



Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council

Virtual meeting held over Zoom due to Government Restrictions

Tuesday, 18th May 2021

Present: Councillor Adam Dack (in the Chair), Councillors Simon Dack, Ben Eastwood, Nik Higham, John Stewart and Pam Vincent.

Others: County Councillor Cosima Towneley and Steve Watson (Clerk).

Councillor Adam Dack opened the Parish Council Meeting and welcomed everyone.

<u>Agenda</u>	<u>Actions by Clerk</u>	<u>Cllr Support</u>
Parish Council Agenda		
21/22/009 Apologies for absence		
There were no apologies for absence.		
21/22/010 Declarations of Interest / Code of Conduct		
There were no initial Declarations of Interest.		
21/22/011 Formally adjourn the meeting to allow for public participation		
RESOLVED: That the meeting is adjourned to allow for Public Participation.		
(a) Police Report		
The written Police report is attached. It was noted that there had been 25 incidents of nuisance not Councillors have not seen an increase in Police presence to counter this. The Police seem to be prioritizing drugs and money laundering and Anti-Social Behaviour should be a priority. It was suggested that Police should advise when they are in the area and attend the occasional zoom meeting to answer questions.		

Signed

Date

(b) Public Questions		
Several Public Questions were read out and responded to and are attached.		
(c) County Council Report		
The County Councillor attended later as she had assumed a meeting at the Community Centre and was returning home to join the meeting. Councillor Simon Dack congratulated Cosima on her re-election.		
(d) Borough Council Report		
Councillors provided a written report that is attached. It was noted that the Borough Councillors support parishioners and Todmorden Road was highlighted for work as it is one of the worst in the Borough. Councillor Maggie Lishman has been working hard with the Health Centre to resolve issues. The Borough Councillors support over the 5G masts has been very beneficial to residents. Councillor Maggie Lishman was also congratulated on her re-election. Councillors were not aware of issues with refuse collection or the telephone problems at the Health Centre. Borough Councillors were thanked for their report.		
21/22/1012 Formally reconvene the Parish Council Meeting		
RESOLVED: That the meeting is formally reconvened for Parish Council Business		
21/22/013 Finance		
1. Accounts to be approved for payment. Additional bills included.		
1.1 Clerk Salary	£457.82	SO Paid
1.2 HMRC	£114.44	#001619
1.3 G.S.A.	£1,494.00	#001620
1.4 LCC Rent	£290.00	#001621
1.5 National Allotment society	£66.00	#001622
1.6 CVS	£15.00	#001623
It was noted that the G.S.A. invoice included the purchase of the bedding plants and the grass cut of the allotment plot was not included in the invoice. Councillor Vincent agreed to take over the role of the holder of the cheque book during the pandemic. It was proposed that £11,000 is transferred to reserves, however if an election is called this will be needed so it was agreed that any money remaining at the year-end would then be transferred.		
RESOLVED: The bills outlined above are paid.		
2. Income Received		
2.1 Precept		£25,000.00
2.2 Maintenance Grant		£258.00
2.3 Allotment Rents		£2,259.91
2.4 Council Owned garages		£619.72
2.5 Bank Interest		£0.29
3. Bank balances		
▪ Current a/c –		£31,101.68
▪ Reserves a/c –		£18,933.45
▪ Petty Cash -		£ 16.30
▪ Garages -		£ 5,747.93
Total		£55,799.36

Signed

Date

RESOLVED: That the bank balances, budget monitoring report, petty cash report and bank reconciliations are noted and Petty Cash is returned to £100.00.		
21/22/014 Minutes of the last Parish Council meeting		
To approve, as a correct record the minutes of the virtual Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 20 th April 2021.		
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Briercliffe with Extwistle Parish Council meeting, on the 20th April 2021 are approved as a correct record and will be signed as such once Government restrictions are lifted.		
21/22/015 Matters outstanding from the minutes		
There were no matters outstanding.		
21/22/016 Clerk's Report including Administration – for information only		
The correspondence was noted. The Allotment Spreadsheet has been transferred and shared with the Chair.		
21/22/017 Updates and Reports (for information only)		
Members of the Council		
The Chair had not been in the position long enough to provide a report.		
The festive lights on Duke Street were well received and a further new display on the Bowling Green had been suggested. It was proposed to suspend Financial Regulations requiring 3 quotes as there were no other local providers and LITE were the preferred provider previously. They provide all services for the local Borough Councils. A charge of £240 was also quoted for installation, dismantling and maintaining the lights was considered, and this was cheaper than the more than £1,000 charged by the Lengthsman. The Bowling Green are to be contacted about the contractor providing the tree work that had damaged the lights in the trees as an insurance claim is to be sought against him and the Bowling Green are to be advised they need express Council permission to work on the trees in the future. Various displays were considered and display No. 2 at £3,863 plus VAT was agreed, this includes £300 to fix the damage to the lights in the trees.		
RESOLVED: That the Financial Regulations requiring 3 quotes are suspended for the Christmas Light Decorations and display No. 2 is ordered.		
Community Centre Update		
County Councillor Cosima Towneley joined the meeting.		
Quotes are to be sought for a stone circle and bench at the end of Duke Street and the Noticeboard is to be replaced rather than repaired. Ideas for projects are to be considered for a further meeting.		

