

**MINUTES OF BROOKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2019 AT
BROOKE METHODIST CHURCH**

Present: Mr Haycox (Chairman), Mr Harrison (Vice-Chair), Mrs Beardsell, Mrs Jones, Mr Spinks, Mr Gibson, Mr Pitelen, Mr Tobin, Mrs Meadows and Mrs Andrews (Clerk)

In Attendance: Representative from Brooke Playpark Committee, Mr Hankinson (representative from Brooke Primary School Board of Governors), Mr Fuller (District Councillor).

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Mr Stone (County Councillor).

2. Declarations of Interest:

Mr Tobin declared an interest in agenda item 5.1 regarding planning application number 2019/2149.

3. Minutes of meeting 28th October 2019:

The minutes had been previously circulated to all Councillors, they were agreed to be a true record and duly signed by Mr Haycox.

4. Matters arising from meeting 28th October 2019:

4.1 Playpark

A representative from Brooke Playpark Committee gave a report summarised as follows: Fund raising is going very well, £40,000 has been raised so far. The Tarmac Limited Landfill Communities Fund have offered a net award of £15,000 subject to Brooke PC making a contribution of £1659.46 which represents 10% of the gross figure they are offering. The Parish Council normally pays a maintenance grant of £1250 per year. It was agreed that the Parish Council would pay the £1659.46 requested as the Play Park Committee grant for the 2019/20 financial year but that the grant paid in the 2020/21 year would be reduced accordingly.

4.2 Kings Head PH update

Mr Haycox had met with the current owners of the Kings Head PH. The sale to new owners is going through. Contracts should be exchanged following the expiry of the community asset protection period.

4.3 Local business signage

Mr Pitelen reported that he had received confirmation from Barry Stone (County Councillor) that no private signage should be displayed on the Highways land at the junction of the B1332 and High Green. Mr Fuller (District Councillor) advised that there is currently a review taking place on the legislation surrounding this issue as there is no distinction in current legislation between small local signage and the large, trailer mounted adverts seen along roadsides. He advised that the Parish Council could get a brown sign made directly people to 'local shops' but there would be a cost implication to this.

Mr Haycox noted that despite illegal signage being reported at High Green and the Brooke Industrial Estate, the latter is still in place. The clerk has reported this to Highways.

4.4 St Peters Road play area

Mr Spinks reported that the date of 26th January 2020 has been set for a working party to cut back vegetation to the boundary. Mrs Jones is trying to source a shredder. Works to Dovecote Close amenity area are planned for the same day.

4.5 Adrian Gunson memorial noticeboard

This item was deferred.

5. Planning:

5.1 New and amended planning applications.

2019/2149 - Proposed changes to fenestration, fascia, soffits, guttering and down pipes at 1, High Green.

The application was recommended for approval.

5.2 Brooke Care Home proposal update

Mr Haycox reported that he had read through the presentation documents sent via dropbox from Bidwells prior to the last meeting. He advised that the Highways changes proposed are substantial. Mr Fuller advised that an application was made 4-5 years ago and the applicant was unable at that time to overcome problems around entry and exit from the site. Mr Haycox urged Councillors to look online at the previous application and surrounding documentation. No further application has yet been made but is expected soon.

6. District and County Councillors reports:

Mr Fuller gave his report, summarised as follows:

He noted that the phone box on The Street has been removed. Reinstatement is unlikely. The District Council has awarded a £15,000 grant to the new play park project.

A grant of £5000 has been guaranteed towards the Squash Club project. The Cricket Club has agreed to take over the running and responsibility of the Squash Club. Mr Haycox has met with the existing trustees who are happy to relinquish their trustee status to the Parish Council. There will be legal fees associated with the admin around this but the club has sufficient funds to meet these costs. Mr Spinks proposed in principle that the Parish Council should become owner and Councillors should be trustees to the Squash Club. Mr Harrison seconded the proposal with all present in favour.

Local Plan.

Previous large scale development proposals were born out of an inadequate land supply position within the previous plan. He confirmed that this will be dealt with under the new plan currently in final development. It has been delayed until the New Year as the Inspector(s) are carrying out further reviews. It is currently at the fourth stage of checking before release for comment. Public consultation is likely to be in the 1st quarter of the New Year with an 8 week consultation window.

The aim of the new plan for the villages is to apportion this by cluster giving an average of 60 across the 74 clusters. Our cluster comprises Brooke, Kirstead and Howe.

It is anticipated that our cluster will be required to provide in the range of 55-65 homes over the next 20 years.

Theoretically this could be achieved through infill but this is likely to mean growth in 4/5 bedroom detached properties with very little, if any, affordable housing providing no social benefits.

Developments of more than 10 houses are required to contain elements of social housing. Bungalows are a necessary requirement going forward, especially with an ageing population, with 5 properties being provided on a 20 house development. These sites also contain properties where future care and mobility needs are considered, such as wider and accessible baths and wider door apertures.

There is an identified need for 2840 care units going forward and it is desirable that this is also met from people staying in their own homes.

Downsizing is not an option for many reasons but in Brooke it is difficult to downsize without considering leaving the village.

Mr Fuller agreed to attend a meeting in the New Year when the plan is available. We will inform the wider community as to when this will be and also provide details of how to view and comment on the draft plan.

In summary, over 20 years we can expect circa 60 properties across 3 villages and it would be desirable to have a mix of development sizes.

Mrs Jones asked what environmental considerations are being imposed in new developments. Mr Fuller advised that building regulations changed in 2014 with more environmentally driven specifications. More regulations may follow but these would of course have a knock on effect in terms of affordability.

Mrs Meadows asked whether there was anything he could do about the reduced bus service in Brooke. Mr Fuller advised that the buses are commercial operations and therefore outside of the District Council's control. He did however advise that new rolling stock was due shortly so reliability of the existing service should improve.

Mr Haycox asked about the new Loddon roundabout and was advised this should start in the New Year.

Mr Stone was unable to attend the meeting but had sent an email as follows:

There is no intention of re routing the bus down High Green.

I have chased up the new bus stop for Kirsten Church junction but have not had a reply yet. I did make the enquiry weeks ago but got no response hence the need to chase it up.

The hedge along the main road will have to wait as no funds available for that. It could be possible to get the landowner to cut it back however.

7. School Governor report:

Mr Hankinson gave a short report, summarised as follows:

Pupil numbers are now over 100. The role of Assistant Head has now been filled. The local authority has praised the school for having a balanced budget for over 3 years. The Board of Governors need a County nominated Governor. They are looking for nominations.

8. Correspondence:

An email had been received from The Local Government Boundary Commission advising of an extension of the consultation for division boundaries in Norfolk. The division boundary review does not affect Brooke, therefore no action is necessary.

A letter had been received from the Reverend Lynn Chapman advising of plans to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE day in 2020. She was writing to ensure that planned events did not clash with any that the Parish Council may be planning. It was agreed that the PC would not be organising any events. The Clerk will advise Rev Chapman accordingly.

Emails had been received from a member of the public requesting the PC to put questions to Mr Fuller regarding his stance of future development proposals. The majority view was that at the present time, as no large scale development applications have been submitted, the PC would not put theoretical questions to Mr Fuller. Mr Haycox had responded to the member of the public advising of the PC's decision and invited him to attend this meeting in order that he may put the question to Mr Fuller in person. He was not in attendance.

9. Finance:

9.1 Clerk's financial statement

The Clerk had circulated an overview of the Parish Council finances prior to the meeting.

Mr Haycox had been in receipt of a £100 donation towards the meres project. He will pass a cheque to the Clerk to be banked.

It was agreed that monies received as donations towards the meres project and expenses arising from related works should be shown separately on the financial statement.

9.2 Cheques to be authorised

The following cheques were approved for payment and signed accordingly:

£10.00	Brooke Methodist Church	Hall hire
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9.3 Budget 2020/21

Mr Harrison had done some calculations and feels that the precept should be increased this year. It was agreed that a separate precept setting meeting should take place so that full consideration can be given to the matter. The meeting will take place on 6th January 2020.

10. Parish Partnership scheme and CIL

Mr Tobin had obtained a quote for a SAM 2 flashing speed sign from Westcotec at £3250.00 + VAT. The Clerk will complete the application form for 50% funding through the Parish Partnership Scheme. The outcome of the bid will be known in March. A decision as to whether or not to go ahead with installation will be based on the outcome of the bid.

11. Councillor responsibilities:

11.1 Speeding (A Gibson)

Mr Gibson had nothing new to report.

11.2 Meres (L Pitelen)

Mr Pitelen has found a contractor who will take the spoils away from site once the meres are dredged. He is in the process of getting quotes for dredging and haulage. Specifications and tenders will be sort over winter prior to the commencement of the next growing season for all public areas under responsibility of the Parish Council

11.3 Village assets (M Tobin)

Mr Tobin advised that the bin on Brecon Road needs repair or replacement. He will obtain quotes.

11.4 Buses (L Meadows)

Nothing new to report.

11.5 Tree wardens (R Beardsell and C Jones)

Nothing to report.

11.6 Website update (A Gibson and J Spinks)

This item was deferred.

11.7 Village events (J Spinks)

There are no new village events at present.

11.8 Dog fouling (D Harrison)

Nothing to report.

11.9 Footpaths (R Beardsell)

Nothing to report.

12. Items for Agenda of next meeting 20th January 2019:

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.05pm