**Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12 February 2024 at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell**

**Present:**

Cllr. Tony Dunn (Chair)

Cllr. Glenn Lockey

Cllr. Adam Deighton

Cllr. Antony Harding

Cllr. Michael Turner

**In attendance:**

Mrs. Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO

Cllr. Playle, County Councillor, Witham Northern

Cllr. Walsh, District Councillor, Coggeshall Ward

Cllr. Abram, District Councillor, Coggeshall Ward

Four members of the public

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **23-4/181** | **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Evans and Kinder. |
| **23-4/182** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**Cllr. Turner declared an interest as Chair and Trustee of the Village Hall Management Committee with respect to Agenda item 23-4/190, D-Day 80 Commemorations and item 23-4/191, Bradwell Dog Show 2024. Cllr. Dunn declared an interest in Agenda item 23-4/198 as a resident affected by the Minerals Local Plan Review. |
| **23-4/183** | **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST** No issues were raised by the residents attending the meeting. |
| **23-4/184** | **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**Cllr. Playle reported on the following: * Essex County Council (ECC) had published its plans for the Minerals Review and public consultation was underway.
* The lights at the crossing on Bradwell junction along the A120 had been reported to National Highways as they were not working. This was also reported by a resident who had to escort her daughter across the road. Cllr. Harding confirmed they were still not working. Cllr. Playle would contact National Highways first thing as it was a matter of urgency.
* With regards to pothole repairs, Essex Highways were progressing the repairs across the county and planning for all works to be completed by the end of the financial year.
* Cllr. Playle was awaiting proposals from the Local Highways Panel, the aim of which would improve and speed up the scheme.
* The consultation on the Local Government Boundary Review was due to close on 19 February 2024, the aim of which was to ensure that councillors would represent about the same number of electors.
* Cllr. Playle was pleased to see that the new salt bins were in place. He confirmed the Parish Council would be eligible to apply for the County Councillors’ Salt Bag Scheme, ensuring the bins were replenished. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had now received the Locality Fund for these.

Cllr. Playle left the meeting at 8.30pm.Cllrs. Walsh & Abram reported that:* With reference to BDC’s new bin collection arrangements, both Cllrs. Walsh and Abram were part of an opposition group, proposing that anyone with assisted needs would be able to ask for three assisted bin collections.
* ECC had submitted bids to the Rural Mobility Scheme, which will trial improved transport facilities for those living in more rural locations. The proposed scheme for South Braintree would provide trials of corner-to-corner mobility within Rayne, Great Notley and Black Notley, in addition to serving the three business parks in Braintree (Skyline 120, Horizon 120, and Springwood Industrial Park).
* Two new Planning Officers had been appointed to assist, not only with planning applications, but ensure all planning conditions were met and appropriately followed. A third vacancy was waiting to be filled. Cllrs. Walsh and Abram were in support of setting up a non-party political planning enforcement group to ensure planning conditions were being met.
* With reference to the Minerals Review, Cllr. Walsh acknowledged this was on the agenda for discussion and noted Cllr. Dunn had undertaken considerable preparatory work on this matter. He offered his support and would be happy to be involved if and when required. He was a member of the Planning Council exclusively for the Minerals Plan and was keen to support residents. He reminded attendees that the public were more than welcome to come along and speak at the meetings regarding their concerns and impact on the community. Whilst he appreciated there was a future demand for gravel, he noted of the fifty-two proposed sites in Essex, fifteen were in the Braintree district and six (including Stisted) were within the Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish. He considered this disproportionate.
* Cllr. Abram had sought information on how other parishes were planning to celebrate D-Day. He reported that many had agreed to hold a BBQ and would pay their respects by showing the film, “The Great Escaper” (*based on the true story of an 89-year-old British World War II Royal Navy veteran, Bernard Jordan, who "broke out" of his nursing home to attend the 70th anniversary*[*D-Day*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Normandy_landings)*commemorations in France in June 2014*).
* Cllr. Abram was keen to ensure breaches to planning enforcements were being reported. He had canvassed views of residents in Coggeshall and encouraged them to report any breaches to both the District Authority and the Environmental Planning Officers. He was also keen to use a drone to capture footage of such breaches.
* Similarly, he was pushing for a Google map of the ward so that residents could go on-line to see for themselves what was happening to the local area, given the number of changes. He had received lots of support from residents for this.

