

BRILL PARISH COUNCIL

WINDMILL TIMES



Happy New Year!

Welcome to the Winter 2020/21 edition of the Windmill Times, your newsletter from the Parish Council in which we give you an update on some of the activities we have been involved in this year.

Like everyone, the Parish Council has had to adapt during the pandemic, the main difference being our meetings are conducted remotely via Zoom. This format still allows participation from the general public and we are grateful to those who have joined us. If you want to participate, even if only for the initial 10 minutes in which you can address the council, please see the Zoom log-in details and link published with the agenda on the Brill Parish Council website.

Parish Council elections will, we hope, finally go ahead in May. They were initially delayed from 2019 to 2020 to align with the election of councillors to the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council, and then delayed again by COVID-19. See below for more information.

Cllr Mark Dickinson
Chairman Brill PC

COVID-19 – Community Support

2020 has presented many challenges because of the global pandemic. Brill Parish Council identified vulnerable individuals requiring additional support and those able to provide it. The support included shopping, collecting prescriptions and just generally 'checking in' to enquire about general wellbeing.

We still have a data base of Brill people who would be happy to help anyone in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Should anyone need that help, or if anyone knows of someone needing help, please get in touch. Help may be a simple phone chat, shopping or other.

A big shout out to all those that have helped during this difficult time – Thank you!!!

Foodbank Appeal

Brill has supported the Aylesbury Food bank appeal throughout 2020 and will continue to do so through to May 2021. It's thanks to your efforts that we have been able to contribute to this fabulous initiative which included the provision of new toys for children at Christmas.

Cricket Field path

With the landowner's permission, the Parish Council is exploring the possibility of installing a permanent path along the edge of the cricket field, linking the Sports & Social Club car park to the existing tarmac path where it joins the alleyway leading to Temple Street. In consultation with all interested parties & having looked at various options, the proposed path would be installed by a specialist supplier & made from bonded recycled rubber - typically used in play areas - in a choice of colours. This material is suitable for pushchairs & also specifically designed as a low-impact surface that would be level with the grass to avoid injuries to those participating in adjacent sporting activities. The Clerk will be applying for part-funding of this project through Haddenham & Waddesdon Community Board, a committee of local parish councils, which has limited funds to distribute for local initiatives.

The Walks

The Walks continues to improve for all visitors, and we are now seeing many families coming to enjoy this special place. In memory of Kris Tuffley, who played, courted and walked the area as an adult, her family have planted trees, erected a quality seat and hung a new rope swing. Children are just loving the swing, and we suspect adults too, and whilst they wait their turn the children climb those fantastic logs nearby. A memorial oak tree has also been planted in memory of Jean Moule who walked the area at least twice daily with her beloved dog.

The Brill Parish is very lucky to have this area and the next step to improve it is to plant some trees that attract birds and insects. Some Service trees and Spindle trees should be in place by the time you read this, and Wayfaring trees will be planted in the spring.

We often hear of other suggestions that people would like to see in the Walks. Please be assured that we are happy to consider all ideas but do think about who would implement them (it could be any parishioners), and how the ideas would be maintained. We are happy for anyone to be involved if they would like. In the meantime, enjoy the pond, whilst it has water, and look forward to seeing a new flock of lambs in the spring. A maintenance session will take place after Christmas.

The Common

The Parish Council would once again, like to thank all those volunteers whose joint efforts help to keep the Common open and accessible to all residents and visitors.

The PC greatly appreciate that the work carried out by various groups is not always easy. It can be very time consuming and mostly without reward. The main three groups that work on the common are Friends of Brill Common, The Common Volunteers and Brill Village Herd. There are also a number of people whose work is often not acknowledged but always noticed whether it be litter picking or general maintenance. No individual receives any financial reward so it is refreshing to see that so many people are willing to give up their time for a common purpose (pun intended!).

As well as the regular funding given to Brill Village Herd, this year the PC has funded the repair and painting of the railings beside the hollow and the replacement of rotten stobbs which prevent driving onto the common at certain points. There are a few very muddy areas at present - after all the Autumn rain it is no surprise but come spring it will all dry out and the Common will be back to looking its best.

Windmill

Brill windmill was once again used by Bentley productions as a location for scenes for an episode of Midsummer murders. Filming took place over two days this Autumn. As you have noticed the windmill has not been opened at all this summer because of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. The Brill Society is incredibly grateful to have received the fees from the filming to offset the shortfall cause by the restrictions. Our thanks also go to the board of BVCH who very kindly arranged to move the cattle to enable the film crew unfettered access to the common. The episode is expected to be the first in the new season next year.

