



Great Bricett Annual Parish Meeting

MINUTES of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Great Bricett, at 7pm on Thursday, 24th May 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr S Burnett – *Chairman*

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs J Blackburn – *Clerk*, five members of the Parish Council and three members of the public/invited representatives.

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Morley and Cllr Cooper.

GB8/18/19 - CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman of Great Bricett, Cllr Sue Burnett, welcomed those present.

GB9/18/19 - APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Cllr Morley and Cllr Cooper.

GM10/18/19 - MINUTES 23rd MAY 2017

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting, held on 27th May 2017, were approved as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

GB11/18/19 - REPORTS RELATING TO THE PARISH

Representatives of the following organisations were invited to speak and, where received, their reports are attached to the Minutes.

- a) **Great Bricett Parish Council** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through her report.

- b) **Suffolk County Council** - *Cllr Anne Whybrow*

Cllr Whybrow was not present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

- c) **Mid-Suffolk District Council** – *Cllr David Whybrow*

Cllr Whybrow was present at the meeting and a report had not been received.

- d) **Suffolk Police**

Suffolk Police were not present at the meeting and a report had not been submitted.

- e) **Village Hall Management Committee** – *Marina Ford*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Ford read through her report.

- f) **Parochial Church Council** – *Arland Shawe-Taylor*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Shawe-Taylor read through his report.

- g) **Neighbourhood Watch** – *Arland Shawe-Taylor*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Mr Shawe-Taylor read through his report.

- h) **Tree Warden** – *Cllr David Payne*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Payne read through his report.

- i) **Ringshall Primary School** – *Rachel Forward*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Ms Forward reported that she was the Interim Headteacher and the 9th Headteacher that had been in post over the last two years. The school mainly consisted of service family children and had a very high mobility rate. The school continued to work closely with Wattisham Airbase and relied upon help and support from the local community.

The school had many projects that were ongoing which included working with Homestart to provide specific courses for new parents and offered the school site as a location for such courses to take place.

- j) **Community Speed Watch** – *Cllr Sue Burnett*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through her report.

- k) **Wattisham Airfield** – *Robbie Silk*

Mr Silk conducted a presentation on what the airbase did, some history around the Airfield and local issues which included the bus shelter and the closure of the shop/post office. He reported the following:

- The closure of the shop and post office was a commercial decision as the contractors, Compass, who were a large firm were cutting costs. There had been a threat of closure five years ago which did not come to fruition. Unfortunately, on this occasion had been unstoppable.
- The street light was a dimly lit one which did give off some illumination.
- Parking at the end of the street had become quite dangerous. If it continued the police needed to be informed especially if vehicles were being parked on the pavement as that was illegal.

Mr Silk thanked the Parish Council for all their continued help and support.

- l) **‘Progress of History of Great Bricett’** – *Oliver Cooper*
(Full report attached to these Minutes)

Cllr Burnett read through Mr Cooper’s report.

GB12/18/19 - PUBLIC FORUM

No issues were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman Date

1. Chairman's Report - Great Bricett Parish Council

24th May 2018

On the Parish Council there are currently seven Cllrs. We hope this will continue to be the case. Some of last year's challenges with the Village Hall have been solved. But now new challenges are in evidence. The porch area needs refurbishment and plans are afoot to lower the ceiling inside to make the acoustics better and make the Hall easier and cheaper to heat.

Unfortunately, the Mace shop has closed but there is some optimism about restarting it again. We hope so. You will probably have noticed that a new Street Light has been installed at the Three Releet T Junction.

We have adopted the Phone Box at the entrance to the Green and welcome suggestions for a suitable use for it. There are plans to paint the Phone Box and replace the Perspex windows with glass. The Budget for 2017 and 2018 has been set at a level to meet current expenditure and it should be noted that the spend for 2016-17 came in under budget. The precept has been increased overall by only £250 after being frozen some four years. The proposed use of any savings is now allocated to specific earmarked funds, one of which recommended is reserves of at least 50-150% of the precept received. The Parish Council has been getting quotes for refurbishment of the Village Sign and the Noticeboards, hopefully these will be done during this summer, good weather being essential for these tasks. Another ongoing project being carried out by Wattisham Airfield is the creation of a new Bus Shelter, the old one is definitely past its sell by date.

Planning permission has also been passed for a mobile phone mast at the Three Releet Junction. Also outline planning has been passed for a housing development on the Business Park.

We also have some new comers to the Village, and Dawn – who lives in Mill Lane has taken on the challenge of gathering a litter picking squad together to keep the Village tidy, we thank her.

We have said goodbye to Viv Pratt and welcomed a new Clerk to the Parish Council – Jennie Blackburn. We look forward to working with her.

