

BRILL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018



Introduction

This year we welcomed Cllr Andy Fisher on to the Parish Council; the composition of the council has otherwise remained the same. This report covers the key topics in which the council has been active over the past year. Please make the time to join us at the Parish meeting at the Sports and Social club on Monday 30th April at 8pm.

Cllr Julian Newman –Chairman

All Councillors have been appointed to sub committees as follows:

All Councillors	Common Land maintenance and encroachment
Cllrs Edmonds/Buggey/Clerk	Funding
Cllr Newman	Key community groups and initiatives
Cllr Hamilton	Editor – Windmill Times/Annual Report
All Cllrs/Clerk	LAF Meetings (Quarterly Meetings)
All Cllrs	NAG/ MVAS/Police liaison
All Cllrs	MVAS
Cllr Hamilton	Village Website
Cllr Fisher	GDPR
Clerk	Playground Inspection
Cllr Turner	Farmer/BVCH Liaison
Cllr Buggey	School Liaison
Cllr Edmonds	Memorial Hall
All Councillors	Highways
Cllr Newman	Brill Society/Windmill
Cllr Cadle	Brill Sports and Social Club
Cllr Buggey/Turner	Walks Management Committee (Bi- monthly)
All Councillors	Street lighting, litter, benches, planning and dog fouling

Planning enforcement issues

The PC continues to monitor all planning applications submitted within the parish and comments to the planning authority accordingly. Regrettably there are occasionally issues where permissions are blatantly flaunted and the PC takes these issues very seriously and is working closely with the District Councils' enforcement officers to resolve them. We are fortunate to have the full support of both the County and District Councils on these matters.

Vale of Aylesbury local plan (VALP)

There have been several rounds of consultation regarding the VALP. On each occasion the PC (with gratefully received contributions from knowledgeable residents) has made a strong case to retain the integrity of our village. Currently we are not under threat of any specific allocation of new housing. Our understanding is the plan is currently being considered by the planning inspectorate. Your PC will continue to be vigilant with matters concerning our village and planned future development.

Precept

Brill Parish Council will not be increasing the precept for the forthcoming financial year – 2018-19 - as we have secured sufficient reserves to help with the ongoing pressures to deliver increased community services. We have continued to secure funding towards the maintenance of the Common and the Walks, but it should be noted that we cannot rely completely on this. Brill Parish Council will continue to support the Memorial Hall and The Windmill, both of which are key community assets. All prudent Councils should carry forward a reserve which is at least the value of their precept and we are pleased to say that Brill Parish Council are in that position moving forward.

Common Volunteers

The Common Volunteers and Brill Village Community Herd (BVCH) work to the plan for the Common which is agreed between the Parish Council, as the owner of the Common, and English Nature which administers the HLS stewardship scheme.

The volunteers remove the brambles which are too hard and thorny for the herd to eat and mow the areas of low fertility - in particular areas to make hay and to encourage wildflowers including several orchids (Common Spotted, Bee, Pyramidal and Greater Butterfly) and yellow rattle and cowslips amongst others. They also work on clearing the verges, especially along the Clamp and Muswell Hill for pedestrian use off the road, and help to maintain the ponds off Tram Hill which are used by great crested newts, a protected species.

They welcome Duke of Edinburgh volunteers, currently Isabella, Toby and Samson.

First Aid Courses (PC Support)

In 2017 Brill Parish Council funded a First Aid Course for representatives of key community groups. The Course was held in October at Brill School and 15 people participated. All found it very useful and interesting.

If you are a member of a village group and would benefit from a first aid course, please contact Brill Parish Council. First Aid can make all the difference.

Windmill

The Parish Council has offered the Brill Society a donation this year to assist with the maintenance and up keep of our Windmill. We understand that comprehensive redecoration works will be carried out during the year and the wheel on the pole at the back of the Windmill is being replaced.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

This regulation has been promulgated from the EU and will become law in the UK on May 25th, 2018. Whilst the UK will be leaving the EU it is generally accepted that the new act, or something very similar, will remain on the statute book for the foreseeable future. For the Parish Council this will create some costs which we (probably) cannot avoid. For the voters of Brill, it provides some protection, some of which we hope you will value. Your protections of course apply to all businesses as well as to us. This might help you to stop cold telephone calls for instance. The law applies to all forms of data, not just computer data. We will be required to show that we do not hold data that we should not hold, that we know when we need to delete data which is no longer required and have procedures that ensure that this happens. For all of you, you will have many rights which are currently not well known. We mention a subset below

* This is our interpretation and should not be relied upon. The Regulation is a large and boring document, which is not yet enacted in UK law, meaning that minor details can change. *

1) We may not hold any personal data about you without your specific permission. Further if that permission was given in an unbalanced way then that permission is not valid; for instance, if you might get the impression that withholding data would disadvantage you then we must not ask you for it, nor hold it if you give it "just in case."

