arising from this move. The Carnival is the focal point of Wakes Week. Bradwell is not a tourist village but opened itself up to the public one week each year. Carnival 2007 had had a cash shortfall but local organisations had benefited by over £2,000. Having listened to residents it had decided to move Carnival 2008 to Beggars Plot. It was planned that the main attraction for the second Saturday would be Tony Lewis (a Robbie Williams tribute act).

Cllr Lawson gave a review of the Beggars Plot committee. She stated that RoSPA had carried out a safety check on the playing equipment and work was ongoing to address any actions identified. The trees had been inspected and broken branches removed. Wall repairs are routinely carried out. The Youth Shelter has proved to be a popular attraction. The venue of Carnival 2008 on Beggars Plot was welcomed. It was planned to erect the donated basketball equipment. It was not planned to plant any further commemorative trees but donations of benches would be welcomed. Funds are being accumulated in the special Sinking Fund in order to replace play equipment once it was reached the end of its useful life. It was planned to register Beggars Plot as a Village Green in order to give it enhanced protection.

Cllr Davies gave a review of the Town Bottom Playing Field committee. He stated that RoSPA had carried out a safety check on the playing equipment and work was ongoing to address any actions identified. We need to agree with RoSPA how to address the problem regarding the height of the wall alongside the Brook. It is hoped to extend the basketball court to include the former youth shelter base. It is not planned to repair the roundabout. The cutting of the grass on both playing fields was a financial burden on the Parish Council.

Cllr Downing reviewed the work done on the new Bradwell website. This website contains the Parish Council information and is also the website for the village. It has been re-engineered with new technology and contains much permanent reference information together with more volatile / transient information, for instance all issues of Bradwell News are held for reference and new issues are available on-line before they are distributed around the village.

Cllr Furness gave a review of the Rights of Way committee. He was pleased to say that John Riddall, who has great experience in this area, had been co-opted to this committee. The remit of this committee is to maintain and protect the village Rights of Way. £3,000 had been allocated for this purpose during 2007/08. In the long term it was planned to investigate the establishment of a safe footpath through Bradwell Dale, with more work to be done on Bradwell Edge and the hollow-way to Abney. The land owned at Bradwell Quarry is a problem as it had been registered as Common Land, and there is a need to carry out a risk assessment of this site. The budget for this committee had been increased by £2,000 to allow it to progress improvements to Bradwell Dale End and to carry out adverse possession.

## 6. District Councillor's Report

Cllr Goodison commented on how, although village issues still existed, her role had changed and she now needed to work more outside her home area and in partnership with the County Council. She works with Dales Housing and with Derbyshire Sport. This latter body is to launch a charitable arm called the 'Talented Athlete' to provide a new format for sport, with a view to encourage sporting participation to reduce anti-social behaviour.

## **7. Questions from the Public**

Cllr Eyre was asked to make his phone number available.

The issue of the pollution produced from the Lafarge chimney and breaches of regulations was raised. Cllr Furness agreed to contact Lafarge to obtain answers to these questions.

The issue of the smoke, smells and vehicles parked at Netherwater was raised. This is being progressed with PDNPA.

The frequency of litter picking and cleaning of roads and footpaths was raised. Other villages seem to have more frequent cleaning cycles than Bradwell.

Regarding Rights of Way, this committee had just been reformed, and its effectiveness should be judged next year after it had 12 months to prove effective.

The establishment of a volunteer group to carry out regular litter picks was discussed. Required equipment is to be provided the disposal of collected litter will be needed. Cllr Furness is to advertise for volunteers in Bradwell News and the Youth Club is to be asked to participate.

Thanks were expressed to those involved in running the Youth Centre, and also to Bradwell Bowls Club for their help in involving the youth of the village.

It was suggested that the village caretaker should carry out litter picks on Netherside, but it was decided that this was not appropriate as it was a District Council duty and the caretaker needed to concentrate on the RoSPA priorities.

The Dale Quarry was discussed concentrating of the management of the vegetation as per a nature reserve. No actions were agreed.

Councillors were asked why none had been present when the District Council decided to cut the grant to Hathersage pool. As the councillors generally have full time jobs as well as other commitments, it was regrettable that they could not attend all such meetings.

A query regarding the guideline on the level of reserves was answered by the RFO.

An expression of thanks was made to the members of the council for their work was made from the residents.

The number of puddles in the road along Netherside was reported.

The speed of traffic through the village was discussed. The Parish Council had already written to the Infants School supporting their Traffic Safety Plan.

The Chairman thanked all members of the public for attending and brought the meeting to a close at 9:00 p.m.