**Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 11 March 2024 at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell**

**Present:**

Cllr. Tony Dunn (Chair)

Cllr. Adam Deighton

Cllr. Craig Evans

Cllr. Antony Harding

Cllr. Lesley Kinder

Cllr. Michael Turner

**In attendance:**

Mrs. Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO

Cllr. Playle, County Councillor, Witham Northern

Cllr. Walsh, District Councillor, Coggeshall Ward

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| **23-4/201** | **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**  The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those present.  Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Lockey. |
| **23-4/202** | **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**  Cllr. Turner declared an interest as Chair and Trustee of the Village Hall Management Committee with respect to agenda item **23-4/211**, D-Day 80 Commemorations and the Bradwell Dog Show 2024.  Cllr. Kinder declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Management Committee with respect to agenda item **23-4/211,** D-Day 80 Commemorations and the Bradwell Dog Show 2024.  Cllr. Dunn declared an interest in agenda item **23-4/207** as a resident affected by the Minerals Local Plan Review and agenda **23-4/218** Trustee of the Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd, which is independent from the work of the Parish Council.  Cllr. Evans declared an interest in agenda item **23-4/218** as Trustee of the Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd, which is independent from the work of the Parish Council. |
| **23-4/203** | **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST**  No members of the public attended the meeting. However, the Clerk had received an e-mail from a resident who had received several complaints regarding the noise coming from the piling machines at Links Solar Farm and he had referred them to the Clerk. Likewise, the Chair had received similar complaints and had also advised they contact the Clerk directly. The Clerk noted an anonymous Facebook post to that effect and had advised that a representative from Low Carbon would attend the next Parish Council meeting on 8 April to provide an update on the project and to take any questions. The Clerk encouraged residents to attend this meeting to raise any issues. |
| **23-4/204** | **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**  Cllr. Playle reported on the following:   * The deadline for the Minerals Plan Review was 19 March and he encouraged all residents to respond; * Following an ECC budget meeting, £12m had been allocated to highways for 2024/25. These funds would be available not only for potholes, but for other highways projects, such as maintenance of pavements and jetting of gullies; * The Locality Fund was reintroduced for 2024/25 and would be available to Parish Councils. *(The Clerk would add this as an agenda item for the Parish Council’s consideration at a later meeting);* * Following the successful trial of the booking system at the Recycling Centre, this was now permanently in place; * With reference to agenda item 23-4/209, Cllr. Playle had been contacted by a member of the public. As a result he contacted John Tatton from Indaver. Cllr. Playle was pleased to hear Mr Tatton had written to the Parish Council apologising for this unfortunate event.   Cllr. Playle left the meeting at 8.15pm.  Cllr. Walsh sent apologies from Cllr. Abram and reported that:   * He recently attended a Minerals Local Plan meeting along with several community representatives and they had held an “extended debate” on the issue. Braintree District Council had listened to Councillors’ concerns and, as a result, would be registering their concern in relation to site A48. Cllr. Gabrielle Spray and other councillors had liked Cllr. Dunn’s draft response and appreciated the hard work he had put into this. Cllr. Walsh reported that residents in Coggeshall organised a community walk along the Essex Way which approximately two hundred people had attended. He noted there were protected areas which needed preserving and had asked Richard Greaves, Essex County Council’s Chief Planning Officer, to visit the site at Coggeshall. Unfortunately, he had been unable to attend, but CRAQ[[1]](#footnote-1) would continue to invite him to their meetings. * The independent Green Group would be requesting the Rural Support Fund again for the new budget year as well as requesting that the Green Bin assistance continues for those who need it. They had also proposed two new motions to BDC: one to help maintain civility in public life, the other requesting that it become a requirement for developers to show infrastructure proposals at the time when their planning requests were submitted. He noted that although S.106 money from developers goes to BDC, there was no legal requirement to stipulate how that money was spent, and it did not always benefit the affected areas. * He had attended a Members’ Development Evening where housing was discussed. BDC had a good record for affordable housing across the area and were above target. Whilst this did not necessarily mean planning applications would be declined, it did put the Council in a strong position to reject the plans. He said the National Plan was currently on hold, however BDC would be commencing a review of the Braintree District Plan.   With reference to affordable housing on new developments, Cllr. Evans was interested to know who benefitted from the housing. Some Councillors had been made aware that a London Borough had recently acquired some housing in the area, which meant that these houses would be offered to those from the London Borough. Whilst he considered this to be good for those individuals, it meant that residents would not have access to affordable housing in the areas they had grown up. Cllr. Walsh agreed this was a good point and said he would raise it at the next planning meeting.  Cllrs. Walsh left the meeting at 8.25pm |