2) We must inform you of your rights whenever we ask you for data.

3) You will still have the Freedom of Information (FOI) right to ask us what information we hold about you. We have to be able to provide all of that data.

4) You have the right to be forgotten. If you contact us and claim this right, we must find all data we hold on you and destroy it unless some other rule requires that we keep some parts of it.

5) We must be inspected to show that we have put processes in place to meet these requirements. This will be by a Data Protection Officer (DPO) whose function is to ensure that we have processes to implement all the rules.

We will have to appoint someone to be DPO - PLEASE VOLUNTEER! The Parish Clerk and the Councillors are not suitable persons to hold this post. If you would be prepared to carry out this function for a fee (or not) please put yourself forward. There are no specific qualifications, but you would need to have a general knowledge about data protection and be IT literate. We have documentation that would enable you to understand the requirements that you would need to oversee under the new law.

Brill Parish Council
Budget Position 31st March 2018

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Audit	350.00	438.00	-88.00
Computer	100.00	0.00	100.00
Insurance	2,000.00	1,756.01	243.99
Legal	600.00	0.00	600.00
Membership	300.00	313.97	-13.97
Office Rent	800.00	348.66	451.34
Phone	700.00	587.69	112.31
Print	500.00	168.00	332.00
Website	200.00	0.00	200.00
Salary	7,000.00	6,996.00	4.00
Stationery	300.00	96.42	203.58
Training	400.00	0.00	400.00
Bins	1,100.00	720.41	379.59
General Maintenance	4,000.00	3,130.48	869.52
Common Maintenance	3,000.00	10,427.90	-7,427.90
The Walks	2,700.00	2,754.76	-54.76
Grass Cutting	4,300.00	2,316.00	1,984.00
Street Lighting	4,450.00	3,997.16	452.84
Donations	2,000.00	1,650.00	350.00
Play Around Parishes	200.00	0.00	200.00
Hall Grant	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Election Reserve	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Windmill Reserve	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	<u>41,000.00</u>	<u>37,701.46</u>	<u>5,298.54</u>

Reserve Spend		Gross	VAT	Net
Browns	Mower repairs	1,305.48	217.58	1,087.90
IT Solutions	Website	809.10	134.85	674.25
Wel Medical	Defib pads	50.82	8.47	42.35
Mark Harrod	Football nets	196.80	32.80	164.00
L Simpson	Use it or lose it	554.04		554.04
Brill Sports & Social	Use it or lose it – Hall	120.00		120.00
St Johns Ambulance	St Johns Ambulance	504.00		504.00
Browns	Mower repairs	774.07	129.01	645.06
Oxford Ironmongery	Hall Doors	733.02	122.17	610.85
Mow Direct	Salt Spreader	109.00		109.00
				<u>4,511.45</u>

BRILL PARISH COUNCIL

BANK RECONCILIATION – FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2018

Balance as per Bank Statements at 31 March 2018

Current Account	£2,304.56	
Less O/S cheques	<u>(£461.55)</u>	
		£1,843.01
Deposit Account	£66,666.37	
		<u>£66,666.37</u>
Total Bank Account		£68,509.38
Net Bank Balance at 31 March 2018		£68,509.38

Total Cash

At 31 March 2018 **£68,509.38**

Cash Book

Opening balance 01 April 2017	£59,644.42
Add: Receipts	<u>£53,553.58</u>
	£113,198.00
Less: Payments During Year	<u>(£44,688.62)</u>
Closing Balance per Cash Book	
At 31 March 2018	£68,509.38

Total Cash

At 31 March 2018 **£68,509.38**

Prepared by Lesley Shaw – Clerk & RFO

Telegraph pole

Over 30 years ago Brill Parish Council paid to remove telegraph poles from within the conservation area. This involved relaying the services underground in order to improve the overall aspect of the village. It therefore came as a surprise to see that BT Openreach erected a telegraph pole on Temple Street in October of last year. Brill Parish Council strongly objected to this, requesting an alternative method to providing the service. The telegraph pole was eventually removed in February 2018. It is of paramount importance to the Council to continue to protect the village in this way.

Additional noticeboard

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Glover at The Pheasant, the Parish Council has been able to provide an additional noticeboard on the wall adjacent to the pub garden in Windmill Street. We hope that this will be a useful asset to those living within the vicinity.

Grass Contract

Brill Parish Council has appointed a new grass contractor – Aspire. They currently contract to Haddenham Parish Council and are reputed to have carried out excellent work. We have ensured that the contract with Aspire provides the flexibility to change the frequency of visits dependant on actual needs. The initial contract is for 1 year which will provide sufficient time to assess the quality of their work. Please ensure cars are not parked on the grass verges during grass cutting season – March – October.

