



Bramshaw Annual Parish Assembly

Minutes of the Bramshaw Annual Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 15 May 2019 at 7:00pm in the Community Room of Bramshaw Village Hall

Councillors Present: Sally Day – Chair (SD), Sue Bennison (SB), Martin Vann (MV), Graham Spiller (GS), Cllr Diane Andrews - NFDC (DA), and Cllr Edward Heron - HCC (EH)

Apologies: Kay Harrison (KH), and Jenny Watts (JW)

Plus: Melanie Camilleri – Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer (MC). Over thirty members of the public attended.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT (Cllr Sally Day)

Cllr SD welcomed members of the public and introduced the Councillors attending.

Traffic Calming

The most important event in the Parish and the Council this year was the implementation of the traffic calming scheme by Hampshire County Council on the B3079 through Brook and Bramshaw. There have been wild rumours as to the cost exceeding hundreds of thousands of pounds. We have just been given notice of the final figure of £71K. This includes all the work; the development and designs, the consultation, construction, signs and lining. BPC contributed £2K from Parish funds which will be seen in next year’s accounts.

The majority of feedback about the scheme has been positive and certainly when I drive along the route the traffic is slower. The pinch points slow the traffic down particularly at busy periods.

Fritham Broadband

The working group seeking a solution to internet provision in Fritham has determined that there is no economically viable way forward with BT/Openreach, however, a small company called Green Co has offered a solution based on microwave transmission from a mast near the A31 to a high point within the village, and then a daisy chain link between houses. The next step will be a small test installation to prove the technical viability. Green Co is currently trying to secure the necessary bandwidth to get a signal at the A31 mast.

Planning

Planning is one of our most important roles and Sue Bennison is heading up our response to applications but, of course, decisions are made by the whole Council at Council meetings.

One issue which arose last year was the National Grid’s proposal to bury the power lines at Hale Purlieu. This proposal has now been put on hold, but we will keep a watching brief. If an application were to be registered with the NPA it would have major implications for our Parish because of the huge increase of heavy traffic passing through Brook on to the B3078. To date, no application has been made but we will certainly notify Parishioners through the Bramshaw Telegraph if that happens in the future.

It is always worth attending a Parish Council meeting to make representations if you have an application before the NPA.

Lengthsman Scheme

As a Parish we take part in the lengthsman scheme. This is a scheme funded by HCC’s Highways department. The lengthsman can undertake certain maintenance in the Parish. Recently he has cleaned all three telephone boxes and re varnished the notice boards. He can clean road signs. Contact our clerk with any tasks you think the lengthsman could do. He is relatively flexible, however, he

cannot clear roadside ditches for which the landowner is responsible. Neither can he clear brambles as that is a FC task which has to be authorised by Natural England. If brambles become a hazard for road users then you should contact our clerk and we can take it up with the FC who are quick to act where safety is concerned. It is helpful if Photographs are sent with any complaint.

The lengthsman has recently made the bench at Brook Green safe and we are currently obtaining quotes for a full repair to be undertaken.

One task the lengthsman is prepared to undertake is clearing blocked footpaths in the Parish so again contact our clerk if you find them blocked making sure you give clear directions as to which footpath you are referring. I hold the Council's brief for footpaths so you could always ring me direct.

Fritham Post Box

We have recently had a response from Royal Mail reaffirming the decision not to replace the stolen Fritham post box. One reason they give is that there have been so many local boxes stolen recently!

We understand that our local MP Julian Lewis is always keen to keep Royal Mail up to the mark and therefore suggest that we all write as individuals to Julian Lewis at 3 The Parade, Cadnam SO40 2NG or The House of Commons, Westminster SW1A 0AA. He does not have an email address! The Parish Council will consider at the meeting next week what further action they can take.

Speedwatch

Along side the traffic calming we are trying to encourage Speedwatch. We jointly own Speedwatch equipment with Copythorne and Minstead. We have tried to recruit volunteers through the Bramshaw Telegraph but so far, even though parishioners complain about the speed of local traffic, we have had a disappointing response.

Grants

As a Parish Council we are keen to support local projects. We provided new pony proof bins at Nomansland Green which is surprisingly part of Bramshaw Parish.

We recently gave a grant of £1000 towards a new roller for Bramshaw Cricket Club. We are always happy to consider grant applications.

NF Books

Finally, we have recently started to turn out the BPC cupboard in the Village Hall – a major project. In it we have found approximately 50 books, many about the New Forest, some old, some new. The question is what to do with them. My proposal would be to ask the Village Hall Trustees if we can have an accessible shelf in the village hall with a record book and an honesty system for people to sign out if they wish to borrow the. Another proposal would be for a local "historian" in the community to curate the collection with lending to parishioners. This subject will be on the agenda for the next parish council meeting if anyone is interested.

