

## Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

### Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Bradwell Village Hall

- Present:** Cllr Tony Dunn – Chairman  
Cllr Glenn Lockey – Vice-Chairman  
Cllr John Bedford  
Cllr Craig Evans  
Cllr Lesley Kinder  
Cllr Michael Turner  
Cllr Marie Webb
- In attendance:** Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)  
County Cllr Ross Playle  
Eleven members of the public
- Invited guests:** National Highways (prev. Highways England)  
Mr Nigel Allsopp – Route Manager, Essex  
Mr Ross Corbyn – Road Safety  
Essex Police  
Sgt. Steve Mugridge  
PC James Draper  
Piers Meyler, BBC Local Democracy Reporter on behalf of Essex Live

#### **21/106 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors and other attendees. Apologies had been received from District Councillor Tom Walsh.

#### **21/107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the council are subject to the Local Authorities Code of Conduct Order 2007 (SI 2007/1159) (The Revised Code) with the additional, non-mandatory, section 12(2), adopted in May 2015. Cllrs Kinder and Webb declared an interest in Planning item 21/102.1, 21/01772/OUT | Outline Planning Permission for the erection of five houses and one bungalow, with permission sought for Access, Layout and Scale; with Appearance and Landscaping reserved. | Land South of Coggeshall Road Bradwell Essex. There were no other pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests to be recorded.

#### **21/108 SAFETY IN BRADWELL AND PATTISWICK**

1. Piers Meyer explained his position as a BBC Local Democracy Reporter and whose articles appear in publications within the Reach and Newsquest groups, including the Essex Chronical and Essex Live. The Chairman opened this topic by asking the Clerk to give the background to why this item was on the Agenda and why a member of the press had been invited. The Clerk referred to two articles that had appeared on the Essex Live website in recent months relating to anti-social activities taking place at three lay-bys on Cut Hedge Lane (2) and Sheepcotes Lane.

Residents identified several incidences that had left them shaken, uncomfortable and intimidated:

Footpath 67\_57 between Sheepcotes Lane and Cuthedge Lane, including the entrance gates, used condoms and wipes discarded on the ground – not only is this unhygienic but it poses a health threat to anyone attempting to litter pick in this area. Parents are reluctant to walk children along this path for fear of what they may witness or find. Trouser-less men have also been witnessed, which is embarrassing and intimidating, it is also a potential threat to the safety of walkers in the area.

People using the entrance to turn vehicles around after visiting the Church have experienced men approach their vehicles.

Hardstanding further along Cuthedge Lane sees vehicles parked seeking others of similar persuasion. There have also been reports of innocent people being propositioned in this area.

A local farm adjacent to this site are having to take extra precautions to safeguard visitors and young working students. Anyone visiting the farm are encouraged not to park at the top of the entrance track but to bring their vehicle onto the farm.

A local dog-walker (who has three very large animals) will no longer walk near these sites, even with the dogs, for fear of intimidation.

These events are known to happen throughout the day, not just evenings or during hours of darkness.

Essex Police responded to these comments asking anyone who witnesses an incident to take a note of vehicle registrations, or photographs, that should then be forwarded to them. This information helps them to identify perpetrators and to take appropriate action. They have increased the number of patrols in the area and undertaken inspections with a team from Braintree District Council, who will also clear the litter left behind. They also confirmed that several arrests have been made for offences in the areas identified.

Essex Police are happy to work with the community and Parish Council to identify solutions to the problem, and among the suggestions were CCTV of the area but the difficulties of this were acknowledged, signage or physical barriers (allowing for farmer access to the land). Unfortunately, Essex Police do not have the resources, either manpower or technical equipment, to provide 24 hour cover.

Mr Corbyn of National Highways suggested a request to Essex Highways to see if a Prohibition Order of vehicles other than agricultural to be banned from parking at the location.