| **23-4/205** | **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2024 – RESOLUTION**  Councillors received and considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 February 2024 and resolved to approve them as a true record.  **Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded: Cllr. Dunn; All in favour, RESOLVED.**  The minutes were signed by the Chair. |
| **23-4/206** | **FINANCIAL REPORTS**   1. **Councillors received and approved** the financial statements to 29 February 2024. There were no queries.   **Proposed: Cllr. Deighton; Seconded Cllr. Turner; All in favour, RESOLVED.**   1. **Councillors approved** payments for February 2024. There were no queries.   **Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded Cllr. Dunn; All in favour, RESOLVED.**   1. **The Clerk requested** that a cheque be post-dated in anticipation of the roundabout installation planned for 18 March 2024. This would enable her to pay Playquip and submit the invoice to BDC, in order for them to process the S.106 funds to the Parish Council by the end of the budget year. It would also enable the Clerk to add the invoice to the VAT reclaim submission for 2023/24.   **Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Evans; All in favour, RESOLVED.** |
| **23-4/207** | **MINERALS LOCAL PLAN REVIEW**  Councillors had received and considered the Parish Council’s draft response to the Minerals Local Plan Review and unanimously agreed it should be submitted to ECC by Cllr. Dunn.  **Proposed: Cllr. Evans; Seconded: Cllr. Kinder; All in favour, RESOLVED. ACTION: Cllr. Dunn** |
| **23-4/208** | **PLANNING MATTERS**  **New Applications**   1. **ESS/08/24/BTE/SPO - Land forming part of the Rivenhall Airfield/Bradwell Quarry, Coggeshall Road (A120), Braintree.** Scoping Option Request for erection of up to forty-five hectares of low carbon greenhouses, with associated solar renewable energy provision, conversion of the existing Rivenhall RAF hangar to a vertical farm and associated supporting infrastructure including offices, packhouses, boiler houses, heat stores, day tanks, CO2 balloons and lagoons for drainage, irrigation, and biodiversity. **COMMENTS BY 4 MARCH 2024 – APPLIED FOR DEADLINE**   The Clerk noted that, as this was a scoping exercise, comments on the merits/demerits of the proposal was not required as there would be an opportunity for this when a formal planning application was submitted. However, it is noted that Parish Councillors are all in favour of this incentive, not only for the ecological benefits it affords, but the opportunities for local employment and the wives and families of those at Colchester Barracks. |
| **23-4/209** | **IWMF ABNORMAL LOADS THROUGH THE VILLAGE**  Councillors had received a letter from John Tatton, General Manager at Indaver, explaining and apologising to both the Parish Council and residents for the recent issue with abnormal loads passing through the village. This had been the result of foreign drivers being mis-directed via their sat-nav. The Clerk had put a copy of the letter on the website, notice board and Facebook for residents to see. Councillors considered it had been unfortunate and accepted that these issues had been out of Indaver’s control. They appreciated Indaver was keen for this not to happen again and noted they had placed staff by the corner the A120 and The Street junction to assist with stopping and redirecting future vehicles. The Chair asked the Clerk to respond to Mr. Tatton thanking him for his letter and acknowledging their efforts. **ACTION: Clerk** |
| **23-4/210** | **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH**  Cllr. Dunn proposed that the Parish Council refreshed its current Neighbourhood Plan given it was five years old. He suggested the Parish Council repeat the questionnaire exercise it had undertaken last time and that once the Minerals Local Plan review had been completed, the Parish Council would focus on this. The Clerk would circulate the latest guidance from NALC in preparation for the review.  **Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Evans; All in favour** |
| **23-4/211** | **REQUEST FOR DONATION TO THE VILLAGE HALL**  **Cllrs. Turner and Kinder remained in attendance for this section of the meeting to answer questions from Councillors in relation to the donation requests. Both abstained from the discussion and decision-making**  The Village Hall Committee had requested £100 for the Dog Show to contribute towards purchasing rosettes and a replacement Geoff Digby trophy. Councillors considered this had previously been very well received and enjoyed by villagers and agreed to approve this request.  **Proposed: Cllr. Evans; Seconded: Cllr. Dunn; All in favour, RESOLVED**  The VHC had also requested £100 to contribute towards the D-Day celebrations it was hosting for the parish, whereby a ceremony would be undertaken in commemoration, followed by a free BBQ for residents. Councillors referred to the success of previous formal celebrations, such as the Jubilee and Coronation, and considered this would be a good community event whilst marking an important date. Councillors agreed to approve this request.  **Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Deighton; All in favour, RESOLVED** |
