MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRAILES PARISH COUNCIL

MONDAY 12th DECEMBER AT 7.00pm IN THE PAVILION, BRAILES

Present: Cllr Cole Cllr Massey

Cllr Appleton Cllr Todd

Cllr Vallance

The Clerk and 3 members of the public

Apologies – Cllr Barker, Cllr Ivin

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| Disclosure of Interests.  Members are asked to declare personal interests in any item on the Agenda. You are reminded that the Code of Conduct, which took effect from August 28th 2012, provides that if you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under discussion you should withdraw from the room and not seek improperly to influence a decision in the matter.  Approve and sign the Minutes of the 12th December meeting, to agree any apologies.  Proposed by Cllr Vallance, 2nded by Cllr Todd , agreed by all.  To agree to co-opt Anne Sayers on to the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Appleton, 2nded by Cllr Vallance, agreed by all. |  |
| 1. Update from last month.  * Letter sent to PCC Office regarding the speeding issue in Brailes. – No response has been received. * Letter of complaint sent to SDC regarding the decision making process that led to the Gate Inn getting planning permission for change of use from a pub to residential granted. A response has been received from John Careford, head of planning at SDC, stating that he reviewed the processes and investigated the PC’s complaint, however he felt that the decision was reasonable. He did state that SDC was going to conduct a review of the Core Strategy in respect of our comments on CS25. * Street signs bought for the ends of Henbrook Lane. * Cllr Vallance laid the 2 wreaths on behalf of the Parish Council on Remembrance Sunday. * The available councilors met on the 5th November to meet with the 3 people who had put themselves forward to become a Parish Councilor. They were all fantastic candidates, and would all make fine Parish Councillors, and those councillors present decided on the person who they thought would make the best fit on the Parish Council to complement the current Councillors. | clerk  clerk |
| 1. Reports from Sub-committees   Flooding –  Ken Taylor from the Brailes Flood Group reported that there had need 232mm of rain in October and November.  Graham Marley and Ken Taylor met with Mark Banning from WCC Flood Team. The looked at the silting under the bridge, which has increased in the past 2 years, and also at the wall opposite the Orchard Close bridge, which slows the flow of the brook down, causing water volume to back up. They went out round the fields to the 99 steps to look at the copse that can flood under heavy rain, and to look at the leaky dams that SAFAG has installed. Ken was keen to try to get a view and observe the leaky dams upstream of the village under heavy rain and provide statistics on their performance.  Martin Cole added that the reason that he and John Walton had requested that no more leaky dams are installed on their land is in no way due to performance or lack of, but merely due to difficulties installing them due to the steepness of the banks of the brook.  Graham Marley also reported that Mark Banning was quite positive about the thought of raising the edges of the brook banks to contain the water until the subject of funding it came up – an engineers report is needed to assess the work required. There is a possibility of using SiL money to fund this if it hasn’t already been used to fund the Property Flood Defences (PFD). Proposal to ask Mark Banning for clarification on this – Proposed by Cllr Appleton, 2nded by Cllr Todd, agreed by all.  Sustainable Brailes  Cllr Appleton updated the PC on Sustainable Brailes. They are holding their energy event on the 28th Jan from 10am-4pm. It will be in parentship with Low Carbon Warwickshire and aims to give inspiration, incentives and save money on energy efficiency. It is promoting a circular economy of reduce, re-use, recycle.  As part of the initiative Cllr Appleton has asked to PC to purchase a thermal imaging camera. This will be loaned out to householders to use to see if there are areas of their homes that let heat out or are cold sopts inside the home. Those without the capability to use the camera themselves as they lack the technology will receive help in doing this from the Sustainable Braiels team. It was proposed to purchase 2 cameras, one to work with IOS software, one with Android software and also a damp sensor to try to help to reduce damp in homes as well. The cameras are in the region of £250 and the damp sensor is around £50. Proposed by Cllr Massey 2nded by Cllr Cole, agreed by all. Spend capped at £550 total.  Play Area  Selina from the Play Area fund raising group attended the meeting to update the PC on the Play Area upgrades. There are now several parent volunteers who are helping to fund raise for the upgrades which are happening in 3 phases:   1. Repair and paint the existing equipment that was flagged in the play area safety inspection. The horse and the roundabout were refurbished and re-painted, and the matting was replaced. This was funded by the maintenance grant from the Parish Council and from a donation of £15,000 from the Free School Foundation. 