

Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on the 17th April 2019 In Brigstock Village Hall commencing at 7pm

Present

Mrs S Wilks (chair), Mr C Johnson, Mrs T. Towns, Mrs E Beirne, Mrs M Smith, Mr W Millen, Mrs Searle, Mrs J Lemmy, Mr K Motion, Mr J Marsh, Mr S Bennett, Mr Cardwell, plus one

1 Apologies

Mr S Malcolm sent his apologies via e-mail

2 Minutes of previous meeting and issues arising

The previous minutes (17th April 2018) were read and signed as a true record of the meeting

3 Chairman's report

Welcome to the annual parish meeting 2019.

First of all I am pleased to report that the Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted and now forms part of planning policy. We can be reassured that there will be no large scale developments in the village for the next few years at least.

Secondly, we now have a marvelous Multi-use Games Area. The facility was officially opened by Ann Dickson on 23rd March and attended by the leader of East Northants Council, Wendy Brackenbury and her husband. It was good to see a crowd of villagers who came out to support this community event. It is gratifying to see that the MUGA is being well-used mainly by our village children, but I have also seen a wheelchair basketball player!

Once again the village fireworks display in November went without a hitch. The fireworks committee decided that this year some of the funds in the reserve should be distributed to the organisations involved. Volunteers were asked which organisations they would like the money to go to as an indication for the proportions involved.

Our Christmas Advent Calendar event proved to be just as popular as always and there were some lovely window displays. My favourite was the one featuring penguins in the Falkland Islands.

The village litter pick was well attended again this year. Thanks to William Millen for organizing the event and all those volunteers who turned up to help to collect a veritable mountain of rubbish. At least we can keep this little corner of our county tidy.

Although Brigstock is a low crime area it is a pity that we don't get more visible policing. The cutbacks have meant that contact with our community policemen and women is being lost. We only usually see them when something has gone wrong. There has been some discussion about the use of CCTV and the benefits or otherwise of installing it.

The Meadow is much admired and used as a community space and we are fortunate that John Croker looks after the outfield for us so well. More of the bank has been cleared and children from playgroup helped to sow some wildflower seeds which we hope will look better than stinging nettles. Thanks too to Mr Marsh who cuts the pocket park for us and keeps it tidy. It is a great help.

Unfortunately we are suffering the knock on effects of the county council reorganization in that the local elections have been postponed until 2020. What effect moving to a unitary authority will have we have yet to find out. Let's hope it leads to a more efficient and better run council. Cutbacks have meant that we have lost many of the saltbins in the village over the winter. Funding new ones from our precept would be very costly.

We are just completing a transport survey to see where there is a possible need for additional transport and my thanks go to Emma Bierne for helping with that. It looks as if we shall be without a bus service by the end of the year so there will be no public transport available in the village. We are very lucky in having several drivers from the volunteer car service in the village but this only caters for the elderly and disabled. Most people have to rely on a car to get to work because most residents work away from the village. Older children have to be bussed to school. It would be good to reduce our dependency on the car but how will we do this in a rural village like Brigstock?

The group involved in the Partnership Approach to Catchment Area Management of Harper's Brook continues to meet and explore practical approaches to flood mitigation. There are a couple of local projects that look promising in this respect.

You will be pleased to know that the new village map is finally being prepared and should be in place shortly in the previous location by the church.

Thank you very much to all my fellow councillors who have attended meetings and lent support. Nigel Searle has once again put in far more hours on our behalf than he is paid for. Perhaps he will have a quieter life this coming year. I thank him for all his dedication to the parish council and the village. The clerk's job is a thankless one at times but I hope he knows how much we appreciate him.

Last year we didn't get a mention in the village of the year competition but, undaunted, we have applied again this year because we know what a brilliant village this is. The application process gives us a chance to put down on paper all the great things that are going on in the village for every age group and to celebrate what a lovely community we live in. There are so many people in the village who are willing to give their time to running the many organisations we have here. David Cameron got it wrong in my opinion when he talked about the Big Society. We need to nurture the small communities and encourage people to take part and work together to create a community to be proud of and proud to be part of.

Finally, I have managed to write a report without mentioning Brexit

4 Brigstock Consolidated Charities Accounts

The accounts were tabled and are attached to these notes. Historic accounts are available in the charities section of the parish council website

5 Public Forum

There was concern raised by a resident at the removal of the salt bin in Old Dry Lane by NCC. There had been correspondence between by the resident and our Tom Pursglove MP who had contacted NCC on the subject.

NCC had removed 9 grit bins in the village last year. The cost to replace and maintain them would have been in the order of £2,000:00 plus in year one, there were other issues such as legality, maintenance, safety, and who would do the annual salt replenishment.

The chair instructed the clerk to contact NCC to see what can be done, and to add the issue onto the May parish council agenda

6 Any Other Business

None

7. Date of next meeting

April 2020

Meeting closed at 7:28

BRIGSTOCK CONSOLIDATED CHARITIES

ACCOUNTS 1.2.2018 - 31.1.2019

Brought Forward:	Current Account	1872.9	
	Investment Account		1686.58
RECEIPTS:			
Dividends	1476.81		
Rents	984.45		
	2461.26	4334.16	
PAYMENTS:			
Insurance	117.6		
Water payment	170		
Admin	50		
	337.6	3996.56	
GRANTS:			
Poor	300		
St Andrew's Church	530.92		
1987 Scheme	800		
	1630.92	2365.64	
Current Account	2365.64		
Investment Account			1699.16
	2365.64		