Tennis Court

Several members of the community have approached us commenting on the underuse of the court as it stands. It also requires a little maintenance. We are also aware that, because of the new school fencing, the basketball nets are inaccessible for a lot of the time when teenagers wish to use them. As a result, we're running a feasibility study into a multi-use area. This will require funding and applications will have to be made. Tennis, basketball and 5 a side would be feasible on the present area. Netball would require enlarging the area, but this may be included in a plan. If you have any other ideas for the court use e.g., Tai Chi, then do let us know as all information would be useful in any funding applications. Also, if you would like to be part of a small friendly working party, do get in contact.

S106

The development of Colley Close five years ago allowed a provision of £50,000, under Section 106 of the national planning regulations, to be spent on new sport or leisure facilities in the village. Several groups have come forward and funds, which are administered by AVDC, have been granted to projects including outdoor table tennis and the new football pitch. The remaining £6000 has just been awarded to Windmill Players for their proposal for a community cinema in the Memorial Hall.

The spend on the section S106 money is now complete.

The Playground

There is a local team of parents who are aiming to paint the equipment in the next month or two. Do watch out for this. Some trees have been reduced to keep the area free of aerial vegetation.

The Walks

What a difference a flock of sheep makes. We are really pleased to have on board Chris Lewis and Zoe Tuckett who are the new graziers. The sheep will intermittently appear to do the lawn mowing. With sheep present there is likely to be less expenditure in the future. Willows around the pond have been reduced by tree surgeons and the whole area is now much improved. A pair of mallards has arrived and even a heron has found the water. Fences are due to be checked and repaired.

Bus Shelter Decision

In February 2017 the temporary permission for the bus shelter – 2011 – 2017 (6 years) had expired. The Parish Council had to resubmit an application requesting permanent consent. This was publicly advertised and all key bodies with common land interest were advised. The application was supported by pictorial evidence of users, details of the current services and information on the protection it provided, particularly in Brill an exposed hilltop location. There was one formal letter of objection and one in support. The decision stated that the bus shelter did not materially harm and is an important community facility, therefore permanent consent was given. This is good news for Brill and means we can look forward to many more years of use.

Traffic Calming

In November, several volunteers carried out a trial of the use of a 'Sentinel' speed camera. This was done over several days and the camera was positioned at the top of the Thame Road near the Green and recorded the speeds and registration plates of offending drivers coming into and out of the village. The data that was collected was sent to Thames Valley police. The trial was done in the morning, and most of those exceeding the speed limit were coming into the village and turning into the Firs – read into that what you will!

Village Hall

Councillor Edmonds is the Parish Council representative on the Memorial Hall committee. The hall continues to enjoy a high occupancy rate with its associated revenue. All 3 offices are let, and the tenants happy. Several refurbishments have been carried out, the main ones being: redecoration of the main hall; new hard wood front doors and painting and renovation of the exterior front of the hall. Quotes are currently being obtained for re-carpeting the interior.

Donations to Charities

The Parish Council has made the following donations to charity:

Football Club	16.05.17	£250.00
'Unsung Hero' Award	20.06.17	£25.00
First Responders	20.06.17	£500.00
Poppy Wreath	17.10.17	£25.00
PPC Donation (Church Burial Ground)	21.11.17	£600.00
Alice Carter Trust Donation	19.12.17	£250.00
Total Donations:		£1,650.00

Litter

The Parish Council supports a twice-yearly litter pick along all roads within the Parish boundary, in Spring and Autumn. As a result of this regular clean-up, the perennial problem of roadside litter has become more easily managed. Accompanied children are encouraged to take part and certificates are awarded for their efforts. This year's first litter pick was scheduled to coincide with the Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean on 2nd-4th March but unfortunately the bad weather caused its cancellation. Dates for litter picks are advertised in the Bernwode News and on the Parish noticeboard.

Brill Cricket Club

This year sees the 150th Anniversary of the Cricket Club's formation and a celebratory dinner at Lord's cricket ground for players past and present, including a guided tour of the pavilion and home and away dressing rooms. Season 2017-18 saw the club win the league and gain promotion to the O.C.A. Division 3, the new season commencing on April 28th. The club also organises children's cricket coaching on Friday evenings during school summer holidays and a dedicated team of volunteers ensure the cricket ground and its surroundings are kept in immaculate condition for all to enjoy.

Potholes

Potholes can be reported to either the Parish Clerk or directly to www.transportforbucks.net. Once reported the council has a reasonable amount of time to undertake a repair. In most cases this system has worked effectively but the winter weather has inevitably meant more potholes and less-frequent repairs. With help from our local County Councillor, residents have persuaded Transport for Bucks to carry out more extensive repairs to the poor surface of The Firs/ Green road leading to the school, this work has now been completed.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 30th April at 8pm in the Sports and Social Club. Please do make the effort to attend, as it is your opportunity to hear reports on the activities of village groups.

The Clerk's contact details are: 01844 238662 or brillparish@btconnect.com and there is an answerphone when the office is closed. Normal opening hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9.15am until 12.45 pm in the Old Library Room.