

BRILL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019



Introduction

This year we welcomed Cllr Mark Dickinson on to the Parish Council and we have said good bye to Cllr Edmonds; the composition of the council has otherwise remained the same. This report covers the key topics in which the council has been active over the past year. Please make the time to join us at the **Parish meeting at the Sports and Social club on Monday 29th April at 8pm.**

Cllr Julian Newman –Chairman

All Councillors have been appointed to sub committees as follows:

All Councillors	Common Land maintenance and encroachment
All Councillors	Funding
Cllr Newman	Key community groups and initiatives
Cllr Hamilton	Editor – Windmill Times/Annual Report
Cllr Hamilton/Clerk	LAF Meetings (Quarterly Meetings)
All Cllrs	NAG/ MVAS/Police liaison
Cllr Fisher	MVAS
Cllr Fisher/Clerk	Village Website
Cllr Dickinson	Cambridge – Oxford Expressway
Clerk	Playground Inspection
Cllr Turner	Farmer/BVCH Liaison
Cllr Buggy	School Liaison
Cllr Dickinson	Memorial Hall
All Councillors	Highways
Cllr Newman	Brill Society/Windmill
Cllr Cadle	Brill Sports and Social Club
All Councillors	Walks Management Committee (Bi- monthly)
All Councillors	Street lighting, litter, benches, planning and dog fouling

Brill Parish Council Website – www.brillparishcouncil.co.uk

At the beginning of the year we were pleased to announce the launch of the new website. Here are some of the things we will be publishing on it:

- ✓ keep up to date with PC events
- ✓ minutes of previous meetings
- ✓ agenda for the next meeting
- ✓ view local planning applications
- ✓ report pot holes
- ✓ contact details for local clubs and societies
- ✓ in future, editions of Windmill Times will be found here

We hope you'll take the time to have a good look around this new website and let us know what you think. We've been working on this for a while now and we really want it to be the place to go for information for the whole community. If anyone has a suggestion for anything we have missed out, please contact the Clerk on the email address below.

Multi-Use Game Area

Last year we carried out a survey on the tennis court and identified the need to make improvements. These could result in one of the following outcomes:

- To get the tennis court back to playable standard
- To enlarge the area so that a full-sized netball court could be installed
- To identify a much larger area for Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and keep the tennis court separate

Whichever route we choose funds would need to be raised and a committee formed. The Parish Council has identified a possible crowd-funding platform and would be happy to advise on how it works. **We need volunteers to take this forward.** Could that be you? Would you use it? Are you a parent who can see the use for your children? Are you a sport team leader? Locally you can view a Multi-Use Game Area in Ashendon. I'm sure you would agree all age groups would benefit from one here. Please consider this and contact the Parish Clerk. Until we get volunteers any change will not take place and the options are exciting.

Cattle Grid Proposal

The cattle grids proposal caused obvious concerns with residents, particularly on North Hills where they were to be sited. This proposal will not be taken forward.

The main reason for the proposal was to reduce the amount of electric fence which is quite labour intensive to move and erect. The Brill Village Herd always welcome volunteers, but in the main it appears to fall down to a limited number.

If you are able to volunteer please contact the herd or the Clerk below.

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway – A proposed motorway linking Oxford and Cambridge via Milton Keynes

General awareness of the potential impact of the Expressway is growing and the PC has received a number of offers of help in making sure this scheme does not negatively impact the Parish. If you are concerned about the Expressway there are a number of action groups that you can align with. The Expressway Action Group (EAG) and the No Expressway Alliance (NEA) are active in our area. EAG is asking Highways England to re-evaluate the route as it believes the current arguments showing corridor B3 as the preferred option are flawed. NEA argues the entire concept is flawed and the transport need should be addressed through the Oxford-Cambridge rail link. The NEA have said they will be holding an event, possibly in Brill, in the summer to further raise awareness and solicit support. Berks, Bucks, Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) have raised a legal challenge against Highways England for failing to commission a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) as part of the process of selecting a Corridor, as required by EU law. Public consultation on the chosen corridor is expected to start in the Autumn.

