

Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 13 November 2023 at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell

Present: Cllr Tony Dunn (Chair)
Cllr Glenn Lockey (Deputy Chair)
Cllr Adam Deighton
Cllr Craig Evans
Cllr Antony Harding
Cllr Lesley Kinder
Cllr Michael Turner

In attendance: Mrs Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO
County Councillor Ross Playle
District Councillor Tom Walsh
Ed Moorhouse, Business Development Manager, Oasthouse Ventures
Nigel Allsopp, National Highways Route Manager in Essex
Suzie Cumming, National Highways Project Manager
Eight members of the Public were in attendance.

23-4/117 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair declared the meeting open and welcomed those present. There were no apologies.

He noted that Cllr. Playle was required to attend other council business that evening and would bring forward part i. of Agenda item 23-4/121.

23-/121 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

(part i.)

Cllr. Playle reported:

- i. The status of the recently filled potholes and the “gully jetting”.
- ii. The status of the A120 closure;
- iii. That the “Essex waste partnership’s waste strategy for Essex” was currently under consultation. He thanked the Clerk for sight of the Parish Council’s submission;
- iv. The consultation for booking the recycling centres ends in November, initial feedback was positive;
- v. The precept survey and Crime Commissioner’s survey were currently being compiled and he encouraged residents to think about where their money would be best spent;
- vi. An open meeting with the Police & Fire Service Commissioner was planned for 22 November;
- vii. With regards to the District Councillor tree planting incentive, Cllr. Playle now had to offer these to other councils for this year.

Cllr. Playle left at 7.40pm

23-4/118 EXTERNAL PRESENTERS

Ed Moorehouse, Oasthouse Ventures (OHV)

Mr Moorehouse thanked the Parish Council for the opportunity to meet with residents and presented OHV's vision and plan for the Bradwell quarry.

OHV is the UK's leading low carbon greenhouse developer that grows fresh produce using low carbon and off-setting imports from Holland, Spain and Morocco. It is planning to develop a 40-hectare series of greenhouses in four blocks on Bradwell's quarry site, where waste heat and CO₂ can be utilised. Planning is currently underway and intended to be fully operational by 2025, providing 420 full-time jobs and 80 part-time jobs. A separate planning application will be made for OHV to provide an on-site creche, to support workers. It is anticipated the greenhouse will produce 28,194 tonnes of tomatoes per year, which will be transported to Brentwood for distribution to supermarkets across the region. OHV have other sites in Bury and Norwich which have proven to be successful and are very keen to engage with the local community in Bradwell and Coggeshall and talk about the agricultural footprint.

Mr Moorehouse answered questions/points from Members, the District Councillor and residents:

- How would this affect traffic on the A120?

It was anticipated that staggered working would assist with distributing the increased traffic. On average there would be two and a half trucks each day transporting 30 tonnes of produce.

- What would happen to the abstraction licence currently in place at Blackwater Aggregates with the integrated reservoirs?

OHV were aware of issues with Coggeshall and Blackwater flooding and would inherit the abstraction licence enabling the capture Ph neutral rainwater.

- Would there be a drive to expand the development (i.e., "mission creep")?

OHV thought this would be very unlikely given the size and ability to extract heat on the current site.

Mr Moorehouse thanked residents again and encouraged them to attend future presentations in Coggeshall for more information.

Mr Moorehouse left the meeting at 8.15pm

Nigel Allsop & Suzie Cummings – National Highways (NH)

Mr Allsop & Ms Cummings provided a highways update and advised:

- Water running down the A120 from the BP garage looked like a burst water main, so would be reported to Anglia Water. He would speak to BDC to arrange for the dirt from the quarry to be swept;
- New signage relating to the IWFM for Silver End, Marks Tey, Galley's roundabout and Marks Farm were currently being processed;
- The BT works was now complete and all the chambers fixed. Anglia Water have now agreed it is their pipe that runs through Riverside and aim to complete works there in the next two weeks. Where the road levels had dropped, NH would re-surface.

- Phase 2 of the A120 project was underway. Bradwell would be in the last phase. NH have liaised with other services inc. BT & BDC and encouraged them to do their work at the same time as NH so as not to impact residents too much;
- There have been problems with non-residents abusing the vehicle-escorting service which was impacting the work on the road. 400 vehicles in two hours had used this one night. Not only does this delay work, but there are safety issues to both workers and drivers;
- Most of the work on the road markings at Coggeshall West were underway with patch repairs using skid resistant material. Work on the section from Marks Farm to Bradwell would take place between 11-15 December, with re-marking planned for 8-19 January
- Ms Cummings would follow up on a point where a resident's wife attempted to use the diversion as instructed, but the A12 had been closed, causing a longer than necessary journey through dark lanes;
- Mr Allsopp would raise the issue of some of the footpaths now requiring resurfacing as a result of the poor drainage;
- Mr Allsopp would also raise concerns regarding the lack of lighting at the end of the Street / A120 to see what could be done, and agreed it was pitch black;
- Mr Allsopp would raise the issue of the burst watermain at the BP garage as a matter of urgency with Anglia Water.