| **23-4/212** | **PLAYING FIELD**   1. Cllr. Kinder reported that she had received a complaint from a resident who had observed a child on the field on an electric scooter. Not only was this a danger to other residents enjoying the field, but it was also damaging the field given the wet conditions and was also illegal. The Clerk would consult Strutt & Parker to advise them and see if they could assist. 2. The rotadisk roundabout was being installed on 18 March. The Clerk had visited the field with Cllr. Deighton to determine the best location for the roundabout and had circulated photos to Councillors. 3. The Clerk had reported the state of the walkway to Strutt & Parker, advising that, in its current state, it was inaccessible to those with mobility issues, wheelchairs or mobility scooters. She had provided photographic evidence for this in the hope they would be able to assist. Cllr. Kinder had also been approached by the Dementia Society who were keen to use the field the summer, but also worried about accessibility.   There was concern from Councillors that a path might encourage people to drive on the field they questioned whether a slimmer pathway could be located through the allotments. The Clerk would raise these concerns with Strutt & Parker and report back to Councillors. |
| **23-4/213** | **FOOTPATHS**  The Footpaths Officer had been unable to attend the meeting, however the Clerk had spoken with her. She expressed concern that the hardstanding near the bridge by the A120 appeared to be high. She also advised that she was content to liaise with Cllr. Harding and meet with staff from the Quarry regarding the state of the footpaths. The Clerk reported she had contacted Patrick Wigg at Blackwater Aggregates who had confirmed he would be arranging a Spring Liaison meeting. |
| **23-4/214** | **BRADWELL WITH PATTISWICK AND STISTED PARISH MAGAZINE**  Cllr. Dunn had met with Stisted Parish Council to feed back the Parish Council’s views following the last Parish Council meeting (**Minute 23-4/196**), including using S.137 powers to provide the magazine free of charge to all residents. These had been very well received by Stisted, who were considering the options and would revert to Cllr. Dunn in due course. |
| **23-4/215** | **ON-STREET EV CHARGING CONSULTATION (ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL)**  The Clerk had received a questionnaire from ECC regarding any requirements and potential location for an EV charging point and asked Councillors to consider whether there was a requirement for this in the Parish. This had previously been discussed by Councillors where it was agreed there was no requirement, given the BP Garage had received permission to install EV chargers. Following a discussion, Councillors considered this position remained unchanged. The Clerk would feedback the response to ECC.  **Proposed: Cllr. Evans; Seconded: Cllr. Harding; All in favour, RESOLVED** |
| **23-4/216** | **LINKS SOLAR FARM**  The Clerk had sought advice from the EALC, BDC and RCCE enquiring whether they could provide legal advice relating to the Community Benefit Deed. None of these organisations could provide this, other than to advise the Parish Council to seek legal advice prior to signing the Deed.  Cllr. Turner had been made aware that Birkett’s solicitors provided advice in a charitable capacity and suggested that the Clerk send the Deed to them for consideration. The Parish Council could then receive and discuss the advice and whether they wanted to seek additional advice, in which case the Clerk would obtain three quotes.  **Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded: Cllr. Dunn; All in favour, RESOLVED**  Beverley Rodbard-Hedderwick, Stakeholder Manager for Links Solar Farm would be attending the next Parish Council meeting on 8 April, whereby she would provide an update and answer questions in relation to the project. The Clerk would remind residents nearer the date and encourage them to attend the meeting. |
| **23-4/217** | **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  The Annual Parish Meeting would take place on 13 May 2024 in the Village Hall and would be open to the public. In line with previous years, local groups and people with an interest in the parish would be invited to attend and speak at the meeting, outlining the nature of their work. Members agreed that this year invitees should be the Dementia Society, Village Hall Committee, Oasthouse Ventures (from the Rivenhall Greenhouse Project) and PC James Draper  **Proposed: Cllr. Dunn; Seconded: Cllr. Kinder; All in favour, RESOLVED** |
| **23-4/218** | **RECTORY MEADOW**  The Chair updated Councillors on the next steps planned for the Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd, and which was separate to the work of the Parish Council.  He confirmed that Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd was registered at Companies House and that a bank account for fund raising had been set up. He confirmed that any monies donated would be used to assist with any legal costs residents might incur, with donations refunded to donors should residents win their case and be reimbursed. |
| **23-4/219** | **INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT/FUTURE MEETING(S)**  Items for the next Agenda:   1. Locality Fund 2. Review of policies 3. Defibrillator located at the Village Hall 4. Invite Nigel Allsopp from National Highways to provide an update |
| **23-4/200** | **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  The next Parish Council meeting would take place on Monday 8 April 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 29 March 2024.  The meeting closed at 9.05pm. |

1. Coggeshall Residents Against the Quarry [↑](#footnote-ref-1)