Cllrs. Walsh & Abram left the meeting at 8.40pm |
| **23-4/185** | **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2024 – RESOLUTION**Members received and considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 January 2024 and resolved to approve them as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded: Cllr. Deighton; All in favour**The minutes were signed by the Chair. |
| **23-4/186** | **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2024 – RESOLUTION**Members received and considered the minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 18 January 2024 to agree the precept request and resolved to approve them as a true record. **Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded: Cllr. Deighton; All in favour**The minutes were signed by the Chair. |
| **23-4/187** | **FINANCIAL REPORTS**1. **Members received and approved** the financial statements to 31 January 2024. There were no queries.

**Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded Cllr. Deighton; All in favour.**1. **Members approved** payments for January 2024. There were no queries.

**Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Lockey; All in favour.** |
| **23-4/198****Item Brought Forward** | **MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW****The Chair brought forward this item for discussion. He declared an interest in this as a local resident potentially impacted should some of the planning be approved (particularly Covenbrooke Hall Farm). He disclosed that Stisted Parish Council had called an open parish meeting on 21 February and that he had been asked to assist them.**Members had received a summary document for consideration, which had been prepared by the Chair, setting out his views of the impact of the proposals to the parish and surrounding areas. He asked the Clerk to put a copy of the document on the Parish Council website, making it available to residents. The Chair gave an overview of his summary: -* The economic importance and demand of minerals.
* The requirement for more quarries in the area when there were several quarries across the district that already had planning permission.
* **A6 Bradwell Quarry** – This was authorised in the 2016 plan and now brought forward for reassessment. Given it would be an extension to an existing mineral extraction site, and in the interests of local employment and good community relations, he considered it would make sense for this to be approved.
* **A47 Bradwell (Monk’s Farm) & A48 Bradwell (Grange Farm)** – these sites would both be an extension to the established Bradwell Quarry site and would require extending the boundary. This appeared to be a logical extension to mineral extraction with least impact.
* There appeared to be two main sites of contention: A89 Covenbrooke Hall Farm (Stisted) and A92 & A93 Pattiswick Hall Farm
* **A89 Covenbrooke Hall Farm** – This fell within the area of Stisted village but was near to the Bradwell and Pattiswick boundaries. The site contained evidence recorded on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) of Palaeolithic archaeological remains which would be destroyed and lay along a Roman road. The main concern however was the junction at Kings Lane along the A120, an accident blackspot that had a high number of incidents, some of which had been serious. The proposals were also against the policies set out in the Mineral Plan which stated that traffic would reduce.
* **A92 & A93 Pattiswick Hall Farm (small & full sites)** – This area was classified as Grade 2 Agricultural Land and comprised several listed buildings (some Grade 2). It was situated within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Impact Risk Zone and Heritage Essex Records had identified several sites within A93 that need to be protected. A93 also fell within the Stisted conservation area. National Highways would object to a new access point as it would contravene the Department for Transport Circular 1/2022. Approval would generate more traffic, cause damage to the biodiversity of the local environment, impact public footpaths as well as the public view.