Cllr. Evans asked what the progress was on getting the white gates installed in the village given NH had previously committed to funding this. Mr Allsopp noted that this was part of a safety scheme rather than highways but agreed to follow up and report back to the Parish Council in due course.

The Chair thanked both Mr Allsopp and Ms Cummings for attending, they left the meeting at 8.35pm.

23-4/119 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. Kinder and Turner declared interests as members of the Village Hall Management Committee, with respect to hall hire rates under Agenda item 23-4/133.

Cllr. Harding declared an interest in relation to grass cutting contract, with respect to budget items in Agenda item 23-4/133.

23-4/120 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST

One item had been received relating to a planning dispute. The residents updated the Members and expressed their concern, frustration and anxiety at proposed legal action which would impact the residents and potentially the village as a whole. There could also be financial implications to the residents in defending their case and they considered that their action might also benefit the village.

The Parish Council considered what was said and agreed to explore what powers it had within the law and adhering to financial regulations, which could potentially assist with any financial implications. **This was by no means a firm commitment and advice would need to be sought.**

23-4/121 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

(part ii.) Cllr. Walsh reported:

- i. The Green Bin charge was being introduced from 2024. If residents signed up before the end of November, there would be a discount for the first year. He thought the charges would potentially increase by approximately £5 per year;
- ii. Essex County Council were currently considering devolution along with Thurrock and Southend Councils. Although this would not result in appointment of a mayor, he was not convinced of the benefits this would bring;
- iii. Members were reminded that the Parish Council could apply for the District Councillors Fund where appropriate;
- iv. Members were advised that the Parish Council could apply for funding from the Rural Prosperity Fund. The Clerk said that she would obtain more information on this and advise Members accordingly.

Cllr. Walsh left the meeting at 9.30pm

23-4/122 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2023 – RESOLUTION

Members received and considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9 October 2023 and resolved to approve them as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr. Lockey; Seconded: Cllr. Turner; All in favour

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

23-4/123 ESSEX WASTE PARTNERSHIP’S WASTE STRATEGY FOR ESSEX – CONSULTATION

Following the Parish Council’s previous discussions, the Chair had prepared a response on behalf of the Parish Council, which the Clerk had submitted and copied to Cllr. Playle.

23-4/124 ESSEX & HERTS AIR AMBULANCE

Members received and considered a request from Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, a localised charity delivering pre-hospital emergency care, for a donation to the charity. The Clerk advised that the last donation made by the Parish Council appeared to have been made in November 2015 for £50.00.

Members discussed and agreed to authorise (under S.137) a one-off donation of £100.00 and that any future requests would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Evans; All in favour

23-4/125 VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Cllr. Harding reported:

- i. No additional pothole repairs had taken place in November;
- ii. There were forthcoming pothole repairs planned in Hollies Road and Doghouse Road;
- iii. It was observed that the water from the gully appeared to be jetting around but not through the road (as previously noted by Mr Allsopp in his briefing);
- iv. Streetlights out of action on Church Road and The Street. The Clerk confirmed she had also reported these.

The Clerk sought agreement on a date for the next litter pick and noted that Members had been sent quotes for the hire of the amenity vehicle. It was unanimously agreed that the next date would be 25 November 2023 and the amenity vehicle would be hired for two hours. The Clerk would liaise with BDC regarding hiring the litter pick equipment.

23-4/126 IWMF

The Chair provided an update to Members following the recent site visit. Cllr. Turner was keen to attend the next site visit. The Clerk noted she would contact IWMF requesting an invite.

23-4/127 PLAYING FIELD

- i. Cllr. Kinder reported no issues with the playing field other than an increase in the amount of dog fouling.
- ii. Cllr. Kinder had received no further contact in relation to the repairs and agreed to take this forward. The Clerk would also assist with this.
- iii. The Clerk reported that the quotes and preferred supplier for the Rotadisc roundabout had been submitted to BDC on the 18 October, requesting S.106 funding. She was awaiting a response.
- iv. Cllr. Turner noted that agreement was sought regarding the relocating of the table tennis table and that this also required a concrete base. It was unanimously agreed to move the table parallel to the fence.

23-4/128 FOOTPATHS

The Clerk read the following report from Helen Scott, Village Footpaths Officer:

“There are steps around the quarry on the Essex Way that have fallen away and there is a footbridge that crosses water near the old quarry road that has disintegrated to one plank. Both are H&S issues, so they have agreed to repair.

Other areas reported have been included in the mowing programme...some locations have begun to grow back but I'm guessing that the cold weather will slow them down.

It would be helpful if the someone from the quarry could go round and check all of theirs are clear. The brambles are getting out of control along many of the paths so based on the slow response, it may be quicker to ask them to do it.”

