



Briercliffe with Extwistle Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday, 21st May 2019

Present: Councillor Russell Hawkes (in the Chair), Councillors Simon Dack, Roger Frost and Pam Vincent,

Others: County Councillor Cosima Towneley, Borough Councillors Anne Kelly and Maggie Lishman, M. Greenwood (Lengthsman), Steve Watson (Clerk) plus 3 residents.

Councillor Hawkes opened the Annual Parish Meeting and welcomed everyone.

Agenda

AM19/20/001 Apology for absence and reasons given

Apologies were given by Councillors Nick Higham and John Stewart who were unwell and Councilor Adam Dack, Ben Eastwood and Duncan MacIver who were away.

AM19/20/002 Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest

AM19/20/003 Minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting held on the 16th May 2018.

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted for approval as a correct record.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on the 16th May 2018 are approved as a correct record.

AM19/20/004 To receive a reports on the Council's work from the Chair

The Chair provided the following report.

Signed Date 19th May 2020

In Borough run Parish Council elections one year ago only three viable nominations were carried forward duly being elected unopposed. Subsequently legal co-options were made: of two members with previous experience and four new members, ensuring continuation of Briercliffe Parish Council... which has had a very "full on" year!

The Woodland Walk Project

After over two and a half years of effort securing funds from LEF/WOF and a BPC contribution, is near completion. The path has been extended and surface upgraded throughout and an initial environmental study will lead to a sustainable woodland plan over coming years. A viewing platform and benches had been completed for residents and visitors to the Parish but as most will be aware it has been burnt to the ground by children living in Briercliffe. The Police have conducted some interviews and continue to investigate this mindless arson attack. So BPC over the coming year will be looking to replace in some form this development... a few suggestions are already on the table. It must be noted that contractors to the project have cleared wreckage from the site and replaced fencing at cost, and continue to work with us in finalising the project with signage and picnic benches/tables.

Our Lengthsman Project

Michael Greenwood continues to be contracted to Briercliffe Parish by this Council to mainly work on identified budgeted-for areas and other Council agreed emergency issues, (which can present themselves at times), throughout the whole of the Parish...also encompassing maintenance on our Harrison Street Allotment Site.

This year Michael: has conducted maintenance of boundary stone markers; completed upkeep of hedges and remedial tree work; cleared ditches to facilitate drainage and the continued flow of natural streams; maintained ginnels (specifically on Rockwood and Ellerbeck). He continues to manage a yearly grass cutting rota during summer months; "plants out" for Spring and Winter displays on Duke Street, outside the Bowling Green, turning Circle and Haggate Memorial Gardens... up-keeping these display areas with watering and end of season clearance; he even flies the flag... (Amongst others jobs – this not a comprehensive list).

Newsletters/ Website / Facebook / Emails

Current-issue articles continue to be offered up by Councillors and others with a shared interest in promoting and developing Briercliffe. Newsletters are posted quarterly with thanks to an expanding group of local resident volunteer posters. Thanks also to our advertisers whose contributions offset some of the costs associated with printing.

Our website continues to be well used and although not flashy serves as a noticeboard for current events and situations.

Our previous Parish Council Facebook page has recently been unpublished due to limited admin controls which, over this past year, had allowed people with singular personal objectives to hijack posts with often unacceptable and unrelated inflammatory comments. Our new group page is available to join where current issues and local information continue to be shared.

Over this past year we have had to deal with an inordinate number emails from a small number of disaffected people, which at times have been bordering on harassment towards members of Briercliffe Parish Council. Protracted communications on previous and current Council majority made decisions simply will not be entered into over this and subsequent years. Legal options will be explored as a final redress which obviously would accrue further legal costs to the ones incurred last year.

On the other hand there have been a multitude of other bona fide Parishioner concerns which members of the Council have addressed and supported over the last year, covering a wide range of issues: from the Calico - Royal Court Project and letters to the Ombudsman...to representation at meetings on planning issues, especially relating to the (ongoing) Balderstone Lane Development. Experienced comments on all Planning Applications by Cllr Frost and Borough Councillors, as to why planning should be accepted, and where appropriate objections be made, have been put forward and considered over this past year.