**Actions to be taken:**

- i. Chairman to speak with local farm to see what access needs to remain
- ii. Clerk to follow up ownership of land prior to seeking information on blocking the entrance or CCTV and signage
- iii. Clerk to speak with landowner's agent to see if some of the vegetation can be removed to make the area less secluded and hidden
- iv. Clerk to contact Environmental Health team at BDC re litter as referred to previously
- v. Clerk to contact Essex Highways re prohibition order requirements
- vi. Essex Police will enquire of BDC if it is possible to fit a trail camera to monitor the area

Essex Police were asked whether a 20mph permanent speed limit could be enforced where The Street becomes Church Road (there is currently an advisory limit, just before a 30mph sign which is confusing). The recommendation was to speak with Community Speed Watch with a view to undertaking some speed checks on traffic. The Tru-Cam initiative is being reviewed, but unlikely to be suitable at this location, in the meantime the Clerk will speak with neighbouring parishes that have speed watch equipment who may be able to assist in Bradwell.

**Action: Clerk**

Representatives from National Highways (prev. Highways England) were introduced, and the Chairman began by thanking them for increasing the time on the pedestrian lights outside Bridge Cottage and asking for an update on the Parish Council's request for the speed limit through Bradwell to be reduced to 30mph. A copy of the report previously provided will be forwarded to Mr Corbyn and Allsopp for their consideration.

**Action: Chairman**

There is little additional information on the new route for the A120. Essex have submitted their preferred route to National Highways, and this is being validated and analysed prior to funding request, which is still some time in the future. The effect of the proposed solar farm off Links Road will be included in their deliberations.

Concerns were raised with the proposed development off Rectory Meadow where the public footpath exists onto the A120. It was felt by some that to install a dropped kerb here will be dangerous for pedestrians, especially those with pushchairs, young children and those using wheelchairs. Mr Corbyn advised that prior to work being done at this location safety audits would be carried out.

With the exception of Mr Meyler, the visitors and some of the public left the meeting.

#### **21/109 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH REGARD TO ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

There were no further items raised.

#### **21/110 REPORTS OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

County Cllr Ross Playle reported the following consultations are open for comment:

- **Police and Crime Plan Survey** - sets out the 2021-24 priorities for Essex Police. Cllr Playle is a member of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel for Essex and encourages local parish councils respond to this survey. **Comment deadline: Midnight on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September** - [PFCC's Police and Crime Plan Survey \(smartsurvey.co.uk\)](https://www.pfcc.gov.uk/consultation/pcc-police-and-crime-plan-survey).
- **Library Engagement Sessions** - The new administration at Essex County Council has made the development of the library service a priority. All libraries in Essex will remain open and opportunities for training and upskilling libraries staff will be a key priority. Residents are being invited to an online session to discuss with the Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Cllr Louise McKinlay their views and ideas for the library service so they are not only places of reading and learning, but also community spaces.

**Morning session 11:30-12:30, 20th September:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-on-the-library-service-tickets-169622719119>

**Evening session 18:00-19:00, 20th September:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/have-your-say-on-the-library-service-tickets-169624544579>

- **Verge Cutting Trial Consultation - BDC** is consulting with District and County Councillors about this year's verge cutting trial to make a single cut in the autumn. Feedback should be given to Cllr Playle by **18<sup>th</sup> October** to enable local opinion is taken into account before any final decision is made by the highways authority (ECC) as to how future maintenance will be scheduled from 2022 onwards. Cuts will be undertaken in Bradwell during 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> October.
- A new bus shelter contract has been entered into by ECC. Any issues with existing shelters should be advised to Cllr Playle. **Action: Clerk**
- Incinerator – concern over delays and particularly the expiry of Condition 66 for the build within 5 years of permission being granted.
- Outstanding road repairs to be advised to Cllr Playle for follow up. Two are of particular concern: end of The Street at junction with A120 that has been repeatedly reported but no action taken and not considered serious enough for repair at this time. The other is the pothole in Links Road. **Action: Clerk**
- Cllr Bedford mentioned the manhole covers along the A120 need inspection and probably repair. Clerk will write to National Highways and Openreach asking for them to be attended to. **Action: Clerk**

There were no other reports to be recorded.

