

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

Notes of a virtual Administrative Meeting Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th January 2022

Taking part in the call: Cllr Tony Dunn – Chairman
 Cllr Glenn Lockey
 Cllr Craig Evans
 Cllr Lesley Kinder
 Cllr Michael Turner
 Cllr Marie Webb
 Mrs Christine Marshall (Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer)

No members of the public were in attendance

22/001 WELCOME – The Chairman explained the purpose of the call was to discuss any amendments needed to the draft budget previously provided by the RFO.

22/002 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – No apologies had been received.

22/003 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. There were no pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests to be recorded in respect of the proposed budget.

22/004 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - There were no members of the public taking part in the discussion.

22/005 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING - The Clerk confirmed that as this was an Administrative Meeting, formal Minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2021 would be an Agenda item for the formal Parish Council Meeting to be held on 17th January 2022.

22/006 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a. The financial statements to 31st December 2021 were presented and there were no queries. The statements were approved. **Proposed: Cllr Lockey, seconded: Cllr Kinder, all in favour.**
- b. The Clerk requested that two items on the schedule of payments for December were approved to ensure payment to HMRC met the deadline. This was agreed.

21/163 BUDGET 2022/23 - The RFO presented the budget, and the following comments were raised:

- i. **White gates on A120** – this is not included in the Budget, when approval from National Highways is received up to date quotations for the installation will be obtained and a grant application submitted to cover the full costs.
- ii. **Grants/donations** – the RFO explained that any grants or donations that the Parish Council wishes to give could be discussed/approved/rejected only if formal applications were received.
- iii. **Solar Farm** – Cllr Evans queried whether the Parish Council/village could purchase land and build a solar farm to provide energy for residents and any surplus income from returning energy to the National Grid paid to households. A full discussion was held which raised the following points:

- a. The Parish Council has no legal power whereby payments could be made to households. It could however use any such income to offset precept, but the RFO cautioned that this could be problematic for future Parish Councils if the precept needed to be increased.
- b. Possible locations were put forward and if the Parish Council decided to proceed formal proposals would need to be made to landowners. The Chairman and Cllr Turner raised the issue of removing good agricultural land from productivity of food.
- c. Cllr Dunn advised that to return energy to the National Grid would need to go through an electricity sub-station, in this case Coggeshall, which would require groundworks for the full distance.
- d. The Parish Council does not have funds that would enable this to become a viable project and grants for 100% of the costs would need to be obtained if it was decided to pursue further.
- e. Cllr Evans suggested that the Community Benefit offer made by Low Carbon Ltd relating to Links Solar Farm development could be spread out over the "lifetime" of the site.
- f. Cllr Evans suggested a survey of residents should be undertaken.
- g. Cllr Lockey suggested that the Village Hall could be fitted with solar panels to provide the VHMC with the opportunity to reduce hire costs. It was pointed out that insufficient south facing roof might be available for this. Cllr Kinder will discuss with the VHMC.
- h. The RFO advised that if Councillors wished to investigate this as an option, a professional organisation should be engaged.

This needs to be discussed more fully at a future Parish Council Meeting.

22/008 CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business to be discussed, the Chairman closed the meeting and confirmed the Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 17th January 2022 at 7.30pm in Bradwell Village Hall, when the Budget will be put to Councillors for formal acceptance and the RFO instructed to submit the Precept request to BDC.

The discussion closed at 8.15pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2022 (2nd Monday monthly)			
JANUARY	17	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	