Signed

Date

<p>The County Councillor was asked to provide her report. She was again congratulated on her re-election. She reported that Holgate Street had a PPI problem and flooding is coming from over the border in Pendle, but has requested a clearing of a ditch and installation of trash screens. The water is sporadic and not entering properties and is caused by torrential rains. It was noted it happened 2 or 3 times a month during autumn and winter and a blocked grid exacerbates the problem. Councillor Nik Higham will monitor the issue. Queen Street Mill has reopened.</p> <p>It was reported that one of the two the drains at the top of North Bank had been cleared, however the road was not swept so this has silted up again. Councillors were advised to use the Counties 'ReportIt' Webpage and were given a demonstration how to do this. The Head of Highways at County is to have a site visit of Todmorden Road. Cars are parking on Nelson road causing obstructions and double yellow lines were suggested from the properties to the 40 mile sign, the County Councillor agreed to report this. County Councillor Cosima Towneley was thanked for her report.</p>		
<p>The Community Centre Report was consider and is attached.</p>		
<p>21/22/018 To receive reports from Committees and consider the Recommendations</p>		
<p>2. <i>Planning Committee</i></p>		
<p>The following applications were considered.</p>		
<p>PTEL/2021/0224 – 15m Pole, fibre cable, antennae and associated cabinets for the installation of high speed wireless internet. In the grass verge on Hargreaves Street. In the footway of Briercliffe Road. In the footway of Fairfield Drive.</p> <p>HOU/2021/0251 - Single storey extension to rear and two storey extension to side. 13 Stirling Court Briercliffe Lancashire</p> <p>Councillor Frost has spoken to 2 residents regarding the masts and explained the issues. It was questioned if Councillor Frost was still an active Councillor has he has not reported back on any issues on over 12 months. There were no comments on application 0251.</p>		
<p>21/22/019 To receive reports from Working Groups – for information only</p>		
<p>1. <i>Allotment Working group</i></p>		
<p>There was 1 new applications and the waiting list has been updated: The waiting List is ever growing so the Council is looking at 16 new plots on the previous grazing field. It was agreed to go ahead with the asbestos removal at the quote received as this was within budget which will clear, after splitting, a further 2 plots and a large plot recently vacated is to be split into 4 creating 21 new plots.</p>		
<p>RESOLVED: That the 16 new plots are created, the asbestos is removed and the plot split into 2 and a vacant plot is to be split into 4.</p>		
<p>21/22/020 Matters identified for future consideration</p>		
<p>There were no matters identified.</p>		

21/22/129	It was agreed that the next virtual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 15th June 2021.		
The Chair thanked everyone for attending.			

BRIERCLIFFE AREA 18th April – 17th May			
INCIDENTS REPORTED - 102			
NO	TYPE OF INCIDENT	LOCATION	DETAILS
0	Burglary		
1	Criminal damage	Burnley Road, Briercliffe	Wording painted on the backstreet in black paint.
3	Theft	Briercliffe Road Burnley Road, Briercliffe Briercliffe Road	A taxi fare refusing to pay. Shop lifting (bottles of alcohol) Tools stolen from the vehicle.
2	Vehicle crime	Widow Hill Road Red Spar Road	Scratches to the bonnet. Theft from unlocked vehicle
25	Nuisance	Queen Street Hallam Street Townley street Burnley Road, Briercliffe	Youths who look under age drinking beer walking towards the rec. 20 youths going into peoples gardens causing a nuisance going towards Granville Street. 15 youths drinking and being rowdy. Possible Covid breach.
	Other logs	The other logs are a mixture of highway disruption, suspicious circumstances and domestic incidents.	
<p>Vehicle crime has decreased over this month, please may I still ask residents to remove valuable items from their vehicles and report any suspicious activity via 101 none emergency or 999 emergency.</p>			

There are no reports of burglary within the Briercliffe area, please remember to keep doors and windows locked and remove vehicle keys from easy reach of the front and rear doors.