Annual Flower Show / Garden Competition and Gala

Supporting the Annual Flower Show where trophies, certificates and prizes are awarded is a good traditional community event. Presenters last year were Cllr. Hawkes (for BPC) and Cllr. Frost (on behalf of The Briercliffe Society). The event incorporates the annual Parish Council run Garden Competition where Cllrs' Adam Dack; Pam Vincent and Russell Hawkes visited submitted flower garden and Allotment entries, in a good natured rivalry allowing an opportunity to show off! Organisers of last year's Gala Festival were and continue to be supported by this Council...a splendid job last year with your efforts to return this up-to-date, yet at the same time, traditional event. We wish you every success this year.

Remembrance Service

Liaising with the three Churches in Briercliffe and with Borough Councillors who set in place a plaque to remember the 100 year commemoration of First World War sacrifices, last years' service was well organised by Cllrs Frost, Hawkes and Vincent...being well attended.

Thanks to Rev Brian Davison for officiating at both services that day in which Cllr Hawkes provided readings at Haggate Baptist Church and later at the Memorial, on behalf of the Parish, placed a wreath. Thanks also to local business H&F for providing a sound system which allowed everyone to take part in the service as members of the Bowling Club had extended an invitation into the grounds and pavilion rather than out into the road.

Hanging Baskets

Cllr's Vincent and Eastwood were points of contact for this year's orders...a daunting task! Collating phone or web orders and liaising with the nursery on a number of occasions saw 330 baskets being sold this year. Bedding plants were also ordered for display areas throughout Briercliffe which our Lengthsman maintains.

Christmas

Long term savings have been made on Christmas decorations at the Bowling Green with lights in situ through existing trees which require only a minimal maintenance budget in comparison to the costs associated with previous display "putting up" and "taking down" labour/time costs.

Last Year our appeals for updates on Parishioners falling into the (*cough*) octogenarian and above range saw Councillors wrap and deliver 41 (mainly) well received parcels...sometime it's a bit of a shock!

Policing

We recognised the years of service to our community of Dave Johnson with his retirement.

Joint letters representing BPC CPC and WPC regarding local Policing have been responded to positively indicating that after the reorganisation of neighbourhood policing into four main areas, PC Nagina Ahmed and PCSO Mark Hill have been assigned to Briercliffe, and that as part of the 24/7 response team PC Dan Healey, who is investigating the recent fire, is similarly assigned.

Letters regarding the use and upkeep of Briercliffe Parish Council's Land Rover which is available to the Police, jointly paid for by BPC WPC and CPC, have been sent as to its continuing viability and actual current use in these Parishes. All three Parish Councils have agreed to review this in six months' time.

At meetings and through communications we often share information relayed to us regarding flare-ups of antisocial behaviour. We have had two "dumped" cars removed and one remains a problem as it seemingly is taxed and insured. Garage break-ins continue to be a problem. Parking and other traffic related issues have been discussed and reported by Councillors, and obviously there has been a lot of work relating to the Woodland Walk fire, (mentioned above). It is important for those affected to directly report incidents to the Police in order for them to complete the whole picture and assign adequate policing.

Others Supported

The Forest School Lease is awaiting survey and report go-ahead by the proposed developer.

BCH – and their plans to motivate use and uptake through a re-imagined football club - old lease now signed off - new lease underway as a PC contribution to a good worthy community minded project.

Queen Street Mill – Cllr Hawkes took part in discussions and developments with the Queen Street Mill Manager Karry Backhouse and National Trust Project lead Sarah Burdet who are involved in the Mills future... passing on events and initiatives via our Newsletter and online.

Bowling Green – tree safety report from Roger Rawlinson (Burnley Council) / Lease obtained from our solicitor and looked into regarding responsibilities of all parties / PC looking into identifying key project areas over the coming year after an initial meeting (PV RH Bowling Club)

Forging links... meeting with other local Parish Council Chairs on shared Policing matters including combined costs relating to the use of BPC's Land Rover.

Allotments and Garages.

Through tenant consultation the adaptation, over a number of months, and eventual adoption of a Land Management Policy brought finality to a decision set in motion by a previous Council... allowing only farm fowl and rabbits as allotment animals.

Having ratified this policy and extending a two year period for tenants to comply, all allotment pens now conform to policy and a new tenancy agreement has finally been accepted. Through the actions of a small number of tenants in opposition to these majority agreed-on changes, by holding out to the very last moment on signing the necessary replacement tenancy agreement, (which makes reference to adopted policy changes), an unnecessary conflict has resulted in Solicitor costs to the Allotment pot this financial year of £600.00. Communications which at times have been short of harassment have not only caused members of the Council personal angst... they have wasted money on legal fees and detracted Councillor and Clerk time which could have been spent on a plethora of more worthy wider Parish Council undertakings.

From open discussions with tenants priorities emerged and have, (restricted to budget constraints), been implemented. The rejuvenation of fencing across the whole of the allotment area after a long hiatus period of limited work has over this last year resulted in a sizeable chunk of ageing fencing/ posts being replaced, alongside some allotment gates and posts in key areas where there is a nearby public right of way. Of course there are further areas to look into over the next few years and this should be factored in as a long term plan.

Over a number of very wet weather years it became apparent that there was a drainage problem for tenants. Volunteers offered up their expertise and time over one weekend to realise a needed drainage project which has been completed at a fraction of the cost! A useful legacy for years to come, and an opportunity in the future to possibly extend the number of allotments in response to a growing waiting list of people interested in them.

A long needed rent database update has been created by Cllr MacIver and is now in place for our Clerk to use... This will be extended to cover an updated Garage record of tenants this coming year. Cllr Eastwood will be doing the legwork to allow this section to be completed, chasing up current arrears and obtaining current tenant details where there are gaps.

Other thanks (maybe not already mentioned) are extended to:

- The Allotment Association for their support in solving many inherited anomalies and for trying to bring "allotmenters" together over a coffee and cake...for getting involved with ST James Lanehead CofE Primary who remain keen to continue to forge links with the community.
- BCH with their efforts to develop community cohesion through different events such as litter picking/ community cinema/ developing a football club and raised awareness of things around affecting us all. (To name but a few).
- Our Clerk who has had to deal with harassment, keeping the Council legal through offering advice at all times of the day and who has put in numerous additional unpaid hours dealing with unnecessary issues.
- Our Borough Councillors who continue to represent and work on areas affecting the people of Briercliffe... oh and congratulations to Cllr Anne Kelly who has become Mayor of Burnley for this year... hopefully still on the end of a text or email when it comes to the push?!

Russell Hawkes

Chair of Briercliffe Parish Council 2018-2019

Signed Date 19th May 2020

AM19/20/005 To receive reports from Organisations

County Councillor Cosima Towneley reported that the Landrover is still being finalized, the rat issue has been reported however no evidence of rats was found. The area can be cut and Parks may take this on. Complaints have been raised on the condition of Todmorden Road due to pot holes and the County Councillor would request repairs. A resident have complained that they could not get a skip permit from the Borough Council and Borough Councillor Anne Kelly agreed to check this.

Borough Councillor Maggie Lishman reported that a meeting had been held with the owners of Eastern Delight due to a number of window panes being broken, threats being made and a broken windscreen wiper caused by youths. Residents were reminded to always get a log number when reporting crimes and if the issue is serious dial 999. Additional Police patrols after 10pm are being requested and registration number of taxis dropping off and picking up youths travelling to the area are to be recorded to ascertain where they live. The Police are providing an article for the Website, newsletter and the Community Hub Facebook page. Problems can also be reported by an on-line form which is easier than dialing 101. Youths are also causing problems in Cliviger.

It was noted that Councillor Anne Kelly is the Borough Mayor for 2019.

There are problems with fly-tipping with a mattress dumped at Cockden, new fencing for the tip was suggested as an amount of tipping is items stolen from the tip and discarded. Rubbish has also been dumped on the allotment garages.

There are problems with drug dealing in the area, but the problem is just moving around the village when they are moved on. Planning Enforcement are looking into the King Street garage and they have been reminded of the permitted opening hours and these are being monitored. They have uninsured and untaxed vehicles on the street and one has leaked oil.

The Walverden Road Planning Application has been resubmitted with amendments, however the original objections still stand and are to be resubmitted. Work has stopped at the Pendle Carpet development and the Council has not had notification of a new access on Nelson Road.

AM19/20/006 To receive resolutions from Parishioners

There were no resolutions from Parishioners.

AM19/20/007 An opportunity will be given for electors to ask questions at the meeting

There were no further questions from Parishioners.

AM19/20/008 Date of next meeting

Date of the next Annual Parish meeting Tuesday 19th May 2020 at the Community Centre, Jubilee Street.

Signed Date 19th May 2020