#### 21/111 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

**IT WAS RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 as a correct record. **Proposed: Cllr Lockey, Seconded: Cllr Kinder, all in favour. The Minutes were signed by the Chairman of the Meeting.**

#### 21/112 PLAYING FIELD

- Cllr Kinder confirmed there were no issues and the repairs noted at previous meetings had been completed subject to replacement of the cable on the multi-play. This will be chased. **Action: Clerk**
- Purchase of equipment using S.106 contributions. The Clerk advised that BDC would not consider any equipment other than that contained within the Open Spaces Plan, i.e. adult gym equipment. Cllrs do not consider this is necessary and the equipment already in place is adequate. Equipment for older children is more appropriate. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with BDC S.106 officer for the Chairman, one Councillor and the Clerk. **Action: Clerk**

#### 21/113 FOOTPATHS

Mrs Lynn Flatt and Mr Simon Oliver have agreed to report on footpaths in the parish. There are no issues to report currently. The Clerk will provide further information to them on locations and reporting. **Action: Clerk**

#### 21/114 DEFIBRILLATOR

It was agreed to enter into a Volunteer Emergency Telephone Agreement (V.E.T.S.) and the Clerk will proceed with this. A full article will be prepared for the next Parish Magazine explaining the system and seeking volunteers for inclusion. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk confirmed that dates for "in person" training and Zoom on-line awareness sessions were awaited and would be advised to residents when available. **Action: Clerk**

#### 21/115 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. ESS/34/15/BTE IWMF - Application to discharge planning condition 66 of planning permission ESS/34/15/BTE on Land at Rivenhall Airfield, Coggeshall Road (A120),

Braintree, CO5 9DF. It was agreed that the Chairman will draft a response to this application. **Action: Chairman/Clerk**

2. **Applications determined:** None advised
3. **Appeals received/determined:** None advised
4. **Applications to note (suffix HH):** 21/02264/HH | Single-storey detached double garage | The Old School Church Road Bradwell Essex CM77 8EW
5. **Applications to note for neighbouring parishes:** None advised

**21/116 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a. The financial statements to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 were presented and there were no queries. The statements were approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lockey, seconded: Cllr Dunn, all in favour.**
- b. Payments for August were approved. **Proposed: Cllr Kinder, seconded: Cllr Evans, all in favour.** **Action: Clerk/RFO**

**21/117 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE - 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

Events to commemorate this event were discussed and it was agreed that a commemorative gift should be given to children in the Parish and the Clerk was requested to provide ideas and costs. **Action: Clerk**  
 It was further agreed that the Village Hall Management Committee should consider a celebratory event. The Parish Council will support the VHMC in seeking volunteers to assist. **Action: Cllrs Kinder/Webb**

**21/118 MEETING DATES 2022**

The proposed dates as detailed on the Agenda were agreed and Cllrs will note these. The Clerk will arrange for them to be published in the Parish Magazine. **Action: Clerk**

**21/119 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

- i. Items for next Agenda:
  - a. Community Speed Watch assistance
  - b. Defibrillator training update
  - c. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

**21/120 CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to be discussed, the Chairman closed the meeting and confirmed the next meeting will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7.30pm in Bradwell Village Hall. *Items for inclusion on the Agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk to be received no later than 12 noon on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.* **ACTION: All**

**The meeting closed at 9.40pm**

**Note:** *After the meeting Cllrs were approached by Mr Meyler seeking a quote from a Councillor that could be included in his article, Cllrs Kinder and Webb offered to provide this. The Chairman explained to Mr Meyler that under Standing Orders no Cllr could speak on behalf of the Parish Council unless any such statement had been approved by resolution at a formal meeting. Consequently, this was not possible, but under the Parish Council's Media Policy the Clerk could speak on behalf of the Council. After some discussion, Mr Meyler accepted this position and left.*

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2021 (2nd Monday monthly)		
OCTOBER	11	7.30pm
NOVEMBER	8	7.30pm
DECEMBER	13	7.30pm

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022 (2nd Monday monthly)**

JANUARY	10	7.30pm	
FEBRUARY	14	7.30pm	
MARCH	14	7.30pm	
APRIL	11	7.30pm	
MAY	9	7.00pm	Annual Parish Assembly
		7.30pm	Annual meeting of the Parish Council
		8.00pm	Parish Council meeting
JUNE	13	7.30pm	
JULY	11	7.30pm	
AUGUST		No meeting in August	
SEPTEMBER	12	7.30pm	
OCTOBER	10	7.30pm	
NOVEMBER	14	7.30pm	
DECEMBER	12	7.30pm	