

## **BREADSALL PARISH COUNCIL**

### Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at Breadsall Memorial Hall commencing 7.00pm.

Present: C Goodwin (Chairman)  
M Moffat (Vice Chair)  
T Vincett  
R Ling  
J Robertson  
C Brewster  
B Hodgkinson  
M Poplar  
E Holgate (Clerk/RFO)

1 Member of the public, Cllr C Hart (DCC)

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Cllr A Stevenson (EBC)

#### **2. Declaration of Interests**

None.

#### **3. Minutes of the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting**

These were agreed as a true record.

#### **4. Annual Report of the Chairman**

##### **Cllr Christine Goodwin**

Although all our meetings have continued to be held via Zoom, business has continued very much as usual.

Due to the situation with the covid pandemic many of our usual events have had to be cancelled. For example, we were not able to have our popular Christmas brass band concert, the Remembrance Day service was very restricted although a wreath was laid by the P.C. and the CPR training, which has involved the school children, was not able to take place. Hopefully all these things will return during the year.

One other event which has not taken place is the village litter pick. Our regular litter picker has been unable to work for the past few months due to the pandemic but a group of people from the village have come forward and have been doing a sterling job. I think we must thank Cllr. Brewster for setting an example and organising the group.

The Neighbourhood Plan has still not reached the stage of going to referendum as we are

not completely happy with the omissions we have been asked to make and have been unable to have any dialogue with DCC.

Cllr Hodgkinson is in the process of re organising the Neighbourhood Watch although this is a separate entity to the Parish Council. I understand that there are representatives from most areas in the Parish and Zoom meetings are being held. This may have come at an opportune moment as we are beginning to see young people congregating on the playing fields with the lighter nights coming along. We may be able to keep an eye on things and hopefully the police will support us as they have done previously. We are also hoping to set up speed watches again in an attempt to steady the speed of the traffic and we would also like to get more signage in the village to the same effect.

The newly opened Damsons coffee shop sadly had to close its doors but like many businesses has been innovative and has been selling coffee and cakes. We have seen lots of people walking with cups of coffee and this has led to increased litter in some places, but generally not too bad. We are however hoping to put a new litter bin along Rectory Lane to help with this problem. We will no doubt have more complaints about the parking by the café, but the owners have done all they can to give details of parking sites within the village and there is nothing more the PC can do. Sadly many people do not feel they can walk a little distance in order to be more thoughtful to the residents who live near to the café.

I would like to thank Carol and Abey for their attendance at our meetings and also to pass on our best wishes to Alan who has been unable to attend due to bad health.

I must also thank all the Councillors for their attendance at the meetings, for the extra things that they do in the community and also to Liz who has "got to grips" with the work of a Parish Clerk and is doing a good job.

## **5. Councillors' Reports**

**a) Cllr C Hart Derbyshire County Council** apologised for being unable to provide a report due to the purdah period required for the May elections.

### **b) Cllr Alan Summerfield & Cllr A Stevenson, Erewash Borough Council**

It has been a most unimaginable 12 months due to the awful Covid 19 Pandemic. Offices and shops shut, and many closing down. EBC has been immediate in distributing financial help to those Businesses that qualified for receipt of grant money. Business Grants continue and since the start of the pandemic around £30 million of support has gone to help those eligible Businesses in the Borough.

The infection rates rose to critical and EBC was ranked very high for affected areas throughout the country. The infection rates and death rates have slowed down

considerably and with a high take up of vaccination it is hoped that normality may return soon.

Town Hall Offices were shut down and opening, in a limited way, should commence on April 12, 2021. Working from home and online video meetings has been the way EBC has coped with contact restrictions. EBC hopes that the residents will be vigilant and carry on the fight against Covid 19 and follow the guidelines put forward by the Government.

The EBC portion of Council Tax bills have risen by approximately £5 for a Band D property, and DCC, Fire Service, and PCC Taxes have also risen for the 2021/2022 period.

Councillor Sue Beardsley has been our Mayor for the 2019/2020 period and has agreed and continues as Mayor for the 2020/2021 period. In these trying times our Mayor been very busy doing excellent work representing Erewash and raising funds for Local Charities.

The Erewash annual auditor is Ernst and Young and their inspection confirms that Erewash is performing well and provides Value for Money to the taxpayers. We note that the Borough is fortunately still debt free and therefore has no interest to pay out of taxpayer's money.

There is still ongoing pressure to reduce spending due to cuts in our funding. The Council officers have successfully been able to shield the electorate from the full impact of this to ensure a fair and equitable arrangement for all. It has become increasingly difficult to find more spending cuts, without impacting services and the officers and staff have coped well with working from home communicating online. The Refuse collection team is also commended as they have continued to operate, as normal, during the lockdowns.

Further consultations will take place to confirm EBC's Core Strategy and the requirements for housing in the coming years as some Green Belt may be utilised to reach the Government Housing Target. The land north of Lock Lane in Sawley is recommended to be dropped from the options for housing growth.

All formal EBC events were cancelled which is a real regret as they were well received by the public. Charitable organizations and local charitable groups are commended for

reaching out to vulnerable people with help and advice during this Pandemic.

There have been many successful projects in the Borough over the past year and we had considerable success in obtaining external funding for many of them. Unsurprisingly these are predominantly in Ilkeston and Long Eaton being the most densely populated areas.

We, your Borough Councillors, hope residents and families are well and safe during these unimaginable times and are always available to help the community.