On the 6th May Burnley Taskforce and officers from the Briercliffe neighbourhood Policing team have attended an address in the Halifax Road area and located a large quantity of Class A and Class B drugs and around £17000. Two people have been arrested on suspicion of drug offences and money laundering.

This has been a direct result from information received from the local community and we will continue to target people involved in the supply of drugs to keep our community safe.

Please may I ask that “**Lancashire talking**” is mentioned to residents. Lancashire talking is a great way for us to get messages and information to people about what’s currently going on in Briercliffe, the more information people have the better.

We currently have 317 people signed up within the Briercliffe area it would be fantastic if we could add to this, people can sign up themselves via www.stayintheknow.co.uk or contact me on the details below and I’ll be more than happy to do it for them.

Many thanks Jody Hudson PCSO 7738. Mobile number 07866781767 or email 7738@lancashire.pnn.police.uk

Public Questions

- Q1. The Parish Council have not informed us of how they plan to use our finances this year, they now have £50,000 in the Bank. They should publish a budget on how they plan to spend this and they haven’t, keeping us in the dark again.
- A1. This was covered at our previous meeting, however we will again address this issue. The Parish Budget was openly discussed at the January meeting of the Full Council held on the 19th under Minute 20/21/082 and a copy of the budget, totalling a spend prediction of £48,101.00 is attached to the minutes. Both the agenda and minutes are readily available on the Council website. Please, visit the website and check the Minutes of the 19th January and you will see that the council has been fully transparent about the Budget.
- Q2. Not since 2018 have we seen agendas and minutes for subcommittee meetings. Our current Parish Council conduct these meetings in secret. You are not being represented by these people, keeping residents in the dark and secret meetings is not transparency.
- A2. This was covered at our previous meeting, however we will again address this issue. This is just not true, the Parish Council agreed in 2018 to conduct all its business through Full Council Meetings only and would not hold subcommittee meetings. Therefore all the business is conducted in one place, making it easier to find and follow decisions and actually makes the process more transparent not less. The Council cannot produce agendas and minutes for meetings that simply did not take place. All decisions are taken at the Public Full Council meeting, with an agenda and minutes. Throughout the Pandemic, the Parish Council has kept its meetings open to the public, has publish all agendas of meetings, has invited the Police, Borough and County Councillors to either attend or submit a report, has published the minutes and even put copies of the videos online, there could not have been a better representation.

- Q3. At an Allotment Committee Meeting 18th May 2015 the decision was taken to open allotments to resident in the Briercliffe Ward. Which then asks the question why we were kicking people off who for years had a plot. Just as a matter of interest the Clerk took the minutes of the meeting.
- A3. This is incorrect. The decision to expand the boundary to the Borough Ward rather than the Parish Boundary was taken at the Allotment Committee meeting of the 16th March 2014, Minute 10. The expansion of the Boundary was suggested by the then Allotment Manager, Mr John Greenwood, who had an allotment but did not live within the Parish Boundary. He suggested this on the basis of the small waiting list, there were 9 people on the list at the time. This followed a decision of the Committee present, Councillors Lishman, Bailey, Kelly and Royle, that a garage could not be sold to a person who lived outside the Parish as "The Parish Council does not have powers to provide services to non parishioners". Minute 5 of the same meeting.

The terminations have been explained following legal advice that the 1908 Allotment Act does not permit people outside the Parish to take on allotments when there is a waiting list and that these tenancies must be terminated at the earliest opportunity. Once aware the action was illegal the Council had to react to correct this or risk breaking the law.

You state the Clerk took the minutes, yes that is the role of the Clerk, to minute the decisions taken by the Council via those Councillors present at the meeting, so the Council is not sure what the implication of your statement is referring to. As an ex-Councillor and a Councillor present at both meetings sited above and therefore party to the decisions taken at those meeting, you are more than well aware the role of the Clerk is to minute the decision you have taken.

Allotment Committee 16th March 2014 Minute 5

An application was received to sell a large DELF garage plot, however the purchaser provided a correspondence address outside the Parish so the Application had to be refused unless the proposed new owner demonstrated he lives in the Parish. The Parish Council does not have powers to provide services to non parishioners.

Allotment Committee 16th March 2014 Minute 10

The waiting list report was updated and noted. There are not many on the waiting list and it was suggested that Allotment tenants be opened up to the Ward Boundary rather than the Parish Boundary.