2. Next year an embankment slide will be installed with the remainder of this money, along with extra grants: the co-op initiative currently has the Play Area as one of its options, there has been a successful grant allocation of £10,000 from Lottery funding, as well as Bruce Wakeman – a wheel chair charity has offered to pay for ½ of the cost of an in-ground trampoline. 3. Phase 3 is to add more inclusive equipment:   A basket swing  An eggcup spinner  An in-ground trampoline.  Other fund raising initiatives were a Christmas wreath workshop that Selina ran which raised £300  A silent disco is planned as well as other fund raisers, but they are still £6,000 short.  Cllr Appleton praised Selina for all of the hard work that she, and the other fund raisers were doing, and suggested that the Free School Foundation might be willing to donate the remaining £6,000 as the had previously suggested that they would match fund other donations.   * Village Hall   Cllr Cole updated the PC on the VH that the electricity had increased from £2,000-£4,000 but there seems to be a mistake in the contract which is ongoing.  The VH committee are having to increase their prices again as they are struggling to meet the outgoings, it is estimated that ½ of all village halls will have to cease in the current economic crisis.  There is the possibility that the insurance will cover the cost of the subsidence in the loos and kitchen in the Pavillion. | Clerk |
| 3 .Update from Cllr Barker and Cllr Whalley-Hoggins |  |
| 4.Other matters to discuss:   * To formally acknowledge that the potential financial burden of Judicial Review of the planning application at the Gate Inn is too much for the Parish Council to consider this a viable course of action. Proposed by Cllr Appleton, 2nded by Cllr Vallance, agreed by all. * To purchase a solar light to fix to the pole outside the George as a trial to see if this is a viable solution ongoing to reduce the carbon footprint of the Parish Council by using more renewable energy for its street lighting. The clerk has sourced one around £110 that looks like it would be fit for purpose. Proposed by Cllr Massey, 2nded by Cllr Appleton, agreed by all. * Tree whips – to purchase 100 tree whips of 4 varieties to celebrate the late Queen’s reign and Platinum Jubilee. Proposed by Cllr Appleton, 2nded by Cllr Cole, agreed by all. They are to be advertised in the Feldon on a first come, first served basis, hopefully in the Jan Feldon, to be distributed on the 25/26th Feb between 10am-12pm at Green End Farm, Holloway Hill, Lower Brailes, by kind permission of Cllr Vallance. * Are the Parish Council willing to support Tysoe Parish Council in its objection to the planning application of an anaerobic digester proposed at the foot of Edgehill. Whilst all of the councillors agreed that the idea of more renewable energy was a good one, this application in terms of scale and location was going to be harmful to the AONB and harmful to the roads and surrounding areas in terms of increased traffic. It is understood that the gas produced is to be transported by road to Banbury, therefore not benefitting local homes, but putting more strain on an already stretched and poorly maintained road system in the local area. Sunrising, the most direct route to Banbury is unpassable several times a week with current traffic levels, and with increased numbers of lorries, it is very feasible that Brailes may be used as an alternative route, and the Parish Council is already very concerned about the volume and speed of traffic passing through the village. On this basis, the Parish Council agreed to support Tysoe Parish Council in objecting to this application. Proposed by Cllr Appleton, 2nded by Cllr Todd, agreed by all. | Clerk  Clerk  Cllr Appleton  Clerk to respond |
| 5.Members of the Public |  |
| 6.Correspondence  Email to the clerk to complain about the Parish Council encouraging people to object to the anaerobic digester planned at the foot of Edgehill. – As mentioned previously mentioned.  Clerk has been emailing Howard Taylor asking that he carry out his riparian rights to maintain the hedges bordering Betty’s field and the banks of Sutton Brook, including the Flood Relief Channel. He has replied but is yet to do any work. He mentioned the weeds in the FRC but these need to be cleared. |  |
| 7. Maintenance   * Loose kerb stone outside the George. Entrance to Butchers Lane Pot hole. | clerk |
| 8.Planning  **22/03508/FUL** Greenslade Farmhouse Holloway Hill Lower Brailes Banbury OX15 5JA Proposed replacement of conservatory glass roof with new slate roof, and replacement windows to conservatory including solid gable wall with casement window and high level glazing. – Comments due by 3rd December – No objection  **22/03450/TREE** The Moorlands School Lane Lower Brailes Banbury OX15 5HP -T1 Acacia - Reduce by up to 1.5metres to previous pruning points. - Comments due by 15th December – clerk to comment  **22/01579/LBC** Florence House Upper Brailes Banbury OX15 5AR Part replacement of roof – Comments due by 23rd November – No Objection |  |
| 9.Finance.  Amanda Wasdell Clerk salary November & December £1352  Lawns2Mow Mowing Oct-Nov £432 |  |
| The meeting was closed at 9.19pm |  |
| Date for next meeting: Monday 30th January 2023 |  |