**Bradwell with Pattiswick Parish Council**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 10 February 2025 at Bradwell Village Hall, Church Road, Bradwell**

**Present:**

Cllr. Tony Dunn (Chair)

Cllr. Adam Deighton

Cllr. Craig Evans

Cllr. Antony Harding

Cllr. Michael Turner

**In attendance:**

Mrs. Nicki Watkins, Clerk & RFO

Nigell Allsopp, Route Manager National Highways

Suzie Cumming, Project Manager, National Highways

Nadia De Michele, Correspondence Unit, National Highways

Three members of the public were in attendance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **24-5/239** | **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30pm and welcomed those present. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Lockey and Kinder. Apologies were received from Cllrs. Walsh and Abram. |
| **24-5/240** | **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**Members of the Council are subject to the LGA Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020 (The Revised Code), adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13 May 2024. Appendix B requires Councillors to register and disclose pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests. There were no declarations of interest.  |
| **24-5/241** | **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION WITH RESPECT TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND OTHER MATTERS THAT ARE OF MUTUAL INTEREST** A member of the public asked what changes were proposed to the Neighbourhood Plan with regard to Rectory Meadow and following the Parish meeting which had taken place in November 2023 and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting in August 2024. The Chair responded by noting that these meetings made clear the residents’ view that there should be no development of the land to the South or West of Rectory Meadow, also known as “Land to the South of Coggeshall Road.”The Parish Council’s consultants were asked to clarify the existing wording of the Neighbourhood Plan to reflect the residents’ view, and this has been done.A Company has outline planning permission to build three and six dwellings on the “Land to the South of Coggeshall Road.” Neither planning application 20/01897/OUT nor 21/01772/OUT sought permission for “access via Rectory Meadow”. The Chair had spoken to the Chair of the Planning Committee at the time, and she had confirmed that the Committee believed there was no issue with access as there was no request for planning permission for access, otherwise their decision to grant planning permission might have been different.The Transport Plan associated with the Planning Application 21/01772/OUT para 3.1 vii states:viii)  A new 5.0m wide access road with a single 2m wide footway for most of its length from the existing fishing lake parking area. Part of this access road will serve an adjacent residential development of three dwellings approved at appeal (Appeal Reference APP/Z1510/W/17/3185814); This is not “access via Rectory Meadow” as there is no access to the fishing lake via Rectory Meadow and the “access via Rectory Meadow” track (a Public Right of Way) between the Old Rectory and Rectory Barn is only 4.5m wide so cannot accommodate a 7m wide road and footpath. The Chair shared the following photograph confirming this.A sign with text on it  Description automatically generatedA Freedom of Information request was made to Essex Couth CouncilQuestion 1. Planning application 21\_01772\_OUTThe FOI request relates to the private road Rectory Meadow.The developers planning statement says: "at the time of drafting this application we are awaiting the further comments of Essex County Council on a revised plan and letter which addresses the highway officers’ comments". The further comments of Essex County Council are not available on Braintree District Council's website - we would like to see these comments.The Strategic Development Team have now located the reference quoted in the above request that dates to 2021. The site file has been examined together with the inbox of the Strategic Development Officer who dealt with the planning application and we are unable to corroborate the statement made in the developers planning statement since the Highway Authority responded to planning application 21\_01772\_OUT consultation on 1st March 2022 and despite a revised drawing being submitted on 11th March 2022 by the applicant no further comments were made by the Highway Authority.The further comments related *inter alii* to the ownership of the land between the site and the Highway at Church Road, the drainage proposals, the standard of construction of the access road and protection of pedestrians using the PROWs.Braintree District Council Development Team has confirmed in writing that planning permission is required for a road linking these sites with the Highway at Church Road “via Rectory Meadow.”No application has been received.Braintree District Council Development Team has also indicated that such an application would be refused.Pre-planning application advice is confidential and exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, so the Chair would not disclose the Development Team’s grounds for refusal as the Parish Council may need this should an application be forthcoming.Finally, a grant of outline planning permission does not mean that a site will ever be built, in this case it is the view of the Parish Council that these sites are not deliverable.It was suggested by the residents at the August meeting that a better use would be for Biodiversity Net Gain and the Neighbourhood Plan does encourage this.The member of public, supported by the Parish Councillors, thanked the Chair for his concise response and hard work regarding this issue. |
| **24-5/242** | **NATIONAL HIGHWAYS UPDATE – NIGEL ALLSOPP, SUZIE CUMMING & NADIA DE MICHELE** Mr Allsopp and his team had kindly agreed to attend the meeting to provide an update on the plans to introduce speed restrictions along the A120. Ms Cumming confirmed that five average speed cameras would be installed along the length of the A120 to Marks Tey. These would be the latest high-spec cameras, enabling coverage of both sides of the road, with improved night detection and would also be able to identify speeding motorcycles. The project was due to start at the end of March 2025 and anticipated to last between 12-13 weeks. As with previous A120 projects, work would be undertaken in sections along the stretch of the road and residents would be escorted through the various sections when required. Residents would be notified accordingly, and this would also be shown on the National Highways website. The Clerk would put a link to this on the website and a notice on the village Facebook page. Ms Cumming also confirmed that the 40mph speed limit through Bradwell village would be extended to Doghouse Road but would not be extended beyond Hollies Road. White Gates had been approved to be installed once the work on the cameras and speed signs had been completed. National Highways would fund these. Mr Allsopp confirmed that improvements to the Hollies Road junction would be considered but would have to be funded as part of a future project. The Chair reminded him of the Parish Council’s concerns given students use the crossing to access the bus stop. Mr Allsopp had spoken to Cllr. Harding with regard to the blocked gullies and had taken photographs of these in order to progress the work. **Mr Allsopp, Ms Cumming, and Ms De Michele left the meeting at 8.05pm.** |
| **24-5/243** | **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS** 1. Cllr. Playle reported on the following:
* **Pothole at Hollies Road** - He had liaised with Cllr. Harding with regards to the pothole and had asked for a photograph so that he could escalate the repair work.
* **Devolution** – Essex County Council, alongside Thurrock Council and Southend-on-Sea Council, had been confirmed by the Government as part of the Priority Devolution Programme to move to a unitary authority structure and which would include appointment of a Mayor of Greater Essex. This would be a significant change and transforms the way local government will operate, with all services falling under one place. It was anticipated that the final report to Government would be submitted in September 2025, with Local elections taking place in May 2026. Nicola Wood, the current CEO of Essex County Council, would continue to oversee the devolution process.
* **Budget/Council Tax** – ECC had requested a 3.75% Council Tax increase for 2025/26, which comprised a 1.75% general increase and 2% increase in the adult social care precept.
* **A120 Resurfacing Galleys Corner to Gt. Notley** – work had been scheduled to resurface this area over two nights between 8pm and 6am on 17 – 19 February, with Bradwell forming part of the diversion route.