- Q4. I've received my allotment invoice that includes a 5% increase, however I've not had 12 months notice of this increase.
- A4. Actually tenants have had 23 months notice of the increase. Letters sent out in 2019 stated there would be a 5% increase, however, as these went out after the 1st April, the increase was not applied to the 2020 allotment bills, instead it has been applied to the 2021 bills. The increase notified in 2020 will now be applied to the 2022 bills.
- Q5. Why has the Council only received an income of £4,897 from garages when this should be £7,928.

- A5. These figures are incorrect, the Council received £4,940 of £7,644 from Garages and £1,872 of £1,800 from containers. The Council agrees that there are empty garages that are losing income, however the previous garage manager, incidentally the one asking the question, did not pass on correct information to permit the management of the garages to continue. The garage number provided do not equate to the garages on the map, for example, garage 11 was numbered 10, 3 was 5, 2 was 3, 6 was 11, 9 was 6, 4 was 7 and 5 was 9. Notices have been sent to tenants and the majority of garages identified, however some tenants have not responded and it is not possible to identify which is their garage without knocking on their doors, an action the Council decided was not safe during the Pandemic. If the questioner has the details of who rents which garage then copies of these would be appreciated.
- Q. I've seen a post in Facebook asking us to write for an election. How much does it cost us if the Council has an election.
- A. The council has not had an election since the 1990's, however the Borough Council has advised that this will be in the region of £5,000 from the Precept. However, it is parishioner's democratic right to call an election if they feel issues are not being addressed.
- Q. I've heard via the village gossip that [the previous council Lengthsman] is going to be a parish councillor so he can get the Lengthsman job back, is that allowed?
- A. He is entitled to nominate himself for a Parish Council position, though if elected he cannot then be paid for any work he carries out on the Council's behalf. He can however do the work without charge if he so wishes, an admirable gesture from a new councillor

Briercliffe Parish Council Borough Councillors' Report – May

We are happy to report that Cllr Maggie Lishman has been re-elected for a further three years at the recent election. And our congratulations to County Councillor Cosi Towneley.

Residents remain concerned about youth nuisance and there have been two serious and unpleasant incidents recently as well as other continuing issues. Residents are advised to report ALL incidents. The more problems are identified, the greater the likelihood that police will respond proactively. We welcome publicity on local Facebook pages passing on information from the police's neighbourhood alert postings and continue to encourage residents to subscribe directly to their updates.

A number of highways matters have been raised with the County Council and with Cllr Towneley. Todmorden Road from Cockden bridge to Northbank Farm is particularly bad and especially dangerous for cyclists. We have raised this issue many times and will also contact the County Council Cabinet Member directly responsible for Highways. Unfortunately, there are many similar problems all through Burnley including many of our side streets. A very poor job was done on patching Talbot Street.

Dumping continues to cause problems and disfigure the countryside. Burnley Council's Streetscene continues to respond well to requests to remove rubbish and prosecute when evidence is available. Several new larger dog bins have been provided after residents told us that they were over-full and needed more frequent emptying.

There have been some issues with refuse collections recently which should now have been resolved. If there are more, please report to Streetscene.

A meeting of the Patient Participation Group at Briercliffe medical practice will take place on Thursday this week. There have been a number of issues raised including telephone access, face to face GP appointments and repeat prescriptions which will be discussed on Thursday. Individual complaints have been shared with the practice and hopefully resolved.

The practice has been without their lead doctor for a time until this week as a result of serious and unexpected illness, which has caused them difficulties. We will provide more information once the meeting has taken place.

A lot of residents have contacted us with their concerns about the huge poles being erected round the area to provide faster internet connections. Unfortunately, they don't need planning permission if they are on County Council footpaths, roads and land. The Government agreed that to make the rollout fast and no local councillors have had any say in the matter.

Councillors: Anne Kelly

Gordon Lishman

Maggie Lishman

18 May 2021 at 12:15

Community Centre Update, May 21

The community centre kitchen has been refurbished during lockdown thanks to a Government support grant. There is a new oven, fridge, worktops, 2 new sinks and all utensils have been replaced. The entrance Hall has been painted and a new carpet put down. The porch roof which was leaking has been replaced. Curtains have been ordered for the main Hall and should be fitted next week.

We are waiting for estimates to replace some of the crumbling brickwork.

The gas and electric checks are up to date and the fire extinguishers had their annual check. The risk assessment is regularly updated and all hygiene rules are followed.

Some classes and small groups are starting to return this week - Ukelele group, Pilates and Book Club and we are now taking bookings for children's parties from the beginning of July.

There used to be a Baby Bounce and Rhyme group which was very successful. They met on Thursday mornings for an hour. Unfortunately the organisers have moved on and we are looking for volunteers to run the group. One lady has come forward but she will need some help. If anyone is interested please can they contact me.

Anne Kelly

Signed

Date