

# **BRILL PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017**



### **Introduction**

The composition of our parish council has changed slightly during the year. Following a couple of resignations Mollie Bugey and Julian Newman were co-opted last Summer and most recently we have been joined by Gareth Hamilton. The parish council has remained vigilant in matters that affect Brill and its community, planning applications are scrutinised and appropriate comments made to Aylesbury Vale District Council. The council is also closely monitoring all suspicious activity regarding planning and development and is working with the enforcement office from AVDC on these issues.

I would like to thank Chris Sebire Matt Buckingham Lisa Lambert and Paul McGough for their contribution during their time on the PC. Also thanks for their continued support and contribution to the sitting councillors.

**All Councillors have been appointed to sub committees as follows:**

All Councillors	Common Land maintenance and encroachment
Clerk	S106 Money
Cllrs Edmond	Elderly Carers and Trinity Health
Cllr Hamilton	Editor – Windmill Times/Annual Report
Cllr Newman	LAF Meetings (Quarterly Meetings)
TBA	NAG/ MVAS/Police liaison
Clerk	Playground Inspection
Cllr Turner	Farmer/BVCH Liaison
Cllr Bugey	School Liaison
Cllr Edmonds	Memorial Hall
All Councillors	Highways
Cllr Newman	Brill Society/Windmill
Cllr Cadle	Brill Sports and Social Club
Cllrs Turner/Cadle	Walks Management Committee (Bi- monthly)
All Councillors	Street lighting, litter, benches, planning and dog fouling

## **Bus Shelter**

Five years after building the bus shelter, the PC received numerous requests for a seat. This has now been added so bus passengers can now rest their weary legs prior to a gallop around the shops.

We are in the process of completing an application to change the bus shelter from it's temporary status to a permanent one. Initial permission was granted for a six year period only.

## **Common**

The Parish Council is into the second year of a five to ten year plan under the countryside stewardship scheme which provides funding for the ongoing upkeep and preservation of the flora and fauna on the Common.

The Common is looking better now than it has for many years and this has been achieved with a great deal of effort by the many groups and individuals that selflessly give up their time to see that the Common is cleared, grazed and litter picked, thus providing a fabulous village asset.

As pointed out in previous newsletters, the stewardship comes with additional responsibilities that must be adhered to, like the banning of fires and restrictions on the timing of scrub clearance. However, all the groups are working within the prescribed rules and the PC would like to thank all involved for their efforts and co-operation.

## **Invisible Fencing**

It was anticipated that by now there would have been some changes to the way the Common is fenced to allow the cattle to graze within designated areas. The plan is to install loops of wire just under the turf which transmit a weak radio signal which in turn is picked up by a receiver on collars worn by the cattle. This signal warns them of their proximity to the boundary thus confining their movement. Natural England originally agreed to fund this system but there is presently some doubt as to whether they will or not so the Parish Council are therefore considering part funding the system with the help of BVCH.

## **Common access issues**

During this last year, there have been a few issues regarding access on or over common land within the parish. The council is vigilant and investigates all such issues. On occasion, it has been necessary to pursue offenders and make them repair or reinstate land that has been unlawfully abused.

## **Enforcement issues**

There have been some planning issues which the council has believed to be in flagrant breach of planning permissions. These issues have been considered initially by your councillors and in the case of some of these a meeting took place with the enforcement officer of AVDC. The PC will continue to monitor all the situations where we believe people are trying to flaunt planning regulations, and take the appropriate action when necessary.

## **Unitary council proposals**

Due to pressure from central government brought about by the withdrawal of financial support, the top two tiers of local government have had to make proposals for cost savings. Both Buckinghamshire County (BCC) and Aylesbury District (AVDC) councils have proposed forms of unitary authorities for Buckinghamshire. Broadly this would replace the existing councils with one council (Unitary) which would provide the services that the current councils do between them. There would be considerable reduction in costs with the total number of councillors severely reduced. However, with each councillor being responsible for delivering services previously done by 2 people, they may have less local interest.

We are currently waiting for comments on the proposals from the Secretary of State.

## **Community Bus**

We received 15 responses to our recent bus survey which we have sent on to the community bus coordinator. The majority who responded would like to travel to Bicester, Oxford and Haddenham Station and cannot rely on other family members for their transportation needs.

In order to support their needs with a community bus we need to source volunteer drivers. If you would be interested in volunteering, please contact the Clerk below.

## **Dogs on the playing field**

This is a polite reminder to dog owners and walkers who like to exercise their dogs on the playing field.

Children take this route to school and for general play and need to feel safe. We know some dogs like to greet them with a bark and this can be upsetting. Please be aware of the needs of all users and don't forget to pick up after the dog too. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## **No Cold Callers**

Please note the 'No Cold Calling' stickers are now available at the Parish Council Office, Constables and Brill Stores.

If you do not wish to be visited by doorstep sellers, these will help to get the message across.

## **MVAS/Speed Gun**

The mobile speed sensors have detected considerable numbers exceeding speeds of 30 MPH. The Parish Council will have access to a speed gun which will identify number plates and necessary action will be taken. Thank you to all who have volunteered to

operate the gun, your names have been put forward and you should hear about the training very soon.

Please watch your speed!

### **Common Boundaries**

Brill Parish Council arranged to photograph all property boundaries that abut the common. Details of which are kept on file. This will enable us to effectively deal with potential common land encroachment issues in the future.

### **Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan**

Following a period of consultation, we await to hear about the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Plan. This will shape future housing development over the next 15 – 20 years.