**Cllr. Playle left the meeting at 8.20pm** |
| **24-5/244** | **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2025** Councillors received and considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 January 2025. Cllr. Deighton noted a correction to item 24-5/ 220 i, where Hollies Road should be replaced with Links Road & Ash Lane/Keepers Lane. Councillors agreed to resolve this amendment and to approve the minutes as a true record.The minutes were signed by the Chair.**Proposed: Cllr. Turner; Seconded: Cllr. Deighton; All in favour, RESOLVED.**   |
| **24-5/245** | **FINANCIAL REPORTS**1. Councillors received and approved the financial statements to 31 January 2025. There were no queries.

 **Proposed: Cllr. Deighton; Seconded Cllr. Turner; All in favour, RESOLVED.** 1. Councillors approvedpayments for January 2024. There were no queries. **Proposed: Cllr. Harding; Seconded Cllr. Evans; All in favour, RESOLVED.**
2. The Chair and the Clerk formally signed the 20205/26 precept request form for £16,900. The Clerk would send this to Braintree District Council.

The Clerk advised that the charges for registration to the Information Commissioners Office had increased to £52.00. As the Parish Council paid this via direct debit, there was a £5.00 discount, therefore **£47.00** would be debited on 4 March 2025. **ACTION - CLERK** |
| **24-5/246** | **GRANTS AND FUNDING**The Clerk had applied for two County Councillor Grants in October, £400 to contribute towards the cost of two salt bins and £400 to contribute towards replacing the bench at Church Road. To date this had not been approved, and she had chased BDC who in turn had send a reminder to Cllrs Walsh and Abram. As soon as the grants were approved she would seek to purchase the items.The Parish Council had also provisionally applied for £800 from the Locality Fund to contribute towards the cost of making improvements to the path at the playing field. However, at the last meeting, and following the budget review, the Parish Council had taken the decision to delay this project due to the unexpected cost. With that in mind, the Clerk asked whether Cllr. Playle would consider approving for £800 from the Locality Fund to contribute towards the remaining cost of the bench. Cllr. Playle agreed to this and noted that applications must be completed by the end of the month. **ACTION – CLERK** |
| **24-5/247** | **PLANNING MATTERS**There was no planning notifications received. |
| **24-5/248** | **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH**The refresh of the Local Neighbourhood Plan was now at the Regulation 14 stage. A new draft had been placed on the parish website and notification posted on Facebook inviting residents to comment by 26 March 2025. Paragraph 1.11 (page 6) advises of the changes made and 1.15 (page 7) advises residents what to do if they had any questions or comments. Questions and/or comments can be sent to the Chair or the Clerk who will respond accordingly. The Chair advised that statutory consultees would need to be notified and advised of the revised plan by Thursday of this week.. He invited comments supporting the revised plan given the small number of changes and publication of the on the webpage, notice boards and Facebook. The Councillors thanked the Chair for all his hard work on the refresh and in producing the latest plan.  **Proposed: Cllr. Deighton; Seconded Cllr. Harding; All in favour, RESOLVED**  |
| **24-5/249** | **ESSEX AIR PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR THE NEW DRAFT ESSEX AIR QUALITY STRATEGY**EssexAir was undertaking a public consultation to assist with compiling its strategy to set out “a shared vision, aims and a series of actions the consortium plans to take to improve air quality in Essex and help reduce the impact of air pollution on people’s health.” Councillors are able to respond individually but were asked to consider whether there was any benefit for the Parish Council to respond collectively. The Chair noted IWMF already monitors the air quality, and the Parish Council looked at this information at the liaison meetings. Similarly, the Environment Agency also undertook to monitor this, and he therefore proposed that there would be no benefits to respond. After some discussion, the Councillors agreed this. **Proposed: Cllr. Evans; Seconded Cllr. Turner; All in favour, RESOLVED.**  |
