

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Pavilion on 18th May 2023 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor R Collins (Chairman), Councillor M Davis, Councillor C Knapman, Councillor E Miles and the clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Holt.

RESOLVED: that the apology from Councillor Holt be accepted.

2. Approval of Annual Report from 2019/2020

In the absence of Minutes from the last Annual Parish Meeting Members received a copy of the annual report from 2019/2020, the last Annual Parish Meeting held prior to the Corona virus outbreak.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

3. Chairmans Report

To receive a report from the Chairman on Parish activities over the past year.

Cllr Collins thanked Mr Ken Hornett, Lee Kane Iain Armstrong for their service on the council and the work they have done for the community over many years. Cllr Collins also thanked the pervious clerk, Mrs Sarah Gaeta for her work with the council over the past two years. Cllr Collins detailed the close working relationship with District Councillor Siddall who provided regular updates to the Parish Council including the district's land supply and planning issues.

It was noted the community support for the upgraded playground was outstanding and the community now have the use of excellent fitness and playground equipment.

Topics the Council will be focussing on in the coming year include reducing speeding within the village, broken fences, rubbish and fly tipping, hedgerows, pot holes, poor road surfaces, planning applications and general community maintenance.

4. Public Forum

No matters were raised.

5. Closure

The meeting was closed at 7.55pm

Great Braxted Parish Council Chairman's Report

Councillor Richard Collins

May 2024

The Parish Council has five members, plus the Parish Clerk (who is also our Responsible Financial Officer). Council meetings are held every two months on a Tuesday although we do, when required, meet at other times should urgent matters arise requiring our input.

First thing to note is my gratitude to my fellow Parish Councillors for their contributions and input throughout the past year. Following the May 2023 elections the Parish Council now comprises: Richard Collins (Chair), Craig Knapman (Vice-Chair), Michelle Davis, Lesley Holt and Ed Miles.

Our clerk is Lynda Townend who does a great job in keeping us all up to speed and informed on our roles and responsibilities of the Parish Council.

Our attending District Councillor, Richard Siddall, is now Leader of Maldon District Council but he continues to provide timely and valuable input to ourselves on the activities and progress of the wider District. Most recently he confirmed Maldon District's decision to support Great Braxted Parish Council in its planning objection to Essex County Council's latest Minerals Extraction Plan and its possible impact on the Parishes of Great and Little Braxted.

The nomination of sites within the Parishes was also objected to by many local residents. We wait to learn of the next steps by Essex County Council, most probably later this year.

Combining energy conservation with the restoration of the Pavilion was the 2023/24 'big project' for the combined team of Parish Councillors and Pavilion Management members.

Having raised (and now spent) more than £80,000 on the Pavilion thus far we have been able to fully externally insulate and clad the building, insulate the roof void, replace all lighting with low energy LED units, replace all heating with low energy heaters, upgrade all aspects of fire safety, replace the old curtains with shutters and upgrade certain elements of the kitchen and its facilities.

The drainage of water from ground around the building was significantly improved and the car park was renovation and part extended. Footpaths were improved and new gates fitted.

Feedback from the clubs using the Pavilion is that they are spending less on heating the building (as measured by £1 coins put in the meter!). A big 'Thank You' goes to Cllr Craig Knapman for his personal efforts, focus and contribution to this project – the results of which are now for all to enjoy.

In December 2023 the Parish Council won an award from the Dept for Leveling Up which is to be used on 'Phase 2' of the Energy Saving and Improvement plan for the Pavilion. This comprises: Extending the hall at the container end (to create a store cupboard for chairs & tables), replacing

the roof felt and improving the roof structure, adding solar panels and batteries to reduce the ongoing operating costs and completing the extension of the car park beyond the new store.

We have planted 5 new trees within the field to offset the carbon loss from the old and severely diseased oak which had to be removed from the centre of the car park, and the Council continued to invest in improving the fencing and gates that surround the field.

Moving forward the Parish Council is expecting to become the Trustee of the 'Village Hall Charity', this being the formal name of our Pavilion. This takes the formal Trustees responsibility away from individual Pavilion Committee members and places it with the Parish Council (not the councillors though, who will of course come and go over time). The Pavilion Management Committee does however continue to be totally responsible for the day to day operation, care and maintenance of the Pavilion – just as they do today.

Should any member of the community wish to join this vitally important committee then I would direct you to enquire via Sarah Mann who is the Pavilion's booking clerk and committee member.

As we continue to pay for speeding control services (and catch speeding vehicles, the drivers of which receive 3 points, fines and/or speed awareness training) the Parish Council also co-opted an interested local resident to assist with the selection and placement of speed camera and speed awareness signage throughout the centre of the village.

First impressions indicate this is having a noted positive effect on slowing down through traffic, so a big 'Thank You' goes to our Village Traffic Control Manager.

In summary, over and above the major refurbishment project this past year, speeding, broken fences and gates, rubbish and fly tipping, grass cutting, unruly hedgerows, pot holes, poor road surfaces, planning applications and general community care and maintenance continue to occupy the time of your Parish Council representatives and their Clerk.

This list never goes away and this coming year there are no doubt going to be more tasks added. I know your Parish Council will tackle them with the same enthusiasm and 'can do' mindset that keeps the 'Great' in Great Braxted.