Initial proposals were put to consultation in July last year and the electorate of Brill were given the opportunity to raise any issues they had with Parish, District and County Councillors.

The main issue within the VALP was found to be the number of houses allocated to Brill and included concerns over the characterisation of the landscape and the lack of amenities to support. Increased traffic, reductions in local transport and the condition of the roads were also voiced by the majority of the 60 attendees.

**Brill Parish Council**  
**Budget Position 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Audit	350.00	341.00	9.00
Computer	100.00	243.75	-143.75
Insurance	2,000.00	1,793.92	206.08
Legal	600.00	0.00	600.00
Membership	300.00	312.25	-12.25
Office Rent	800.00	557.99	242.01
Phone	700.00	548.06	151.94
Print	500.00	396.46	103.54
Website	200.00	0.00	200.00
Salary	7,000.00	6,781.20	218.80
Stationery	300.00	133.33	166.67
Training	400.00	0.00	400.00
Bins	1,100.00	721.44	378.56
General Maintenance	4,400.00	859.35	3,540.65
Common Maintenance	3,000.00	3,653.08	-653.08
The Walks	2,700.00	1,350.00	1,350.00
Grass Cutting	6,000.00	2,940.00	3,060.00
Street Lighting	4,350.00	3,461.51	888.49
Donations	1,500.00	1,841.04	-341.04
Play Around Parishes	200.00	335.00	-135.00
Hall Grant	2,500.00	2,000.00	500.00
Election Reserve	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
	<b><u>41,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>28,269.38</u></b>	<b><u>12,730.62</u></b>

<b>Reserve Spend</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Net</b>
Brill Memorial Hall - Boiler	7,386.00	1,231.00	6,155.00
Signs Direct	363.42	-	363.42
Brill Society	500.00	-	500.00
George Browns	549.49	91.58	457.91
Wybone	515.41	85.90	429.51
AES	230.08	38.35	191.73
Right Light	5,455.20	909.20	4,546.00
Owlsworth IJP	1,344.00	224.00	1,120.00
Glasdon	790.33	131.72	658.61
WEL Medical	77.82	12.97	64.85
			<b><u>14,487.03</u></b>

## **BRILL PARISH COUNCIL**

### **BANK RECONCILIATION – FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017**

#### **Balance as per Bank Statements at 31 March 2017**

Current Account	£
Deposit Account	£
Total Bank Account	£ <b>63724.71</b>

Net Bank Balance at 31 March 2016                      £ **63724.71**

Add Value of Investments                                      NIL

#### **Total Cash & Investments**

**At 31 March 2017    £ 63724.71**

#### **Cash Book**

Opening balance 01 April 2016                              £ 47716.00

Add: Receipts    £ 63677.51

£111393.51

Less: Payments During Year                                      (47668.80)

Closing Balance per Cash Book

At 31 March 2017    £ **63724.71**

Add: Value of Investments                                      Sold

#### **Total Cash & Investments**

**At 31 March 2017    £63724.71**

**Prepared by Lesley Shaw – Clerk & RFO**

## **S106 Fund – Provided by new home developers**

Brill Sports & Social Club successfully applied for S106 funding to enable the purchase of a set of 8 portable floodlights. The lightweight floodlights are powered by rechargeable Lithium-ion batteries & extend to a height of 3metres. The Parish Council consider the floodlights a village asset & therefore available to all responsible users. S106 funding is still available for new sport & leisure facilities that conform to the relevant criteria.

## **Games Cafe**

The lunch club that is held in the village every month is very successful. It was suggested that some people may want to be a bit more 'interactive' and the idea of a 'Games Cafe' was proposed. We planned to run the first of these in October at the Sports and Social Club on a Wednesday morning. We felt that we advertised this well, but unfortunately no-one turned up! We tried again in November, but again without success. If anyone has any suggestions as to how we could get this off the ground, or indeed, whether it is something that people would be interested in at all, please do let us know.

## **Neighbourhood Watch**

With the increase in the number of burglaries in the village, the Parish Council thought that villagers might be interested in setting up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. We distributed leaflets and left some in the shops for anyone to pick up. To date, no-one has come forward to take the initiative on this, and again, if anyone has any suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

## **Traffic & Parking**

With an ever-increasing number of motor vehicles in the village, the Parish Council are trying to encourage more responsible parking. Cars are being parked dangerously close to road junctions and the Parish Council have contacted the local P.C.S.O. for advice & assistance to increase awareness of potential infringements. The Parish Council are currently looking to create new parking areas, both temporary & permanent, particularly to alleviate congestion at school drop-off/ pick-up times & major village events. We will shortly have access to a hand-held radar gun that measures the speed of approaching vehicles. 6 volunteer operators are to be trained in its use.

**The Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm in the Sports and Social Club. Please do make the effort to attend, as it is your opportunity to hear reports on the activities of village groups.

## **Litter Pick**

This year's annual litter picking event was arranged for the 12<sup>th</sup> March – A period where the hedgerows are standing bare and the litter is very visible.

It was a cold morning with a persistent drizzle of rain and in excess of 20 volunteers turned up. All were given pickers, high visual jackets, bin bags and disposable gloves. The picture denotes the amount of litter collected within the parish of Brill.

Thank you for a fantastic effort from all concerned and a big thank you to Jon Vaile for coordinating the event.

Please look out for next year's event which is likely to take place in March.

**The Clerk's contact details** are: 01844 238662 or [brillparish@btconnect.com](mailto:brillparish@btconnect.com) and there is an answerphone when the office is closed. Normal opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.15am until 12.45 pm in the Old Library Room.