#### **6. (a) Breadsall Women's Institute – Lindsey Williams**

There has been a WI in Breadsall since 1929. However, because of dwindling membership and the severe effects of the pandemic, the committee of Breadsall WI took the extremely difficult decision to apply for suspension. The members of Breadsall WI have now voted on this, and the majority have supported suspension.

This means that Breadsall WI will be suspended for up to 3 years from 1 April 2021. It could easily be restarted during the 3 years to 31 March 2024 by existing or new members. If it is not restarted within those 3 years, then Breadsall WI will close permanently.

This is a very sad situation for such a long-standing institution, but – hopefully – with time we will be able to re-form.

If you hear of anyone who would be interested in joining or restarting Breadsall WI at some point in the future, please contact Lindsey (details above).

We send good wishes to the community and hope that we will be able to become part of village life again soon.

Stay safe and well.

#### **(b) Garden Club – Cllr Colin Brewster**

Due to the pandemic the club unfortunately has very little to report. The last Gardening Club year was of course a total non-event with only the February meeting, which was preceded by the AGM and the March meeting taking place.

Although there was very little activity during the year the club officers did keep in regular contact as the pandemic unfolded. The club secretary also kept our members well informed by producing and circulating a series of excellent eNewsletters throughout the year.

Due to circumstances the club AGM ran a little late this year and was of course conducted remotely. The good news is, all officers and committee members stood for re-election and were duly elected. Thankfully I can also report that the club is still in good shape financially.

I am hoping that some good comes out of the pandemic and the much-publicised upsurge in gardening brings new members to the club, appropriate advertising will be carried out when possible.

Unfortunately, we have no idea at this stage when the club will be able to restart and I think it is probably wishful thinking to say, hopefully soon, but in the meantime, I would like to wish all the other clubs well in their future endeavours.

Best regards to all.

**(d) Tennis Club – Cllr Janet Robertson**

Breadsall Tennis Club courts re-opened on Monday March 29<sup>th</sup> 2021. Recreational tennis resumed, including singles and doubles social play, 1:1 coaching and formally organised activity for groups, including group coaching. It is great to see people enjoying their tennis again.

As a club we were very pleased to receive a grant through Erewash as part of the government support. This will be used to maintain the courts and identify any areas for development. We have a quarterly online meeting with the LTA Training and Development Officer and other local clubs to liaise, discuss and share ideas in regard to developing tennis as the majority of people involved on the committees are volunteers.

Due to the weather conditions, and lack of use, there was quite a lot of moss on the courts. This has been dealt with in an environmentally friendly way and we are delighted with the results. This will be monitored and maintained.

From Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April our tennis coach, Paul Hatton, will be delivering tennis coaching to the children at Breadsall Primary School during curriculum time in the afternoon. We are then delivering 7 weeks of junior coaching on Thursdays, with three one hour sessions aimed at different age groups, commencing at 3.30pm. This will be followed by one hour's adult coaching.

We hope that our current membership will remain the same and we welcome new members.

**(e) Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr Barry Hodgkinson**

The NHW group has been going through a process of updating the Watch. A renewed group has been formed and held their first Zoom meeting recently. We were joined by Gill Riley who as a member of the County committee was able to explain the framework of the NHW from the Home Office, through the Policing organisation down to voluntary County level and has subsequently informed us how to obtain the necessary literature we need to help boost local membership.

The next move is another Zoom meeting where we will be discussing allocation of the area amongst committee members and to prioritise the tasks we need to embrace.

**(f) Bowls Club – Cllr Mike Poplar**

As for many, 2020 was a difficult year for the bowls club.

There were no league matches at all allowed in 2020, one of our main sources of income. We were allowed limited play amongst members, which at least allowed us to maintain contact and do some bowling.

We were lucky to receive a grant towards our insurance from Councilor Hart's community grant budget, which helped in an otherwise lean year.

Unfortunately, we have recently suffered the sad loss of one of our prominent members and team captain, plus the current illness of our secretary.

Despite these setbacks, we continue to maintain an enthusiasm to play bowls and are currently opening up the green in preparation for the recommencement of league matches, currently scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> May.

Regrettably, due to reduced numbers, we have decided to field only one team rather than our usual two, in both the Saturday singles and Wednesday doubles leagues. Hopefully the resumption of league play will enable us to build back our membership in time to field these teams again in 2022.

**(g) Cricket Club – Cllr Janet Robertson**

The pavilion is nearing completion and will be handed over to the club for fitting out shortly. At that time the club will be responsible for the insurance of the building. It is hoped that it will be finished in time for the carnival - at which point the governments guidelines will be strictly adhered to.

Field - it is being used by many people at the moment - eating and drinking refreshments from Damsons. This has resulted in an increase in litter and dog fouling - I removed three lots last week and there was some more earlier in the week.

Cricket was played for half the year last year - under strict hygiene rules and ECB guidance. The club is grateful to the Memorial Hall for use of their lavatories during this time.

The first cricket matches are this weekend, again, played under strict guidelines from the ECB

During the closed season a lot of work was carried out on the square and the field with tree branches being cut and cleared away.

Like the WI the cricket club were faced with a difficult decision and it was decided to drop from three senior teams to two.

I feel sure that the club would like to put on record its grateful thanks to our local Councillors, particularly Councilor Hart, for their generous financial support throughout the year.

Junior cricket is to resume this year.

The Chair thanked everyone for taking the time for sending in reports. She noted it was a shame that the meeting could not be held in the Memorial Hall as the reports were of interest to the village community.

The Meeting closed at 7.22pm

Signed .....

Date .....