Proposed changes to the Conservation Area

The Conservation Officer from Aylesbury District Council attended the January monthly parish council meeting to explain necessary changes required to the current conservation area.

Brill's Conservation Area Brill was established in 1980 and is supported by a 2 page A4 document. Current requirements driven by Historic England demand a much more detailed appraisal. In summary the boundary may need reviewing as buildings and areas of natural beauty have become more important

Areas for inclusion should possess an important element of the village character and benefit from increased protection. In respect to the current Conservation area boundary, nothing should be taken out.

Societies and residents are encouraged to get involved in creating the first draft which will eventually go out to consultation.

Brill Parish Council
Budget Position 31st March 2019

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Audit	350.00	338.00	12.00
Computer	100.00	0.00	100.00
Insurance	2,000.00	1,842.78	157.22
Legal	500.00	0.00	500.00
Membership	350.00	325.10	24.90
Office Rent	800.00	886.64	-86.64
Phone	600.00	542.95	57.05
Print	300.00	263.41	36.59
Website	300.00	410.00	-110.00
Salary	7,000.00	6,996.00	4.00
Stationery	200.00	93.56	106.44
Training	400.00	0.00	400.00
Bins	1,100.00	733.36	366.64
General Maintenance	4,000.00	4,011.54	-11.54
Common Maintenance	4,000.00	3,404.15	595.85
The Walks	2,500.00	1,581.18	918.82
Grass Cutting	4,500.00	4,033.70	466.30
Street Lighting	4,000.00	4,120.09	-120.09
Donations	2,000.00	1,219.50	780.50
Hall Grant	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Election Reserve	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Windmill Grant	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
	<u>41,000.00</u>	<u>34,811.96</u>	<u>6,188.04</u>

Reserve Spend

		Gross	VAT	Net
Mike Rowland and Son	15 May 18	624.00	104.00	520.00
Big Mower Company	18 May 18	963.36	160.56	802.80
Website	16 October 18	500.00		500.00
Haddenham Carpets	20 November 18	920.00	153.33	766.67
Haddenham Carpets	20 November 18	1,540.00	256.67	1283.33
Website	15 January 19	500.00		500.00
Use it or it - L Simpson	19 March 19	640.00		640.00
Use it or it - BMH	19 March 19	100.00		100.00
				<u>8,365.00</u>

BRILL PARISH COUNCIL

BANK RECONCILIATION – FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019

Balance as per Bank Statements at 31 March 2019

Current Account	£2,111.97
Deposit Account	£78,353.25
Total Bank Account	£80,465.22
Net Bank Balance at 31 March 2019	£80,465.22

Total Cash

At 31 March 2019 **£80,465.22**

Cash Book

Opening balance 01 April 2018	£68,509.38
Add: Receipts	<u>£58,835.00</u>
	£127,344.38
Less: Payments During Year	<u>(£46,879.16)</u>
Closing Balance per Cash Book	
At 31 March 2019	£80,465.22

Total Cash

At 31 March 2019 **£80,465.22**

Prepared by Lesley Shaw – Clerk & RFO

Thames Water

As you may recall, Brill Parish Council met with Thames Water who assured them on the improvements made to the pumping system and the recent availability of a backup generator.

On the 25th April, however, a loss of power to the site turned off the boosters. The site was originally planned to have an Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) unit installed which would have facilitated the changeover to generator. This is in simplistic terms a battery unit that gives a short period of power to prevent the equipment turning off. However in this case the UPS was not big enough to sustain the pumps making it ineffective.

The Instrumentation Control and Automation (ICA) technician had designed an automatic switch so that the pumps should have turned back on immediately after the generator started, which in theory should have meant the pressure drop would only have been minutes long and therefore hardly noticeable to the end user. This automatic switch failed and they do not know why so are investigating it and the technician in question is looking at alternative options to make it work. The technical team at Thames Water are carrying out some robust testing to get clarity on how reliable the fix is. If Thames Water is unable to fix this issue then it will continue to explore alternative practicable options. It should be noted that any interruption to the water supply requires manual assistance to check the water quality.