The Chair encouraged all Councillors and as many residents as possible to attend Stisted’s open meeting on 21 February. He asked that Councillors read and provide comments on his summary document so that the Parish Council would decide how best to respond at the 11 March Parish Council meeting.  |
| **23-4/188** | **ARNOLD-BAKER ON LOCAL COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION** The Clerk requested approval to purchase the most recent version (13th edition) of this publication which provided an up-to-date guide to laws and regulations relating to parish and community councils. The Parish Council currently had the 10th edition, published in 2016.**Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Turner; All in favour.** |
| **23-4/190** | **D-DAY 80 COMMEMORATIONS** Cllr. Turner updated Members in his capacity as Chairman and Trustee of Bradwell Village Hall. It had been agreed that the village hall would host a beacon lighting ceremony on Thursday 6 June and would provide a free BBQ for residents attending. The ceremony would take place at 9.15pm, and the bar would be open for residents to purchase drinks. The village hall would like to officially request a donation from the Parish Council to contribute towards this. The Clerk asked that the Village Hall write to the Parish Council setting out their request, which would be added to the next agenda for consideration and decision.  |
| **23-4/191** | **BRADWELL DOG SHOW**Cllr. Turner updated Members in his capacity as Chairman and Trustee of Bradwell Village Hall.The dog show had proven popular with residents in previous years and would take place again in early May. The Village Hall would like to officially request a donation from the Parish Council to contribute towards replacing the trophy and rosettes. The Clerk would add the request to the next agenda for consideration and decision. |
| **23-4/192** | **PLANNING MATTERS** **New Applications** 1. **Application reference EN010138** – Indaver Rivenhall IWMF, Coggeshall Road, Essex, Bradwell, CM77 8EFThe Rivenhall Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMF) and Energy Centre development application for a Development Consent Order, is for extension to a generating station to enable electrical generating capacity of up to 65MW together with associated development. **Comments by 19 February 2024.**

Members discussed and fully supported the application plan and unanimously agreed there were no objections. **Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Lockey; All in favour.** |
| **23-4/193** | **PLAYING FIELD**1. In Cllr. Kinder’s absence, the Clerk reported the following: there were no issues with the playing field or play equipment. However, the path leading to the field was in a poor state due to the recent bad weather and the issue of dog fouling had not improved, despite there being adequate bins for dog waste. The Chair noted that the Council owned the lease for the field from Strutt & Parker/Bradwell Estates, but were not responsible for the path, but asked the Clerk to speak with Strutt & Parker to see if there was anything they might be able to assist with.
2. The Clerk reported that the play equipment had been repaired by Playquip on 25 January. She had inspected the playing field with Cllr. Kinder and the repairs were in order, and in line with the invoice.
3. The Clerk reported that BDC had approved S. 106 funds for the new roundabout which would be installed on 18 March 2024. She would arrange to meet with Cllrs. Turner and Deighton to confirm the exact location for where this would go. She advised that, once the invoice was paid, a copy would be sent to BDC to arrange for the S. 106 fund to be credited to the Parish Council. Given this would coincide with the end of the budget year, and that funds had previously been transferred from the current to deposit account, there might be a requirement to transfer some money back to the current account to ensure the account did not go overdrawn or incur charges. She therefore sought prior approval from the Councillors for the authorised signatories to undertake a transfer in this event. Councillors unanimously agreed to an internal transfer to cover any shortfall should it be required.

