

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BRAILSFORD AND EDNASTON HELD  
VIA ZOOM 5 MAY 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillors P Laughlin (Chair), K Cragg, K Kerr, S Cowdery, E Tice

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 8.5.19**

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 8.5.19 were approved and signed by the Chair.

**ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

**Chairman Councillor Pat Laughlin**

The work of the Parish Council, including the ability to hold an Annual Parish meeting was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic as, unfortunately, have many other activities over the last year.

Our Council has continued to meet monthly via Zoom throughout the lockdown, and we have continued to work with our County and District Councillors to make progress and speed-up the introduction of improvement relating to key issues for the Parish:

**The allotments:** Following the Notice to Quit issued by the Landlord to the Allotment Group, we applied to Derbyshire Dales District Council to make the village allotments an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

Unfortunately, the Council refused our application. Therefore, despite our ongoing support for the Group, lobbying and a search for a suitable alternative site we were unable to save the allotments. I am personally particularly sad that this important amenity has been lost to the village at a time when the importance of local food production and the benefits of access to open space have been so clearly demonstrated.

**Flooding in Brailsford:** The Council has attempted to maintain a dialogue with Severn Trent throughout the lockdowns and to stress to them the importance of finding a resolution to the known problems, particularly runoff in heavy rain causing standing water on the A52; and the ongoing issues of satisfactory sewage discharge. We have been supported in this by the County Council and most recently by our MP. I am hopeful from their last report that some progress is being made and the problem areas now identified.

**Speeding Traffic:** This remains a serious problem in both Brailsford and Ednaston. Meetings and further discussions have been held with the County Council and the Police. Some traffic calming measures have been proposed for Ednaston which are under consideration and we have identified Ednaston as a potential site to the 20 is Plenty campaign.

For Brailsford we have continued to lobby the County Council for an additional SID (Speed Indicator Device) so that a warning sign is available at both ends of the village. The Parish Council has budgeted to pay for the sign but has to seek approval for its installation from the County Council. Mire regular speed surveys by the Police have also been requested.

**Footpaths:** Following repeated requests to both County and District Councils there has been some clearing and cleaning to improve the condition of our footpaths. As a result of ongoing discussions with the District Council, it is hoped that planning conditions which required the improvement of footpaths from the Cotton Yard estate into the village and onto the Green (for access to the GP surgery) will now be enforced.

Some problems with footpath usage result from overhanging hedges and we would ask everyone in both villages to ensure that hedges are cut back regularly and do not impede pedestrians.

**Brailsford Park and Public Open Space:** The Parish Council has continued to provide funds for ongoing maintenance of equipment and improvements at the Park – probably our most important public open space - and for other open areas such Alley Walk. Some such as addition and relocation of benches have followed requests from residents. I should like to thank all the volunteers who help on a regular basis with the maintenance and inspections of equipment sited on the Park.

**Keep Our Villages Tidy:** Unfortunately, there have been incidents of illegal fly tipping across the Parish. The Parish Council can help with removal by making regular reports but we cannot prevent this happening. Generally, largely due to the sterling efforts of Cllr Sue Cowdery and her team, our villages remain litter-free.

**Crime and Vandalism:** As with other villages in Derbyshire Dales these problems generally remain very low key but incidents such as the break-ins at the Church and the theft of catalytic converters from cars do happen. The Parish Council continues to lobby the Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for a more active presence in our Parish. We hope that the new appointment (post 6 May) will take a proactive stance on rural policing generally.

**Brailsford Institute:** The Parish Council continues to support the Institute Committee with the work it is undertaking to determine the future of this important community asset. We assisted with the production of the recent survey and continue to hold a maintenance and refurbishment fund.

**Neighbourhood Plan:** During the year we were able to persuade the District Council to formally approve our Neighbourhood Plan which will be going to referendum tomorrow. This has been many years in the making and has been supported by input from many residents. I hope that it is accepted by the community and I believe it will be a tool which can be used successfully to help maintain the integrity of the village and promote village life.

**Xmas and Community Events**

As a result of the lockdown introduced in March 2020, we were forced to cancel our planned 75- year VE Day celebration events. These were to be held jointly with the Institute Committee with the focus on welcoming those who have recently come to Brailsford and provided an opportunity to promote the village community and village life. Plans to defer to event until the autumn also proved unworkable when the UK was hit by a 2<sup>nd</sup> Covid-19 wave. We hope that as things open up over the summer we may be able to find a new date.

Our plans for Xmas were similarly disrupted, although we were able to instal three community Xmas trees at key sites in the villages. These were well-received and a plan is already in place to increase the number of trees in 2021 and (hopefully) to make their installation and decoration a community event along with other festive activity. The Council will be able to return to face-to-face meetings in June 2021 and we welcome the attendance of local residents.

As with all Annual meetings I should like to thank my fellow Councillors for their work and support, particularly over the last few months. During this period we saw the resignation of Irene Longstaff a longstanding member of the Council and a former Chairman and Doug Chadwick. Today will be the last meeting for Sue Cowdery who has worked tirelessly to promote our policies on mitigating climate change, introducing plans to help village wildlife, and on keeping our rural environment beautiful.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for 2020/2021.

**BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2021/2022**

RESOLVED to note the agreed Council Tax Precept of £18947,305 for 2021/2022.

**DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

None

**OTHER PARISH MATTERS**

None

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Signed ..... Chairman

Date .....