23-4/129 SALT BINS

Members discussed and agreed that loose grit/salt should be delivered to the recycling bins on Church Road. Cllr. Deighton agreed to be the contact and would confirm with the Clerk the amount required. He would liaise with other Members with regards to taking delivery and arranging for the salt bins to be filled.

The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council would not be charged for the grit/salt.

23-4/130 PLANNING MATTERS

Members considered and discussed the planning applications received and commented where required.

New Applications:

- i. 23/02675/NMA - Land South of Coggeshall Road, Bradwell, Essex
Non-Material Amendment to permission 21/01772/OUT granted 06.05.2022 for: 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. Amendment would allow: Revision to Plot 1 to provide a detached garage by the repositioning of Plot 1 bungalow and repositioning of the garage to provide a separation gap. – **INFORMATION ONLY**
- ii. ESS/89/23/BTE - Indaver Rivenhall IWMF, Coggeshall Road, Essex, Bradwell, CM77 8EF
Replacement of the existing two bridges over the River Blackwater on the private access road to Rivenhall IWMF and Bradwell Quarry, with a new single bridge and vertical realignment of the connecting access road and a temporary construction compound. **NO COMMENTS**
Consultation runs from 02/11/2023 to 23/11/2023
- iii. ESS/94/23/BTE – Indaver Rivenhall IWMF, Coggeshall Road, Essex, Bradwell, CM77 8EF
Widening of a section of the existing private access road to the site of the Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility to create a queueing lane to Bradwell Quarry (Rivenhall Airfield, Coggeshall Road (A120), Braintree, CO5 9DF). **NO COMMENTS**
Consultation runs from 09/11/2023 to 30/11/2023
- iv. 23/01751/REM- Land South of Coggeshall Road Bradwell Essex
Application for the approval of reserved matters (in respect of appearance & landscaping) pursuant to outline planning permission 21/01772/OUT granted 06.05.2022 for: 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. **NO COMMENTS**
Consultation runs from 06/11/2023 to 20/11/2023

23-4/131 TRAINING

The Clerk confirmed that Councillor training had been organised for Thursday 18 January and Thursday 1 February 2024. The sessions would be delivered by the EALC and last for two hours (7-9pm).

24-4/132 UTILITIES CONTRACT

Members received and considered the quotes provided by Utilities-Aid for the supply of power for street lighting. The Clerk explained that the quotes were liable to change, and that Utilities-Aid had advised that other parish councils tended to favour “locking in” to the longer-term contract. The current supplier is SSE and the contract ends as of 1 January 2024. Members were concerned that the current price per wattage being charged by SSE appeared significantly high and asked the Clerk to seek reassurance from Utilities-Aid that the Parish Council would be getting the best value for money with future contracts.

Given that the quotes were likely to change, the Chair proposed to give delegated authority to the Clerk to approve secure the contract offering the best value for money.

Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Lockey; All in favour.

23-4/133 BUDGET 2024/25

Members received the draft budget for 2024/25 prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised that BDC had made her aware of further S.106 funds that could become available for outdoor sporting equipment, following a planning application. Similarly, there was also the District Councillor funds to consider. The Clerk would include these in the draft budget for consideration at the next meeting and when more information on the 24/25 precept would be available from BDC.

Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Evans; All in favour.

23-4/134 FINANCIAL REPORTS

i. Members received and approved the financial statements to 31 October 2023. There were no queries.

Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Evans; All in favour.

ii. **Members approved** payments for October 2023. There were no queries.

Proposed: Cllr. Lockey; Seconded: Cllr. Dunn; All in favour.

iii. **Members received and unanimously agreed** to carry forward the Chair's paper considering Low Carbon's proposals on how Parish Council could receive Community Fund Payments from Links Solar Farm.

The Chair explained that the correspondence details for the Parish Council Bank accounts were still showing as the previous clerk. He therefore **sought approval and resolution** from all Members to update and transfer the correspondence address to that of the new Clerk, to enable her to undertake her role as Responsible Financial Officer.

Proposed: Cllr. Kinder; Seconded: Cllr. Lockey; All in favour.

The Chair advised Members that, when speaking to the Bank about the Parish Council accounts, he had been made aware of an obsolete authorised signatory relating to an ex-Councillor. He **sought approval and resolution** from all members to remove the obsolete signatory and replace this with a current councillor. He proposed to add Cllr. Turner to the list to enable proper council business.

Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Lockey; All in favour.

23-4/135 MEETING DATES 2024

Members unanimously approved the following meeting dates for 2024:

8 January

12 February

11 March

8 April

13 May – Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Parish Council meeting, Parish Council Meeting

10 June

8 July

August – no meeting

9 September

14 October

11 November

9 December

23-4/136 INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- i. Parish Council's Biodiversity Plan
- ii. Use of S137 Funds
- iii. Employment Committee Meeting

23-4/137 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting would take place on Monday 11 December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bradwell.

The meeting closed at 10.13pm.