

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR THE PARISH OF BRAILSFORD AND EDNASTON HELD
AT THE BRAILSFORD INSTITUTE ON WEDNESDAY 03 MAY 2017**

PRESENT: Councillors P Laughlin (Chair), I Longstaff, H Stevenson, L Thompson, S Thompson, 3 Members of the public

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD 4.5.16

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meetings held on the 4.5.16 were approved and signed by the Chair.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

Chairman Councillor Pat Laughlin

2016-17 has been dominated by the work undertaken to prepare and consult on the Neighbourhood Plan and to make representations to the consultations on the draft Local Plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council was successful in its application for public funding available to support the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan - £9000 is available to a Parish such as Brailsford & Ednaston. Although this is a significant fund it is not sufficient to enable full time professional support to be commissioned as was the case with the early 'pathfinder' plans where sums up to £35000 were available. The Parish Council is therefore very grateful to the team of local volunteers who worked on the plan for many months. However, we recognised as the plan was developed that some external professional and specialist support would be necessary; therefore we also launched a Just Giving site to raise additional funding.

Support was also provided by Action Team Brailsford who helped promote the Neighbourhood Plan as it developed, publicised the important consultation events, provided facilitators for these events and helped raise further essential funding – some £8000. A major thanks must go to them for their support.

Three public consultation events were held in the year with the plan formally submitted in January 2017 following a first consultation with a range of statutory organisations such as the Highways Authority, Heritage England and Severn Trent. The statutory Regulation 14 consultation ended on 21 April 2017 and the responses (a relatively small number) are being reviewed.

Draft Local Plan

Formal responses were made to both consultations relating to the draft Local Plan. These were based on the outputs from the public consultations.

Our main objection was focused on the Settlement Hierarchy which is the anchor policy of the Plan. Brailsford has been identified as a Tier 3 settlement – a village with sufficient amenity to accommodate larger scale developments: Ednaston is a Tier 5 settlement where only small-scale limited development would be allowed. Our objection challenges the determination for Brailsford which was originally based on an incorrect assessment of the current population of Brailsford village: this was initially recorded at double its actual size. Although these numbers were later corrected we believe that the use of this model has led to a higher number of new houses being allocated to the village than would normally be accommodated. A second factor is that Brailsford's allocation is much higher than that given to the other Tier 3 Settlement villages. The Planning Inspector will be considering the Settlement Hierarchy on the 2nd day of the Public Hearing which starts next week.

Our second major objection was to the inclusion of the Throstlenest Way extension site as well as the new site at the Luke Lane Mercaston junction. As the Throstlenest way extension had previously been deemed unsuitable its inclusion was contested and we were successful in having it removed at the 2nd draft stage.

Planning Applications

The Parish Council has raised a series of detailed objections to the applications for development at Luke Lane, Main Road and the extension to the existing Miller Homes site. We did support the plan for a small development of specialist bungalows on a site located off The Green on the basis of the identification of a need for this type of housing by residents in the consultations held in relation to the Neighbourhood Plan. The application for bungalows was refused but the Derbyshire Dales Planning Committee recognised that this was a specific need and gave a public commitment that bungalows would be included in any further approved developments. To date this has not proved to be the case and we continue to pursue this campaign.

I very much regret that despite the current Government's recognition of the importance of local input to planning decisions in relation to the creation and maintenance of sustainable communities in the recent consultation on the Housing White Paper, the submission of our Neighbourhood Plan, and our statements on need made in relation to the application, the Planning Authority has once again totally disregarded our views and those of local people, and proposes to approve a major development (Gladman – Main Road) which does not match their own criteria as set out in the draft Local Plan and ahead of the Public Hearing on the Local Plan.

Traffic and Road Safety

We have also campaigned hard for essential road safety improvements on Luke Lane, especially in the vicinity of the school. We have worked with the School Governors and have been supported by our County Councillor Steve Bull. We will continue to make the case for these improvements which include the siting of a pedestrian crossing on Luke Lane; a 20 mph speed restriction on the approach to the schools with appropriate signage; the need for a new Pelican crossing adjacent to the Luke Lane junction; a second speed restriction warning sign; and traffic calming measures at the village boundaries. All these features formed part of the recommendations made in the traffic and transport survey which we commissioned in 2016.

The Playing Field

Retention of the Playing Field at The Plain and its designation as public open space was one of the priorities identified in the Neighbourhood Plan consultations. This is one of the key objectives set out in the Neighbourhood Plan and has been raised with Derbyshire County Council – its owners. The land has already been designated as an Asset of Community Value (ACV)

As a result of these discussions, the County Council has offered to ‘donate’ the land to the Parish Council, which would then take over its future management, and we understand that this plan was being taken through the necessary approvals process. The proposal has the support of our County Councillor and we will be asking for the handover to be progressed once this week’s election process is completed.

Yew Tree Ednaston

The Parish Council worked with Ednaston residents to secure an ACV designation for the village pub which was being threatened with closure. The pub was reopened and has continued to operate successfully with the exception of a short period after Xmas 2016 when the tenancy changed hands.

Village Institute

We continue to support the Institute Committee with their work to maintain and improve the Institute as a major Parish asset. The Parish Council holds funds to support essential maintenance/refurbishment and is supporting the Committee with the preparation of a feasibility study which will examine the options available for redevelopment.

Councillors

Two Councillors resigned during the year and I thank them for their contributions during their time in office. We are therefore seeking to appoint new Councillors who can help continue the campaign to maintain the traditional rural nature and character of the Parish as well as ensuring that we secure our amenities and ensure investment in new services suitable for the 21st century.

I would like to offer thanks to all Councillors for their support during the year and our Clerk, particularly for her assistance with fund raising and the ongoing management of additional funds.

RESOLVED to note the Annual Report for 2016/2017.

BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX PRECEPT FOR 2017/2018

RESOLVED to note the agreed Council Tax Precept of £10,000 for 2017/2018.

DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT

None provided

OTHER PARISH MATTERS

Councillor Thompson thanked Councillors Pat Laughlin and Hugh Stevenson who had put in a vast amount of effort into preparing the Neighbourhood Plan.

Parishioners raised ongoing concerns with traffic matters. It was agreed to investigate all options.

Parishioners asked questions about The Plain playing field. An update was provided.

Parishioners raised questions on the Neighbourhood Plan which were answered.

Parishioners queried current planning applications and Section 106 monies. The current situation was explained.

Signed

Chairman

Date