| **24-5/250** | **PLAYINGFIELD** Cllr. Kinder had advised the Clerk that there was nothing to report. |
| **24-5/251** | **FOOTPATHS**The Footpaths’ Officer had advised the Clerk that she had nothing to report other than she had received no further updates from BDC who were going to investigate the damaged footbridge she had reported in November.  |
| **24-5/252** | **LINKS SOLAR FARM**The Clerk was pleased to report that the Parish Council had finally received reimbursement from Low Carbon for the legal fees relating to the Community Benefit Deed. However, it had yet to receive the deed for electronic signature, which she would again follow up. Beverley Rodbard-Hedderwick, Stakeholder Manager at Low Carbon, had replied to the Parish Council’s questions and request for an update on the project. It was suggested that the delay had been due to the archaeological work which had been undertaken at the site. The Clerk had previously circulated a copy of the archaeological report but would re-circulate to Councillors to remind them of the finds. Councillors thought it would be helpful to invite Ms. Rodbard-Hedderwick to the April meeting to provide a further update and answer any questions the Parish Council or public had in person. **ACTION - CLERK** |
| **24-5/253** | **CCTV/FLY-TIPPING IN BRADWELL VILLAGE**The Clerk had received an update from BDC regarding the installation of the CCTV at the recycling bank. The Data Protection Officer at BDC had been unhappy with the positioning of the lower-level camera. On consideration, there would now be two cameras installed on the tall pole pointing in different directions: one to capture the vehicle registrations, the other pointing to the recycling bank to capture any offenders. Cllr. Turner noted that there continues to be minor fly-tipping, and which appeared to be domestic items. The Footpaths Officer had also commented on the increase in litter there.  |
| **24-5/254** | **PARISH NEWSLETTER** The Chair reported that the first free edition of the Parish newsletter had been delivered. He extended his thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to Mrs Karen Keepence for organising the distribution across the village. Mrs Keepence reported that distribution had gone very well and that there had been a volunteer in Pattiswick who could assist with the distribution there. Whilst a couple of houses had not received a copy, it was hoped this would be resolved for the next issue. The Clerk had a put a notice in the newsletter requesting volunteers so hopefully a few more might come forward to assist. The Parish Council were reminded that articles for future newsletters should be sent to Eleanor McMillan by the 20th of the month before publication (the Magazine is published in February, April, June, August, October, December) at emcmillan46@gmail.com. Similarly, anyone interested in advertising in the newsletter, should also e-mail Mrs. Mcmillan. |
| **24-5/255** | **BUS-STOP INSPECTIONS**Cllr. Harding provided an update following his inspection of the bus stops/shelters in the village as follows:* Cllr. Playle had confirmed that the bus shelter by the BP Garage comes under the new bus shelter contract and will be replaced at some point over the lifetime of the current contract. The Clerk would remove this shelter from the Parish Council’s Asset Register.
* Cllr. Harding had reported the litter at the bus stops to the Street Scene Team at BDC and requesting they clear the litter that had collected. He had also asked Cllr. Playle to provide him with the appropriate contact details at BDC so that he could apply for a new bin at the bus stop by the BP garage and a replacement bin at the Waduds one.
* Cllr. Playle confirmed he would be content to apply for a new bus shelter on behalf of the Parish Council for the bus stop along the A120 opposite Waduds. Cllr. Harding had asked him to do this, however the Parish Council would need to wait to see whether this was approved by Essex County Council and to confirm who would fund it (ECC would own it).
* National Highways had asked for photographs of the vegetation that the Parish Council would like removed from the shelter along from Waduds. Once they have these, they would endeavour to get this removed sometime over the next two weeks. Cllr. Harding would report back to Councillors once he had an update.