Elections 2020

The delayed elections are expected to take place in May 2021. Serving on the Parish Council is an excellent way to support your village and ensure that it continues to evolve to meet all our needs. If you are interested in learning more or would like to put your name forward, please contact the parish clerk brill.parish@gmail.com

Maintenance work 2020

We would like to say a big thank you to Gordon Govier and Rob Timms for assisting the Parish Council on a number of projects throughout 2020, repairing the traffic calming barriers on Thame Road and Tram Hill and repainting the white railings by the windmill to name but a few.

Litter Pick

Thank you to everyone who took part in the litter pick, particularly those who worked in their smaller bubbles on either side of the event. We all appreciate the fruits of their labour. We will continue to support any individual initiative throughout the year, providing bags and gloves and a means of disposal.

Particular thanks to the Tuffley family, James, Hannah, Matilda and Dennis, and Dorothy Wheatly who have continued to do a fantastic job on a regular basis. Please look out for the next event in March 2021

Village Waste

During 2020 Brill welcomed more visitors to the village as they took their outdoor exercise. As a result, we have seen an increase in the village waste. To deal with this effectively we have increased our waste disposal facility and with the aid of Rob Timms are able to keep on top of the situation.

Streetlights

The streetlights have all been updated to LED's which will reduce the annual running cost by at least 50%. Several residents have commented on the visual improvement too, so all in all a win-win!

Playground Committee

A playground committee has been formed by willing volunteers in the community with the aim of raising funds to install brand new play equipment at the playing field, replacing some of the existing outdated and expensive to maintain equipment. Some of the children in the community have played a key role in putting together the wish list of equipment and the committee working with suppliers to put together designs in keeping with the look and feel of Brill. They will also be looking to ensure that some accessible play equipment is included in the plans in order that Brill has a fantastic play facility accessible to all. The committee has been hard at work with their fund-raising activities in the community including the recent virtual bake off and thanks should go to the Boutell Bequest, a charitable foundation in Oxford, who have donated £5,000 to the project whilst committing to match fund a further £15,000. If you are interested in joining the committee or have some recommendations or contacts for further fundraising please contact cllrghamilton@gmail.com (the responsible councillor)

War Memorial

In 2019 the Clerk obtained quotes from bespoke stone masons to carry out repairs to the war memorial. This specialised repair required limestone sections of the plinth to be replaced. The work was fortunately completed just before the first lockdown in March 2020 and on VE day anniversary it was seen in all its glory.

Precept

The Parish Council will submit their precept requirements for 2020/21 in January 2021. We must ensure that all village services are catered for within the budgetary numbers. Full disclosure will be presented in our Annual Report.

Parking

We are continuing to look at options to improve parking in Brill. One of the ideas being considered is improving the Memorial Hall car park. Work to fix the flooding problem is already planned, and in conjunction with the Hall Committee, we are looking at the feasibility of further improvements to the surface. Also, we are investigating the painting of double yellow lines around the junction of The High Street, Windmill Street and Temple Street to try and ease congestion caused by poorly parked cars. These lines would be applied in the area within 10m metres of the junction, i.e. marking out where it is already an offence to park. If you have thoughts on this proposal, we would welcome your feedback.

Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS)

The sign which flashes if you are speeding as you enter the village, the Moveable Vehicle-Activated Sign, also records how many cars and at what speed with a timestamp. The data is collected every three weeks as that is how long the batteries last, and two excellent standard summary reports are published on the BPC website at where you are welcome to view them: <https://www.brillparishcouncil.co.uk/traffic-roads>. If you also want the data write to me at andyfisherbrillpc@hotmail.com (the responsible councillor)

Donations

Brill Parish Council has made the following donations this year to local groups:

£250 Football club
£250 Cricket club
£250 Playground Committee
£650 Church (upkeep of burial grounds)

If you are part of a local group requiring financial assistance and you have not requested funds before, we would like to hear from you. Donations are considered at our April and October meetings only.

Enforcement Issues

Land off Oakley Road – BC have served an injunction order against unauthorised work. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Brill Parish Council website – www.brillparishcouncil.co.uk – Keep in touch!

If you think that the site could be improved, please contact us by email; brill.parish@gmail.com (parish clerk) or andyfisherbrillpc@hotmail.com (the responsible councillor)

The Clerk's contact details are: 01844 238662 or brill.parish@gmail.com and there is an answerphone when the office is closed.