Sue Burnett

Chairman, Great Bricett Parish Council, May 2018

Great Bricett Village Hall Management Committee Report to the Parish - Meeting 24 May 2018

Trustees:

Marina Ford - Chair Judy Walsh - Vice Chair

Arland Shawe - Taylor – Treasurer Hayley Hedges-Quinn - Secretary

Nigel Ford - Rep Parish Council Lesley Kelly - Rep Meadow Valley

Barry Abbott - Rep Wixfield Park

The Village Hall Management Committee is elected at the AGM with volunteers and representatives from local organisations. Members have changed over the last year; and we are always happy to have new members to join the committee. Our AGM is in October or November of each year and meetings are held every 8 weeks. The VHMC is a registered charity and the principle duties of the Trustees are to ensure that the Village Hall is kept in good order for the benefit of all residents and users. We operate under the regulations of the Charity Commission to whom we submit an annual financial statement.

The Parish Council as the owner of the building is responsible for major works, which comes from the Parish precept. They pay for insurance and help with any large purchases.

The VHMC is responsible for the day to day running and expenses of the Hall. This includes utility bills, the servicing of the boiler and fire extinguishers, etc. The running expenses over a 5-year average are £736.61. Currently we have in the bank £6397.83 (as of 28th March).

We the committee have been wanting to progress with re-decoration of the hall, including installation of a false ceiling with energy efficient lighting that will not only improve the acoustics of the space but improve the lighting to adapt to differing needs; benefiting all that use the hall, also saving on heating. After seeing the works that have been completed at Nedging with Naughton Hall we now have enough money in the account to be able to do this, thanks to Locality Grant from David Whybrow, we just need the go ahead from Parish. Our next project would be to raise funds to make the Garden a safe place to enjoy events; but we still have on-going issues with the cess pit in relation to the dangerous man-hole cover, this is in hand. Therefore, the Garden is only to be used as an emergency exit in the event of fire.

This year we have lost the booking of Monday afternoons Art Club; however, Marina has started (16th May) Art & Craft Club on Wednesday evenings between 7&9pm and hoping this to be a regular thing. We recently had a six-week booking for Puppy Training Classes; we have our Bi Annual Quiz Nights, Monthly Coffee morning held the first Saturday of the Month (apart from January, August & December), we are getting additional bookings for parties etc, but generally these are only those within in walking distance to the Village Hall as we do lack the facility for parking. We also have a new member of the community at The Paddocks organising on behalf of GBVHMC a Great Bricett Car Treasure Hunt.

We of the committee are all volunteers we do what we do for the community we live in and to bring the community together, we work very hard on organising these events. Over the last year not only have we increased events we have increased attendance, making it a true hub of the community.

Marina Ford - Chair GBVHMC May 2018

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT - May 2018

As in previous years I would first like to record our thanks for the support from the Parish Council with churchyard mowing during the past year and for providing the church illumination during the winter months. Also, I would again like to record our thanks to Oliver Cooper for providing parking space for special occasions and services.

As you will be aware Gt Bricett is one of a group of 8 parishes extending from Battsford to Somersham all under the care of Rev Dan Harrison since 2016. As such we have one regular service of communion on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Other special occasional services are also held with details in the Parish magazine not to mention the enthusiastic support for our Christmas carol singing.

Shortly after the last PC AGM we were successful in being awarded a 1st round grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the urgently needed roof repairs to the church building. This is for us to investigate fully the works needed and we are now on the point of submitting a 2nd round application to HLF for £78,900 towards the cost of these works. Also included will be a number of activities to encourage more people to engage with the heritage of our extraordinary building. This part has been strongly inspired by Oliver Cooper's research project into the History of the Priory.

Arland Shawe-Taylor
Churchwarden

ANNUAL REPORT FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - May 2018

The police continue to issue regular emails under the “Police Connect” program giving information about local crime incidents often including CCTV images of those they are seeking to locate as well as other crime prevention advice. A recent trend is information on the increasing number of phone scamming activities and always with reminders on how not to be lulled into giving critical information to unannounced callers. This invaluable service is available to everyone and if you have not already done so I recommend that you subscribe via the Suffolk Constabulary website.

This year Great Bricett did feature in these emails when a number of outbuildings were broken into around the village and items stolen. Such events act as a reminder of the importance of secure locks on doors and windows and of marking valuable items with postcodes as well as noting serial numbers. If you would like additional individual advice this is available free from the police via the Mid Suffolk Crime Reduction Officer.

Arland Shawe-Taylor, Neighbourhood Watch Chairman

Great Bricett Tree Warden Report for 2018

What does a tree warden DO? Well, I do much the same as many other people by admiring and enjoying our local trees, except that I take a keener interest when a tree or group of trees is threatened by disease, new developments, or is worthy of particular attention, particularly regarding size, which may require cutting back branches. I also encourage people to plant trees and liaise with our local council when appropriate.

