

BRETFORTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held on
14th April 2014 in the Memorial Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr R Davis
Cllr P Lisney
Cllr J Johnson
Cllr A Grant

APOLOGIES:

Cllr L Hall
Cllr J Cleveland
Cllr K Carter
Cllr K Wright
Cllr A Adams

PARISHIONERS:

No parishioners attended.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th April 2013 were read, approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr Johnson. Seconded by Cllr Lisney.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

This last year has been affected by matters beyond our control and we hope that next year will be back to normal. Earlier in the year we spent considerable time preparing our 'Parish Plan' for the village and distributed questionnaires to all households so that we could get villagers views on matters of concern.

This proved to be useful exercise and certain matters (speeding etc) have been addressed as a result of this progress on completing the plan has been held up due to the spates of planning applications for housing development in the village.

This has resulted in both sites included in the SWDP for new housing in the village up to 2030 being built during the year and proposals for further development being submitted to the District Council.

Due to government policy the District Council not able to control these proposals and we will have to see if the SWDP when it is finally approved returns some planning control.

Until the situation is clarified, the current draft plan is 'out of date' and a new questionnaire taking into account the changes/circumstances will be sent out at that time.

The play areas are due to be upgraded with new equipment following our negotiation with the DC over the use of section 106 monies from the housing developments and meanwhile maintenance work on the existing equipment is being arranged.

The Sports Club lease is in the process of renewal and the PC is taking control and responsibility for the maintenance of the recreation ground car park as part of this and we are in the process of considering replacement boundary treatment. The PC has supported the Sports Club by obtaining planning approval for a secure mower/equipment store building and subject to other grants being obtained providing additional funds to get this completed.

The closure of the village shop and PO has resulted in the formation of an independent 'Community Shop' organisation and the council has supported this initiative with funding and technical assistance. We were fortunate to be able to secure the mobile PO, 3 times per week in the village and this will continue until the shop is in the position to take over the service.

Traffic through the village remains a concern but the recent resurfacing works together with added signage and the use of our shared speed awareness sign has made an improvement. The parking in New Street is a dangerous hazard but we have had meetings with our County Councillor and the WCC Highways Officer to install further areas of double yellow lines and widen the road opposite The Butty. As part of these works the substandard footpath is due to be renewed but we will see if/when this is achieved!

We have added new tree planting around the village last winter and most of them are doing well.

The Burial Ground has been maintained by the PC during the year and this has included new shrubs and flower planting. The inspection and repair of all memorials that required stabilising and the restoration of the burial ground gates. The mowing contract has resulted in compliments on the appearance of the ground and generally the improvements have been well received.

The Clerk and I have been dealing with a considerable weight of enquiries from one particular parishioner most of which relate to the burial ground history. It is appreciated that these matters are of concern to the person involved, but it does result in a lot of time being taken up dealing with these queries and this limits the time available to spend on projects to improve village facilities for the majority of parishioners.

Looking forward to next year, we intend to try and get a mandate for some positive, significant improvements in village facilities such as a replacement village hall and possible linked community shop, and hope to progress other matters such as the provision of allotment gardens and improved road safety.

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:

See report included in minutes for Parish Council meeting of 14th April 2014.

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT;

No report.

BYRD & CANNING CHARITY:

5 Payments made 2014

23 payments at £20.00 making a total of £460.00

Balance £139.13

Accounts were approved. Proposed by: Cllr Lisney. Seconded by: Cllr Grant. Signed by the Chairman.

NON AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting closed at 7.18pm

Signed:

Date: