



Great Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Assembly for Great Bromley held at Great Bromley Village Hall on Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 7.20pm

In attendance: Cllrs Nicholls (Chairman), Fairley, Hardy, Heaney, Lord and Robinson.

Also in attendance: ECC Cllr Guglielmi, TDC Cllrs Scott and Wiggins, and Lizzie Ridout (Clerk)

Members of the public: 1

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were submitted by Cllrs Blowers and Mander.

3. To note the confirmed minutes of the Parish Assembly held on Tuesday 14th May 2019, previously circulated.

The minutes were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

4. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Nicholls.

The Parish Council has experienced a very different year owing to the ongoing Covid restrictions. All of our meetings have been virtual. This has caused some difficulty but thanks to the co-operation of all councillors we have been able to carry out our responsibilities. A special thank you to our clerk, Mrs Lizzie Ridout for ensuring all councillors could take part.

Special thanks also to our village handymen, Lewis and Bill for the excellent work they have carried out, keeping the village looking so good. Cutting grass, looking after the play equipment, keeping our signs within the village looking good. A big thank you!! Lewis and Bill. I am aware the residents greatly appreciate your efforts.

The usual litter picks were not possible this past year. However the Parish Council agreed to purchase some litter picks that were given to residents who wished to carry out litter picks whilst out walking. Our handymen have also carried out litter picks in some areas of the village that have been particularly bad. The litter picks arranged by Cllr. Blowers were sorely missed. It is difficult to understand why people have to leave their litter on verges, in ditches or on the highway. If anybody witnesses any such flying tipping please report it to our clerk or to Tendring District Council.

Superfast Broadband supplied by County Broadband has finally arrived. Numerous complaints were made regarding the contractors employed by County Broadband. Main complaints included the state of verges that had not been made good, hedge trimmings left strewn over verges, signs left behind and various other problems. The majority now seems to have been cleared up.

Complaints have been made regarding overgrown hedges and trees intruding onto footpaths and highways. Farmers and house owners have been reminded of their responsibilities by an article in our village magazine. Speaking of the Messenger I would like to pay a vote of special thanks to our new Editor, our Clerk Mrs Lizzie Ridout. She has stepped into the shoes of our past editor, seamlessly.

One of our main problems this year has been flooding. This has been a particular problem in certain locations on some roads. Following these problems, our County Councillor Carlo Guglielmi arranged a virtual meeting with Kevin Bentley, ECC leader and highways portfolio holder. As a result of this meeting which also included some residents and myself it was agreed for Highways to work on some schemes to alleviate the problems, we shall see! I am aware Highways engineers have been working in the village and carrying out various

tests, lets hope we see some benefit very soon.

Another result for the village was the agreement following on from the flooding meeting, the approval to reduce the speed limit of vehicles entering the village from the Harwich direction, from 40mph to 30 mph. It was also agreed for Carlo to take forward a scheme to reduce the speed limit along Harwich Road for its entire length through the village to 30mph. Something that has been requested for several years. I would like to thank Carlo for all the work he has put in to ensure the speed limit is reduced. I feel the whole village should thank Carlo for what I know have been hours of work.

The development at Little Paddocks is nearing completion. A shop has been built and will house an automatic cash machine and application has been made for a post office counter that will be open daily.

Plans have been submitted for the development of Hamilton Lodge. These are due to be discussed by Tendring planners in the near future. I am pleased to say the original number of houses has been reduced. Within the plans there will be a village green and a pond, both of which will be gifted to the parish along with funds to maintain them.

There has been a total of 27 different planning applications to come before the Parish Council since 1st June 2020.

I have been in conversation with Tendring Police commander regarding the policing in our village. I understand we will have a police presence at our monthly parish council meetings. This is something residents have requested.

Our annual budget review has been held and due to good financial management, it was considered a small increase of our parish precept by 1% would be requested.

Owing to the ongoing Covid situation the Corbeau Tendring Rally was cancelled I understand it has also been cancelled for this year. A number of other events in this area have also been cancelled including the Annual Tendring Farmers Show.

Finally, I would like to thank all councillors, for their support and hard work throughout this difficult year. especially Cllr David Hardy and family for all their assistance during the lockdown.

5. Reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Scott remarked on the past difficult year, with many virtual meetings. Cllr Scott and Cllr Wiggins had delivered recycling boxes and disseminated information from TDC. He thanked residents and councillors for contacting them, and they would continue to assist in the coming year.

County Cllr Guglielmi reported the many initiatives such as the Essex Welfare Service masterminding food delivery to communities, in tandem with TDC. Many community groups had been coordinated by Covid response team at TDC. Care homes had experienced issues during the pandemic, and Cllr John Spence had done an incredible job addressing the shortage of PPE which was resolved. Essex had been the first county to introduce mandatory testing for staff and had been able to progress recently with visits to care homes. ECC had used a share of funding to fully address the school food issues in half terms for children and families in need. The distribution of business grants had been undertaken which businesses used to reinvent themselves, such as investing in canopies and outdoor facilities. The Essex Climate Action Commission had progressed with 40,000 trees already planted. The elections held on 6th May had resulted in Cllr Kevin Bentley elected as new leader of ECC, and Roger Hirst re-elected as PFCC.

Cllr Scott congratulated Cllr Guglielmi on being re-elected as County Councillor.

Cllr Guglielmi further reported that as a result of a surgery with Cllr Bentley in March of this year, work planned to investigate the flooding in the village was planned for the 3rd week of June. Schemes had also been submitted to the Local Highways Panel for 30mph section along Harwich Road, and to extend past the Courthouse.

6. Reports from Appointed Officers:

- Tree Warden - Col M Frostick OBE

With the tree planting season now at an end, I am delighted to report that a significant number of trees and hedging have been planted in various locations in the village during the last 5 months. The vast majority have been as a result of the TWIG project (see below) but routine planting by the tree warden and several landowners also took place.

The TWIG Project. To celebrate the 30th anniversary of the national tree warden scheme in 2020 various planting schemes and events were proposed across the country and Tendring District Council put forward one of the most ambitious projects - to plant 30,000 hedgerow whips and trees in their district. This project, known as TWIG 30000, was approved by the Tree Council and funding was provided by Network Rail. The scheme was subsequently enhanced by additional funding from Essex County Council under the Essex Forest Initiative. In total over 42,000 trees and hedging were planted in the Tendring area by contractors, ably supervised and assisted by Mike Wadham (Tendring volunteer tree warden co-ordinator) and Clive Dawson (TDC principle tree and landscape officer). Three suitable areas for planting were identified in Great Bromley at Badley Hall Farm, Park Farm and the Bromley Brook Vineyard which resulted in over 6,000 trees and hedging whips being planted in the village as part of the TWIG project. Thanks go to the landowners for supporting these plantings and for agreeing to nurture the trees until they reach maturity.

General Tree Planting. Over fifty larger trees and 240 hedging plants were planted at various locations in the village including Badley Hall Farm, New House Farm, Morehams Hall Farm and some private gardens. Some of the smaller hedging plants were bought in but the larger trees were surplus self-sown saplings dug up from woodland within the village. Although most plantings are away from public view, some of the new trees can be seen alongside Badley Hall Road and along the public footpath between the Harwich Road and Morehams Hall. My thanks go to the landowners and others for supporting and assisting with the planting.

- Footpath Liaison - Cllr Mander

The last year has seen a significant increase in footfall on most of the footpath network within the Parish. This as a result of the lockdown rules introduced, which has encouraged people to take more exercise and stay local.

Overall, the footpaths and bridleways are being well managed and not causing problems to those using them (thanks to the Volunteer Footpath Warden, Graham Smith with backup from the GBPC Maintenance Team). Some issues have been reported including crops being planted on paths that cross fields, but with good communication between the Parish Council and landowners these problems have overall been resolved.

Footbridges have been replaced on footpath numbers 14 and 23 with the bridge on number 4 due to be replaced soon. One outstanding problem are the steps on footpath 17 to Boudge Hill, which are in an extremely dangerous state. This issue was reported to Essex County Council at least two years ago and again recently. It is hoped that the steps will be repaired soon to enable walkers to use this footpath safely.

- Community Speedwatch Coordinator - Mr G Smith

The Great Bromley Speedwatch team now has three sites authorised in the village where checks are allowed to be carried out. Harwich Road near the Hare Green playing field, between the school and St George's Close in Brook Street and a new addition in 2019 in Frating Road along from the Cross Inn. Most sessions are held in Harwich Road as the biggest speeding problem out of the three is here. Surprisingly the newest location near The Cross has seen very few offenders being detected. Due to team members relocating and outside work pressures the group is down to three members. Another parishioner has

shown interest in joining but training has been delayed due to the pandemic. 2020 saw operations seriously curtailed due to the pandemic but sessions are now due to recommence as the lockdown eases. In 2021 Graham Smith became the Speedwatch co-ordinator for Great Bromley.

Neil Skinner

- Bromley Messenger Representative - Mr R Perry

From April 2020 there was a large reduction in the income, but the expenditure, although it was lower than the previous year, rose above the income. Without a grant from Great Bromley Parish Council the Messenger would have been unable to meet its commitments. The current state of income has improved slightly but the magazine still requires more businesses in the area to support the Messenger by advertising their services.

7. Questions from Members of the Public

There were none.

8. Resolutions of the Parish Assembly

To continue trying to improve service by the Council to the Community.

9. Date of the next Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 11th May 2022.

The meeting ended at 7.40pm.