INVOLVEMENT: Deodar cedar (churchyard), Norway maple (village green); “rare” Black Poplar DNA test (Releet Close); attractive avenue of Field Maples (Bricett Business Park); Queen’s golden jubilee memorial tree (Lime on public verge close to Mill Lane v Horse Chestnut at Riverside Cottage); mass planting of Native Deciduous trees on bund and hedgerow to screen huge new metal granary barn (field north of Bricett Hall); ageing Yew blocking church path (discussion with churchwarden); Sycamore tree on MoD land at T-junction of Roman Rd/The Street; Silver Birch, Rowan, Laurel, Prunus (new plantings around Releet Close pond); pruning management of trees (Releet Close/MoD housing estate); pollarded veteran oak (outside Base Garage)

PIONEERS: Suffolk pioneered the tree warden network over the whole country 30 years ago. However, due to austerity cutbacks, our local tree warden organiser, Alice Martin, had to quit her job a year ago. She helped organise annual tree warden conferences throughout the East of England along with the Tree Council, who play a leading role in promoting the Woodland Trust’s “Charter for Trees” unveiled a year ago, which MSDC solemnly signed as a “basis for harmony and mutual benefit between trees and people.” Praised by Cllr David Whybrow, Ringshall ward member and lead planning councillor.

TREE PROBLEMS: Ash Dieback and Acute Oak Decline prevalent here and all over East Anglia; Coopers’ thousand a farmland includes secret wild-flower meadow.

ODD FACTS: Tree-lover Judy Dench TV programme disclosed that trees “talk” to each other via mycelium thread-like connections underground. Trees pump millions of gallons of water from soil and turn carbon dioxide into life-giving oxygen. How’s that for recycling! Many trees outlive humans and easily outnumber our 60-million population. Sawpits still exist on Battisford Common that were used to make timbers for constructing Sir Thomas Gresham’s Royal Stock Exchange in 1565 in London. Forest “bathing” improves health.

MISSION: To locate, photograph, survey and report back on veteran/ancient oak tree Great Bricett landowner Oliver Cooper remembers climbing in Bricett Park woodland when a boy around 60 years ago, which is now out of bounds in a restricted part of Wattisham Airfield. I propose a meeting is conveniently arranged by me with Robbie and Oliver (and others) to re-discover this “lost” tree. *Draft report by parish tree warden David Payne dated 24/5/18.*

Speedwatch Report - 2018

The Great Bricett Speedwatch Team of Sue Burnett and Bill Dewick have continued to use the equipment to good effect during the last year. A short break in proceedings was necessary when the Speedgun was sent off to the manufactures for recalibration which occurs every three years. The local PCSO's check the Speedar Gun for us in the interim years.

On average during an hour in the village we note between 4-6 members of the public going over the statutory 30 miles an hour – we are only permitted to record vehicles that travel at 35 miles an hour or over. A recording sheet is forwarded to the PCSO's at Safer Neighbourhood Team - Most members of the public realise their error, but we do have the occasional rude gesture aimed at us!!!!

We have recently been joined by a team of Speedwatch Volunteers from Ringshall – we share the equipment with them generally on a fortnightly basis – obviously adjusted to take into account holidays etc.

Unfortunately, the team from Somersham have had to withdraw their team owing to ill health.

We have three areas we are allowed to use, but generally stand outside the Vicarage and are always grateful to Julia and Arland in the Vicarage and Sean in the Old Cinema who often provide us with a cup of tea.

Report from Oliver Cooper on the Progress of his History of Great Bricett.

Since I attended last year's meeting on 23rd May, Edward Martin -the historian I have commissioned to undertake this work-has continued to work on this project. Following an on-site investigation by the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, and the oak beam dating information that flowed from Dr. Martin Bridge's work, Edward has worked with Philip Aitkins to revise parts of the original drawings of the oak frame of the Hall, which Philip did many years ago. This required another visit to the Hall by Edward and Philip during the Summer of last year.

The fact that there is a book underway on The History of Gt. Bricett has helped Arland Shawe Taylor in his pursuit of National Lottery funds for the repairs badly needed mainly on the Church roof and following discussions with Arland and Edward it was agreed that although this work was not yet ready for publication, a presentation would be made of Edward's work so far. Edward gave this presentation himself in the village church on the evening of 12th October last year and it was well attended. Arland may be able to report on the funding quest.

Since then Edward and I continue to meet and discuss all the peripheral details as we move towards publication. Copyright is an example of one of those details and this in turn leads to decision on which images and maps can be used. There are several different organisations from whom we have to gain permission and/or agree a fee for the use of their property. We are communicating with potential publishers for this work, and numbers of finished books to be printed, size of book, type of binding, quality of paper etc, all are all being looked at on this journey.

Edward believes now that his brief is pretty much researched, but the nature of a project this big, means that there will always be some tempting piece of new information that just presents itself. On Saturday 21st April the Suffolk Historic Buildings Group's AGM was held in the village hall and following the AGM, the 60 or so numbers that attended, visited the Church, the Hall and the Nunnery Mount. This is a good example of how significant this site is, and in bringing such a concentration of historical knowledge to the village I have no doubt that some such tempting piece of information may just pop up.

Our challenge now is to aim for a publication date, and this hopefully will drive the editing and proof reading process. Edward feels that Easter next year is a reasonable target date and we are aiming for this with all the caveats that can potentially skew this.

This brings my report up to date.