

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

4th February, 2020

A Meeting of the Public Relations & Publicity Sub-Committee at 7.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Carrier (Chairman), Howlett, Macdonald, Shaw, Steggles, Watson and Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Clerk J Caborn.

1 **APOLOGIES** – none

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** - none

3 **MINUTES OF MEETING 3.9.19 – MATTERS ARISING** – nil.

4 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – no members of the public present.

5 **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY/ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

It was pointed out that very few ‘members of the public’ (as opposed to council members and others representing organisations) have attended Bradwell’s Annual Parish Meeting in recent years, and it was suggested that most people who attend at all have come because they have ‘issues’. It was further suggested that more people took an interest in what the Parish Council was doing 20 or 30 years ago than now, and that it is particularly difficult to involve newcomers to the village, who have moved into the newer housing estates, who probably on average have to work ‘longer hours’ than the previous generation did. The council launched the ‘Bradwellian’ during the late 1990’s, in an attempt to give the council and other local organisations more of a voice, and a) invite local organisations to submit a piece, and b) arrange for a representative to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to offer more information and answer any questions. Different views were expressed about the style and effectiveness of the publication, and whether it actually generates a great deal of interest in what may be happening locally.

The issue of ‘social media’, and whether the council should become involved with it, was raised at a previous meeting, and other councils in the Gt Yarmouth Borough area were asked to what extent, if at all, they used it, and a variety of responses were received and circulated. A relative of a member of the council teaches ‘social media’ to schoolchildren, and would be willing to talk to members of the council about how it could be used. It was also questioned as to whether council noticeboards were in the right places, and how many people knew where they were – an online ‘community noticeboard’ could be set up as an alternative. It was suggested that, with the forthcoming retirement of the council clerk and ‘handover’ period to his successor, these should be issues for the new clerk to consider, but only when she has had time to learn most of the rest of the job. Similarly, as this meeting has had to be postponed from its original date of last year, it is now too late to implement any changes to the way that the Annual Parish Meeting is organised, and this issue will need to be reconsidered at a later date.

6 **WEBSITE ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS (NEW LEGISLATION RE USE OF WEBSITE BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES)**

Information regarding the above was circulated. It has been announced that public sector websites and apps will need to meet certain accessibility standards and publish a statement saying they have been met. The new regulations are called, ‘The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018’ and are now law in England and Wales. The aim of the regulations is to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps are accessible to all users, especially those with disabilities - existing websites will have until the 22nd September 2020 to comply. Public sector mobile applications will have until the 22nd June 2021 to comply.

It was resolved to ask the ‘Mythic Beasts Ltd. company, who ‘host’ the website, whether they could undertake the necessary work, or offer any particular advice. An alternative could be to abandon the website altogether, and acquire an already ‘compliant’ one to replace it. GYBC and SLCC can be asked for advice. The website’s ‘statistics’ as to the extent of its own use could be obtained and assessed, as part of the exercise.

7 **DISPLAY ON WEBSITE OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MINUTES**

It was reported that minutes going back to 2015 are currently displayed. It was resolved that, in future, **minutes from one year should all be deleted at the end of the subsequent year.**

8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A ‘photo-shoot’ of all councillors who are present at next week’s Parish Council meeting, which will be displayed on the front page of the forthcoming ‘Bradwellian’, will take place before the meeting starts.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

Signed:..... Date :