 **Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Lockey; All in favour.** |
| **23-4/194** | **FOOTPATHS**The Footpaths’ Officer reported that the steps along the Essex Way had finally been fixed, six months after reporting. However, the steps along the river near to the old quarry road still required repairing despite being reported and had now been virtually washed away. She would try to escalate this and include photos of the area. The Chair noted that ECC had appointed a new Public Rights of Way Officer who might also be able to assist.She also reported that there appeared to be an increased amount of litter along the footpaths and verges near to where the contractors had recently been working and wondered whether it would be possible for the contractors to help with tidying the area. It was unsure what contractors had been in the area, whether this was Highways or when the cables had been laid for the solar farm. Cllr. Harding would speak to Essex Highways and the Clerk was requested to contact Patrick Wigg from Blackwater Aggregates to hold a liaison meeting. The Clerk reported that a resident had noticed the stile along Bridge Hall Road was broken and had advised her to report this to Essex Highways. |
| **23-4/195** | **LITTER PICK** Members had previously agreed the Parish Council would hold two litter pick events in 2024, including provision of the BDC amenity vehicle. The Clerk presented dates available during 2024 and Members agreed on 13 April and 14 September. Cllrs. Turner and Deighton agreed to be the Litter Pick Officers for this year and would liaise with the Clerk with regards to risk assessments and collection of equipment.**Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded: Cllr. Deighton; All in favour.**  |
| **23-4/196** | **BRADWELL WITH PATTISWICK AND STISTED PARISH MAGAZINE**The parish magazine was currently overseen by the PCC of All Saints Stisted and Bradwell, who were looking to hand this over to both Parish Councils. The editor and printer were content to continue with their roles, but more volunteers were required to assist with providing articles and delivering the newsletter, as well as taking on the administrative responsibility from the church. It was noted that the magazine generated an income to the church of approximately £700 per year, which could be shared between the two Parish Councils. Members considered that the newsletter was an important part of information sharing in the village and was something that should be kept. A resident who helped with delivering the newsletter noted that the subscription had increased to £7.50 per year and asked whether it would be possible for the Parish Councils to consider funding this to make it free to residents. All Members unanimously agreed this would be an excellent idea. The Chair would feedback Members’ comments to the Chair of Stisted Parish Council and bring this item back to a future meeting for discussion and decision. The Clerk would explore whether a S. 137 grant could be used towards making the newsletter free to residents.  |
| **23-4/197** | **BRADWELL WITH PATTISWICK NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** A recent training event attended by the Councillors had raised the issue of whether the current Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in 2019 might require updating. The Parish Council had undertaken a significant amount of work previously when preparing the current plan and it had been one of the first to have it developed and adopted. The Chair proposed to liaise with Jan Stobart, Community Liaison Officer at the RCCE to seek their guidance and would raise this as a future agenda item at the 11 March Parish Council meeting. **Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Lockey; All in favour.** |
| **23-4/199** | **RECTORY MEADOW** The Chair updated the Councillors on the next steps planned for the Friends of Rectory Meadow, and which was separate to the work of the Parish Council. He reported that Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd was now registered at Companies House and a bank account to be used for fund raising was being set up. Any monies donated would be used to assist with any legal costs’ residents might incur, with donations being refunded to donors should residents win their case.  |
| **The Chair agreed to suspend Standing Order 3Y, General Meetings, as the meeting would exceed two hours.**  |
| **23-4/189****Item moved due to confidential content**  | **LINKS SOLAR FARM** ***In accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the press and public were excluded from this part of the meeting to prevent disclosure of exempt information due to the confidential nature of the discussion and business being transacted.*** This item would be brought back to a later Parish Council meeting once legal advice had been sought in relation to the Community Benefit Deed. Separate to this, but relating to the solar farm, the Clerk would invite Beverley Rodbard-Hedderwick, Stakeholder Manager at Low Carbon to a future Parish Council meeting to provide an update on the project.  |
| **23-4/199** | **INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT/FUTURE MEETING(S)**Cllr. Harding reported that a couple of roads within the parish had experienced unusual flooding. Members agreed that the severe weather would have contributed to this along with mud and debris being washed and pushed into the gullies and verges. It was particularly dangerous around Keepers Lane and Sheepcoates Lane, where parts of the road could not be seen due to the amount of water. Cllr. Lockey reported that the same was true of Cuthedge Lane. Some Councillors thought traffic to the solar farm site continued to use Five Ash Lane and Ash Lane, which also did not help with the state of the roads. Cllr. Lockey had previously provided photos of affected roads which the Clerk had forwarded to Low Carbon and requested the roads be cleaned. They had responded by saying the road sweeper cleared Links Road once a day, and had provided the directions given to lorry drivers instructing them to only access the site from Galleys Corner. Cllr. Harding said he would contact Essex Highways to see what could be done with regards to clearing and cleaning the roads to prevent further flooding. The Clerk would contact Beverley Rodbard-Hedderwick regarding the site vehicles using Five Ash Lane and Ash Lane and copying in the Enforcement Officer. Items for the next Agenda:1. Promoting the Parish Council.
2. Review of policies
3. Neighbourhood Plan
4. Parish Newsletter
5. Links Solar Farm
 |
| **23-4/200** | **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**The next Parish Council meeting would take place on Monday 11 March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bradwell. Items for inclusion in the agenda to be sent to the Parish Clerk no later than 12 noon Friday 1 March 2024. The meeting closed at 10.05pm. |