Close

Remember, we are here to work for you. If you have concerns about Parish matters then contact us. Our contact details are on our website.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT (Melanie Camilleri)

- Precept for 2019/20 set as £7,000
- Balance sheet @31 March 2019: £10,489.08
- Income and expenditure for 2019/20 below £25K threshold, so we are exempt from an external audit. Internal audit taking place 16 May
- Key expenditure for 2018/19 = £1,405 on grants to the community using our powers under S137 of The Local Government Act 1972. £1,000 alone awarded to Bramshaw Cricket Club for new pitch roller). See S137 Policy on the Parish Council website

HCC REPORT (Cllr Edward Heron)

- Cost of traffic calming roadworks £71K. He appreciates a lot of money, but not so when compared to counter-costs of accident compensation. He will confirm the cost to move-back the bollards (initially installed too close due to contractor error) was not borne by HCC
- Potholes – encouraged everyone to report online and he promises HCC will fix <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>
- Rising animal casualties – encouraged concerned members of the public to write a personal letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner

NFDC REPORT (Cllr Diane Andrews)

DA delivered a report on her work of the council over the past year:-

- Late 2015, Bob Jackson became CEO and after a year of settling started to plan changes in the council, making it more streamlined and efficient. This year we begin to see the fruition of his plans.
- When DA was Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee 8 years ago, she was appalled to see the small interest the council received for the money held on deposit and suggested that we should invest in property and use it for private rental to bring in better returns. She was told with no uncertainty that councils don't do that. Fast forward to 2018 and a portfolio for Local Economic Development, Property and Innovation was introduced. The council has been quietly investing in property and land.

This has been timely with the inception in April 2017 of the HOMELESSNESS & ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY. We are now building our own hostels on our own land to address the problem of street sleepers and the homeless reducing the need for B&B which is expensive and not fit for purpose, especially for single mothers. These hostels are a real improvement. The Council is not just responding to the governments initiative it is taking it to a new level of responsibility.

- Appletree Court is 100 years old this year and comes with the many problems associated with an old building. Whole floors have been redesigned with state of the art working spaces and break out areas. Smarter working was introduced and is bringing huge change with hot desking, Flexi working from home and the housing team now have laptops to input their work while on visits with no need to return to Appletree court. The 24 HR CCTV and the customers service centre have been relocated to a new control room which can be turned into a stand alone emergency centre for council and police should it be needed.
- Next year a new Website will change the way that you as residents can contact the council and you will have a 24/7 digital access to everything that you might need, putting YOU First.
- These are just a few of the physical changes, but behind this is an energy, a feeling of progress, which has reinvigorated the staff.

PCSO RICHARD WILLIAMS (guest speaker)

Speedwatch

- Gave a talk on Speedwatch initiative (and evidence gathering tool) plus successes.
- The kit has been purchased by NFDC, and has been used on Roger Penny Way. He'd like to use on road outside the Bramshaw shop.
- Encouraged volunteers to get involved – contact PCSO Richard Williams on 07554 775469. He's happy to start as early as 6am

Scams

Increasingly used on vulnerable people. Throughout May and June he's looking to visit as many of the more vulnerable people in our community to talk to them about being scammed and about how best to stop it. So if you know someone who would benefit from a visit and a chat then please email richard.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

JENNIFER SUTTON FROM NATIONAL TRUST NORTHERN COMMONS (guest speaker)

- 150 hectare site gifted/bought 10 years ago, which has since been restored by NT to heathland
- 18k trees have been recently planted
- Marked increase in different bird species – 128 varieties (prev 40)
- Signage ‘Do the Right Thing’ encourages owners to keep their dogs on leads, in order to protect ground-nesting birds and sheep. They’ve seen fewer sheep incidents as a result.
- Strong links with schools and ‘Forest School’ education
- They organise a whole range of activities, ranging from Coffee Mornings to Big Walks. Sign-up to their Newsletter to find out more.

JENNA MCCULLOCH FROM CHANGING PLACES (guest speaker)

- Gave an informative talk on the Consortium Changing Places (through Muscular Dystrophy charity), which is run primarily by volunteers
- Changing Places is a toilet/changing facility equipped with hoist and adequate space to cater for a child/adult plus their carer.
- There are only 14K facilities in the whole of the UK. The closest being Lymington.
- Jenna’s friend Sarah has provided inspiration for her fund-raising initiative (£20k) to install a Changing Places facility at The Royal Oak pub. Sarah’s 8 year old son has CP, is a full-time wheelchair user, and Sarah is often left with no choice but to change her son on a dirty toilet floor. Jenna and Sarah want the New Forest to be accessible to everyone.
- This facility at The Royal Oak pub has to be a purpose-built as their current facilities can not accommodate. Planning Application will be submitted as some point. The pub will subsequently finance and manage cleaning and maintenance of the facility.
- Cll DA suggested that Grants may be available from NFDC as well as HCC.

SD OPENED THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC

SD opened the meeting to the public for Q&As. It was agreed the following matters will be added to the Annual Parish Council Meeting Agenda (taking place 28 May 2019):-

- Installation of Dragons Teeth
- Parking of cars on verge outside Village Hall creating an obstruction for drivers; creating accident risk