

BRADLEYS BOTH **PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Concillor D. Cohn, Chair
Councillor S. Berry
Councillor D. Booth
Councillor V. Dancer (From 7.25pm)
Councillor A. Slade
Councillor S. Wood

Councillor Fairbank –District Council
Margaret Smith, Clerk

6 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Patrick Mulligan – County Council

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – David Cohn

May I first welcome our new parish clerk, Margaret Smith. Mags, as she would like to be known, was our unanimous choice as clerk for the village out of a field of 16 candidates. She started on April 1st.

She has big shoes to fill as I will mention at the end of this report, but all the councillors are confident she will bring strong administrative skills to the village.

I have to report a year of events, minor for the world at large, but significant for our village.

The big one: the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Slowly but surely, and with help of a planning consultant, our draft took shape over the year, culminating in a professionally produced document which reflects all the hard work which our planning group has put into it. It's been more than three years since we started. Along the way we have gradually accumulated skills we never thought we would need, and for the bunch of amateurs that we were I think we deserve a pat on the back.

I would specially mention Cllr Derek Booth for having the original vision and drive to push us on, Cllr Veronicka Dancer for her persistence and skill at assembling and reassembling masses of written material into a readable script, Cllr Steve Wood for his internet and website skills enabling, for the first time, the village to communicate on line. I thank Cllr Andrew Slade for having a strong view at keeping us on track, making sure that the village should be true to its rural identity. I cannot finish our roll call without being very grateful for non-council members David Appleby and Malcolm Taylor for their support, David keeps an eye on our finances, Malcolm's forte is that of proof reading, a much under rated necessity in these days of text speak. I would emphasise that very little money from Parish funds has been used for this work. Just one heck of a lot of time, with the prospect of another year to the finish. Incidentally, this time scale is typical of all councils going through this process.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed their views and opinions on the plan. We have had over 100 responses to our published draft.

One of the themes running through the plan was a concern for road congestion and road safety. For many years the Parish Council has been nipping at North Yorkshire's heels over safety improvements at the A629 junction. We almost got a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road until a more serious accident spot got the funding and we lost any priority in subsequent budget

BRADLEYS BOTH **PARISH COUNCIL**

cuts. However, at long last, two bright street lamps have been erected to try and give more security to those crossing and waiting for the bus.

Grass cutting, or rather the lack of it, raised a lot of worries from the residents. NYCC, in their role of cutting back and passing on the responsibilities to the parishes have all but opted out of any grass cutting. We agreed that the Parish would take over for the sake of at least making a village we could be proud of living in. Unfortunately, it costs, but not a lot: about £1.50 per year average per household. We started late in the season and had some catching up to do.

A while ago we carried out a tree survey on playing fields. Some by Matthew Lane were liable to uproot the boundary wall; others were interfering with the beck. All came down or were pruned. We have replanted to give a varied splash of colour along Matthew Lane, though we are aware that more work needs to be done along the beck. Cllr William Barron took responsibility for organising the tree work. His help has been also invaluable on many matters of maintenance, where he has been able to use his specialist knowledge.

Whilst still on the matter of thanks, all our Parish councillors bring their own special skills to the meetings. Cllr Sam Berry is no exception. Many is the time when we have had to defer to his greater knowledge of farming affairs.

We are grateful to our local councillors Patrick Mulligan and Pat Fairbank. Their years of experience in relating and helping us to understand the wider world of Craven and North Yorkshire has been so important.

The flooding on Boxing Day was a surprise for its ferocity and the damage caused. Residents by the shop again had their basements deluged. Those on Heath Crescent worked hard to divert water away from their properties. The beck is the only route to take the water away. It was blocked by debris and fallen trees and was just unable to cope. We had a meeting with residents, and with North Yorkshire highways in January to try to find causes and solutions. We don't think that we can completely alleviate another disaster from happening, but the council are looking at what help we can expect from our statutory agencies; the Environment Agency, Yorkshire water and NYCC to keep the drains, pipes, culverts and water channels clear as far as the Ings and the river Aire.

I've saved the bad news for last. Mike Tomkins, our parish clerk for 40 years, died in January. I don't think that in the relatively short time I've known him, could I have expected to meet and collaborate with a more hard working and conscientious person. He never did the job for much money. If he had, the residents would have complained long ago at the high cost of his invaluable services. He loved Bradley, and was, in my opinion, Bradley Parish Council. He never hesitated to speak, though the chair, of course, and direct our views on the right path, even if we didn't realise it at the time. He was available at all times to attend to village problems and on-site meetings.

He mucked in. For example, our pavilion refurbishment was on a very tight budget, and he did not feel that the village should pay more than necessary. He did not hesitate to spend his time redecorating it.

We miss him very much, and I can put in my word here because he always, as those of you old hands already know, used to write this Chairman's annual report. I'm sure you can tell that this one is mine.

The council have allocated funds to place a wooden bench and plaque in his memory on the playing fields.

To conclude, in this new Council year and as always, we have many things to attend to. We always welcome residents to our monthly meetings. We hope that with the plentiful publicity surrounding the neighbourhood development plan, and the openness of the village website [and parish council website just starting] we can encourage more people to join our debates and be thinking of participating as councillors in the future.

BRADLEYS BOTH **PARISH COUNCIL**

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Kenning Historical Narrow Boat would like to moor on the canal on the side which states 'no mooring' during the Family Day weekend. Would there be any objections? They have done this in the past. All were in favour.
- Flooding – Flooding had caused a problem to a property on Ings Drive. On contacting Craven District Council the resident was told they couldn't help, other than with sandbags. The resident has since arranged for a gulley to take the water away. Cllr Fairbank advised that a grant is available through Craven District Council and she will get details to the resident.
- Proposed development College Lane area – The Craven DC local plan had highlighted, among other areas, the College Lane site for development. Cllr Booth explained how the CDC plan and Bradley's own Plan differ. To avoid traffic having to cross the village the Bradley Plan had highlighted sites on the western side of the village. The Plan shows a boundary across the field on College Lane splitting the field in two but there is no physical boundary. It is unlikely that this site would be developed. They are only proposals and consultation is still ongoing.

4. REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor Fairbank for Craven District Council

Councillor Fairbank was re-elected in May 2016 and continues to serve the Community. We thank her for her commitment over the last year.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD

There was no other business brought forward.

The meeting was closed by the Chair at 7.40pm