**ACTION - CLERK** |
| **24-5/256** | **ESSEX VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2025**Last year the RCCE reinstated their Village of the Year competition. Whilst the Parish Council was unable to apply then, it had undertaken to consider whether it would be appropriate to apply in 2025. Although the RCCE has not yet produced its criteria, Councillors received the 2024 criteria and considered whether to apply. The Chair referred to the criteria which appeared to be inclined to be aimed towards community events organised for villagers. He noted that there was a criteria for Village Hall of the Year, and considered that, given the Village Hall undertook such an excellent job of providing events for residents such as Bingo, wine tasting, D-Day celebrations, the dog-show and more recently, the showing of televised events, an application might be more appropriate from the Village Hall. Cllr. Turner agreed to raise this with the Village Hall Management Committee and would report back to the Council.  |
| **24-5/257** | **VILLAGE INFRASTRUCTURE**Cllr. Harding reported that he had liaised with Kathryn Roberts (Ceres Property Management for Bradwell Estates) with regards to the potholes at the recycling centre along Church Road and which had been in disrepair for some time. She had agreed to take this forward with a view to getting them repaired.  |
| **24-5/258** | **HOLY TRINITY CHURCH BRADWELL**A community consultation meeting would be held at the Holy Trinity Church in Bradwell on 15 March at 10.30am, the purpose of which was to discuss the future of the Church. Currently, there were six services held at the church during the year, but attendance had drastically diminished. The church itself was a Grade 1 listed building with much history attached and many residents have held christenings, weddings, and funerals there. However, with the reduced attendance, Revd. Heike Prentice was holding the open day to invite residents to have their say as to how they would like the church to be used, but it would be a case of “use it or lose it.” A poster for the event would be displayed on the noticeboards, website, and Facebook,  |
| **24-5/259** | **RECTORY MEADOW**The Chair updated Councillors on the Friends of Rectory Meadow Ltd, which was **separate to the work of the Parish Council.** This relates to a dispute between the residents of Residents of Rectory Meadow and a claimed Right of Way for Motor Vehicles to access Land South of Coggeshall Road via Rectory Meadow, leading to High Court action which is being defended by residents of Rectory Meadow on behalf of the Village.  |
| **24-5/260** | **INFORMATION EXCHANGE & AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**The Chair announced that he intended to step down as Chair later in the year, as he would be moving outside of the parish. With that in mind, the Parish Council needed to think about succession planning and who might want to consider applying to replace him as Chair. This would be added to the agenda at a later date.**Future agenda items**:* Representative from Anglian Water to attend March meeting
* Policies Review
* Asset Register Review
* Taking forward the Neighbourhood Watch Committee (if/when volunteers received)
* PSPC – Consider how the Parish Council/residents will record incidents/evidence to provide to BDC
* Low Carbon – invite Beverley Rodbard-Hedderwick to the April meeting
* Village (Hall) of the Year 2025
 |
| **24-5/261** | **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** 1. The next **Parish Meeting** will be held on **Monday 10 March 2025** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bradwell
2. Items for inclusion in the agenda to be sent to the Clerk no later than 12 noon on **Friday 28 February 2025.**

**The meeting closed at 9.15pm**  |