

BRADLEYS BOTH **PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Concillor D. Cohn, Chair
Councillor Patrick Mulligan – Craven District Council
Councillor Andrew Brown – Craven District Council
Margaret Smith, Clerk

5 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

West Yorkshire Police.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – David Cohn

This report is being written at the end of this Parish Council's four year term. Not one of your councillors was ever elected, having been merely co-opted by the existing councillors; and as you may already know there is no election for the next term either. The last time that Bradley had an election was.....! Does that reflect apathy or satisfaction or what....?

Nevertheless, your councillors are a hard working group of people who give their time freely to carefully consider what is best for the village. We know that we have your support, as was very evident at the meeting called to discuss highway safety. More on that later.

Planning issues are discussed at every meeting. We have a good feel on how the majority of the residents think about new housing developments from our consultations for the neighbourhood plan. We have always pressed for sensible mixture of housing types on sustainable sites. We finished our draft plan last year and submitted it to Craven DC well before Christmas. Though we have had some constructive comments from Craven we cannot proceed to the next stage of an official examination and village referendum. We are waiting for Craven DC itself to request a strategic environmental assessment. To put that into some context, Gargrave submitted their plan over 12 months ago and are still waiting. You know how long Craven have taken with their local plan.

Cllr Derek Booth is in weekly contact with the planning department. We are very grateful to him and Malcolm Taylor for their persistence and attention to detail.

Highway safety is another issue which continually appears at our meetings. We are fortunate in having Cllr Veronicka Dancer to tirelessly dog our NYCC Highways officials with requests for road signage and white lining especially on the road over the Heath and the approaches to the lngs lane junction with the A629. As mentioned previously she organised a well attended meeting with the NYCC and the traffic police in the village hall. Our main concern about a pedestrian crossing on the A629 was listened to and subsequently a modest scheme has been drawn up. Nevertheless, the proposal remains low on NYCC's priorities, requiring some more serious accidents to occur before moving up the list. Please be careful!

We are looking at alternative sources of funding.

We have reviewed how well the grass has been cut in the last year. We have decided to change contractors, to increase the frequency of cuts, all for a lower overall cost. Cllr. Andrew Slade takes a great interest in keeping the village green and tidy. He has

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received a small grant from the Woodland Trust to plant some trees and will be asking residents where they would like them placed.

The village hall is run as a separate institution from the council. It has always benefitted from an annual grant to keep hiring fees to a minimum. This year the council donated an extra sum of money towards the cost of new toilet and baby changing facilities. The work was completed last month and to a very high standard. We were fortunate that a village resident, Michael Carr, drew up the plans and specifications, and managed the project throughout. He gave his services for no charge.

Our Craven Herald correspondent retired this year and nobody else has stepped forward to report the village news. Cllr. Steve Wood maintains the village website and Mags, our clerk, publishes all the council news on our own dedicated website. The latest agenda and notices can always be found on the notice boards at the hall and on the playing fields.

Cllrs. William Barron and Sam Berry are our most practical councillors, full of good advice and hands on help to keep our common grounds and pavilion in good condition. As always we are very grateful to our local district and NYCC councillors. Andy Brown is proving himself a worthy successor to Pat Fairbank, with his special interest in planning and housing development helping us to defend the parish council's views on inappropriate development in the village. Patrick Mulligan also keeps us informed about matters on high in Northallerton. We appreciate his non-partisan view of matters there. Finally, the council could not even begin to function without our hard working and committed clerk, Mags. Not only does she attend our council meetings, but also our neighbourhood planning meetings and the Bradley Show committee. Nothing is too much trouble for her. Thankyou very much.

In conclusion I want to re-iterate that Bradley has a hard working and committed group of parish councillors. We always welcome residents to our meetings. We hope we can encourage more people to join our discussions and to take on the responsibilities for the decisions that make Bradley the place you have chosen to live.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the members of the public present.

4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Andrew Brown –

Cllr Brown reported that, since taking office, he has been active with traffic and planning issues as well as bin collection problems. He has taken part in the Audit Committee, Select Committee, especially to do with waste management and also with bereavement services.

He has raised issues about the Local Plan i.e., the lack of electric charging points.

Councillor Patrick Mulligan –

Cllr Mulligan advised that Localism and Environmental Funding is available and a large part of this could be used to fund the A629 traffic island. The Parish Council and NYCC will also contribute to make this possible. There are two pots of £5,000 in the Environment budget which includes Highways. He has already spoken to Highways about funding on our behalf. He would like copies of the plan and costings for the traffic island.

Cllr Mulligan reported that both Craven District Council and North Yorkshire County Council are on a firm footing unlike many other councils who are struggling. Schemes to

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increase revenue such as shared housing is making a difference in Craven. The bill to charge tax on second homes in the Dales was not passed. It is felt more people are being attracted to rural areas due to the digital economy and many working from home for at least part of the week.

There had been successful funding for footpath improvements from Bradley to Kildwick. There was a question about the state of the roads, both pot holes and also fly tipping and lack of road sweeping. Pot holes can now be reported on CDC website. The Clerk will contact CDC to ask how often the road sweeper comes through the village.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

There was no other business brought forward.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.28pm