

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BRAILSFORD AND EDNASTON HELD
4 MAY 2022 BRAILSFORD INSTITUTE**

PRESENT: Councillors Tice (Chair), K Cragg, K Kerr, L Thompson, S Thompson, G Woodhouse

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 5.5.21

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 5.5.21 were approved and will be signed by the Chair.

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Chairman Councillor Pat Laughlin

First my apologies for my non-attendance this evening. I rarely miss meetings (with the exception of illness – rare and unexpected work events) but on this occasion I am following up a personal and family commitment. 2021 had begun with another lockdown and last year's Annual Meeting was affected by the legacy of a further Covid-19 restrictions. In accordance with national guidance our PC meetings had been held remotely with the return of face to face meeting only possible in June 2021. Although our Minutes are published I believe this has severely affected our ability to communicate with the residents, especially newcomers to the Parish.

Neighbourhood Plan

On a positive note it was very pleasing to start the new Parish Council year with the news that our Neighbourhood Plan was now an official document following its approval by a significant majority in the May 2021 Parish referendum. The Plan is now a tool which the Parish Council (and others) can use in its consideration of future development in the Parish.

New Councillors

Although regrettably Irene Longstaff and Sue Cowdery resigned from the Council we were pleased to welcome Emma Tice, Katie Kerr and Gillian Woodhouse as new Councillors. Each brings a particular experience to the Council and have been very active members during the year.

GP Surgery

Although not within the direct remit of the Council – as direct issues relating the Surgery lie with the Practice Patient Group (PPG) we began to hear concerns from residents about the services available at the GP surgery. This facility has been recognised as a primary and essential asset to the Parish in all our surveying and is noted as such in our Neighbourhood Plan.

Discussions were held with the Chairman of the PPG about these issues and we learned that a review by the national Care Quality Commission (CQC) would be taking place. The CQC reported in summer 2021 and identified a number of failings which needed to be overcome (including management arrangements) if the surgery was to remain open. We were therefore pleased to hear that a local NHS body – South Dales Health Group (SDHG) – had been approved to take over its running from August 2021.

The activity of the surgery was kept under review by Councillors who maintained a regular contact with the Chairman of the PPG and with the Clinician leading SDHG. A more favourable report was received in November 2021 but complaints were still being made and concerns raised with members of the Council. These were referred to SDHG and in response a presentation was made to the Parish Council at its November meeting. In this discussion SDHG tabled their plans for the future which included a requirement for a new surgery – most likely to be funded from potential S106 monies arising from future development in the Parish.

As a result of this new information, Councillors felt that this plan should be shared with residents and a Public Meeting was called (as soon as the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions made this possible). The meeting was held on 6 April 2022. Over 100 people attended and the notes of the meeting have been published. Numerous concerns and complaints were raised, particularly about the quality of primary care on offer and the operation of the dispensary. SDHG related these issues to the difficulty of recruiting and maintaining staff.

Those attending (from the Parish) also questioned the need for a new surgery and particularly the proposal for its funding.

While recognising the difficulty of recruiting trained staff (which is a known national issue) our Councillors consider that more needs to be done in terms of leadership and management as well as the availability of more clinicians. We are therefore continuing to pursue responses from SDHG and have sought help and advice from our local MP, especially relating to funding issues.

Community Events in Brailsford

The continuation of the Covid-19 restrictions prevented us from promoting a major community event in 2021 to replace the cancelled VE celebrations planned for 2020. All Councillors felt that a community event was important particularly as a venue to bring together old and new residents of the Parish as so many new homes have now been occupied. It was therefore agreed to support a major event around the national plan to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The planning is being undertaken jointly with the Committee of Brailsford & Ednaston Institute and a wider group of volunteers.

The Council also promoted 'Xmas in Brailsford' sponsoring 3 Xmas trees and a number of events throughout December which were well received and attended. My thanks to the Councillors who led this work.