Precept

Brill Parish Council will not be increasing the precept for the forthcoming financial year – 2019-20 - as we have secured sufficient reserves to help with the ongoing pressures to deliver increased community services. We have continued to secure funding towards the maintenance of the Common and the Walks, but it should be noted that we cannot rely completely on this. Brill Parish Council will continue to support the Memorial Hall and The Windmill, both of which are key community assets.

All prudent Councils should carry forward a reserve which is at least the value of their precept and we are pleased to say that Brill Parish Council is in that position moving forward.

The Walks

For the past two years, the PC has been receiving a small annual payment for the management of the Walks from Natural England as part of the Stewardship Scheme. Due to the onerous conditions placed upon the volunteers who maintain the Walks, the PC has decided to remove the field from the scheme. The volunteers will continue with their work but will have greater flexibility as to when and how they carry out their work.

To assist with the grazing of the Walks, two water troughs have been installed for the sheep rather than relying on volunteers to fill buckets. The PC has funded the installation of one trough and the grazier, Chris Lewis has paid for the other.

Common Access and Encroachment

The Common is a fabulous asset for the entire village. The Parish Council works hard to ensure that issues of encroachment, and prescriptive access to properties, either on or adjoining the Common are monitored and addressed. The Council would like to remind all those occupying such properties, to be aware of their boundaries and rights and take care to maintain them.

Enforcement Issues

Cllr Newman and the Clerk met with the Planning Enforcement team from Aylesbury Vale District Council on 5th October 2018. The Cabinet Member for Planning and Enforcement, Cllr Peter Strachen and our District Councillor, Cllr Cameron Branson also attended.

The following enforcement sites were discussed:

- 1 Godfrey Close – Build not going to plan!
 - The owner had been advised to stop the build as it contravened the planning that had been permitted. The owner will be required to submit new plans and must ensure the proposed changes are agreed before recommencing the build. The Parish Council will monitor all developments here. It should be noted that this is the second contravention to plans and retrospective plans have previously been permitted at a planning committee. No further plans have been submitted to date.
- Land off Thame Road – The land is littered with building materials and a horsebox
 - All present agreed it was very untidy but was not necessarily being used as a builder's yard. It did however require attention. The Parish Council are working with the AVDC planning enforcement team to resolve this issue and will continue to monitor.
- Land off Oakley Road – Suspected travellers' site
 - Planning applications have been received involving flood management, hardstanding and highways.
 - A site visit has been planned to debate the request for a hardstanding surface by the planning committee and this will be reviewed at a further committee meeting in April. The Enforcement Planning team are awaiting all outcomes.
- Hillside Farm – Agricultural building in debate
 - Enforcement do not have an issue with the size of build or its use. The current law states that agricultural use for a building must exist for at least 10 years before change of use can be requested. The Parish Council have made a note on the year of completion – 2018 and will ensure AVDC's records mirror the same.

Playground

The play area on the recreation ground has been enjoyed by a large number of village children over the past 25 years. The slide, swings, roundabout and other items were all looking a little tired, so the Parish Council employed a couple of local craftsmen to give them a facelift and to make a few necessary repairs. Now the paint is dry the playground is once again looking colourful and inviting to all.

Donations to Charities

The Parish Council has made the following donations to charity:

Football Club	£250.00
'Unsung Hero' Award	£25.00
Cricket Club	£250.00
Community Bus	£94.50
PPC Church Burial Ground	£600.00
Total Donations:	£1,219.50

Litter

The Parish Council supports a twice-yearly litter pick along all roads within the Parish boundary, in Spring and Autumn. As a result of this regular clean-up, the perennial problem of roadside litter has become more easily managed. Accompanied children are encouraged to take part and certificates are awarded for their efforts. Dates for litter picks are advertised in the Bernwode News and on the Parish noticeboard.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Monday 29th 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.

The Clerk's contact details are: 01844 238662 or brillparish@btconnect.com and there is an answerphone when the office is closed. Normal opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.00am until 12.00 pm in the Old Library Room.

BVCH contact details bvch@btinternet.com