A Sustainable Parish

The protection of our environment has remained a major theme for the Council. One visible effect is the tree planting which has taken place at Brailsford Park; and more is planned.

Unfortunately, we experienced a series of fly tipping events in various locations throughout the year. Clear-ups were supported by Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC) and by the continued enthusiasm of a team of volunteer litter pickers led by former councillor Sue Cowdery.

We have also continued to pursue Severn Trent for the instigation of remedial works to mitigate the regular flash flooding on Luke Lane and along the A52 which can create dangerous road conditions as well as threatening property.

Councillors and a number of residents believe that this problem has been exacerbated by the new development and inadequate upgrading of the local drainage management systems – a theme which Severn Trent refute. We engaged the support of our MP and the County Council's Flood Risk Management team to review these issues and now have data from Severn Trent which we can use in the consideration of any future developments proposed for the village. In correspondence Severn Trent has recognised that its infrastructure will need to be upgraded if any further development is approved for Brailsford.

We also continue to ask DDDC to implement more rigorous requirements for energy saving measures, such as high standard insulation, and the introduction of renewable energy technologies in all new developments.

A Safer Parish

Speeding through the Parish and in particular through Brailsford & Ednaston villages remains a major concern for many residents.

Our campaign for an additional speed monitoring sign – preferably a SID (Speed Indication Device) to be installed on the A52 - has continued and there are now some more favourable responses from DCC, including the potential availability of some funding. An application for the Parish has been submitted.

The Council welcomed the completion of the new right turn refuge on the A52 at the junction of Derby Lane – there have been a series of accidents at this location.

We have also worked with Cllr S Bull to campaign for more road safety measures, particularly on Luke Lane (potentially dangerous parking) and in Ednaston village where pedestrians have experienced a number of near misses. Site meetings have been held and various measures are under consideration.

Hedge cutting at key points such as the junction of Luke Lane and the A52 and along Luke Lane itself has been instigated in order to allow better access on pavements and improve pedestrian safety: and as a result of correspondence from the Council and lobbying from one Councillor Cadent have now upgraded the infrastructure on Luke Lane to prevent the potential for further dangerous gas leaks following damage to 'valves' during grass cutting.

Following ongoing complaints, the Council has also followed up with further measures to prevent dog fouling especially around the Institute and at Brailsford Park and the children's play area; and we continue to appeal to dog owners/walkers to be considerate of others.

Connection with External Bodies

During the last year our Council again registered concerns with DDDC about:

- the mechanisms for the approval of planning applications and the enforcement of conditions and recognition of the Parish Council's views (now through the Neighbourhood Plan)
- the waste collection system – a number of longstanding complaints were recorded – particularly in Ednaston
- the implementation of Local Plan conditions such as high standard energy conservation measures in new housing
- Timely communication from Officers when issues are raised.

As a result the Leader of DDDC attended a meeting with our Local Councillor giving all Councillors an opportunity to air their concerns. Following the meeting these matters were investigated and it was agreed that there would be more regular dialogue with our DDDC Councillor.

We also maintain regular contact with our County Councillor, Steve Bull, and very much value his input. In the year this resulted in some long awaited investigations and road drainage measures which have significantly reduced the impact of flooding along the A52.

The Future

A key activity for the year will be to begin the process of refreshing/updating the Neighbourhood Plan with a new all-Parish survey

We will be following on with key campaigns:

- Ensuring the future of the GP surgery
- Promoting more road safety and anti-speeding measures including the acquisition of a SID
- Ensuring that problems with infrastructure – such as drainage – are taken into account in any consideration of new development
- Working to protect and enhance the both the environment and local amenity for all residents.

It is also my personal objective that our Council is recognised as a 'Quality Council' which is a nationally known award. Finally thanks to all colleagues and to our Clerk for their support throughout the year.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for 2021/2022.

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2022/2023

RESOLVED to note the agreed Council Tax Precept of £20000.

DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

None

OTHER PARISH MATTERS

None

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Signed Chairman

Date