



BREDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 18th May 2022 at 7pm in Brede Village Hall

Present: Councillors L Nottage (Chair), S Hampson, G Olson, J Allison, R Oliver, A Fotheringham, County Cllr C Maynard, the clerk and 14 members of the public

Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Nottage welcomed all who were there for making the effort to attend

Apologies:

Apologies had been sent by Cllrs Wey and Apps

Chairs Report

It has been three years since we last held an Annual Parish Assembly, due to Covid-19, and I apologise that even this year, we have kept it to a simple format without refreshments and speakers. When first planning this event, Covid infection rates were at their highest, and Council did not feel it appropriate to take more risks than absolutely necessary, yet wanted the parish to have the opportunity to come together and have the chance to ask questions of their council.

I can go no further without mentioning the recent and very sad loss of Cllr Jonathan Johnson, who passed away unexpectedly in April. He was our District councillor from 1999 to 2003, and then again from 2007 onwards. He also served on the Parish Council from 2019. I have known Jonathan for many years, both as a councillor and a friend.

So what has happened over the past 3 years.

Councillors managed to keep meeting during the pandemic, via zoom, but there was little that could be done in the way of projects and work until the restrictions started to ease each time.

The Community Hall

The Community Hall was closed, and during the winter of 2020 the felt roof failed and it suffered a huge flood, which with the age of the building left it economically unrepairable. It was demolished in September 2021, before becoming dangerous. Plans for a replacement are still being considered, and as soon as some new possibilities are drawn up and costed, there will be a chance for the while Parish to see them and comment.

The Recreation Ground

The swings and basket swing on the Recreation Ground were highlighted as beginning to deteriorate beyond repair during their inspection in the summer of 2020. Council applied for matched funding from the Rother Community grants and they were replaced in the spring of 2021.

Currently the Council has provisionally approved the purchase of a new piece of equipment to replace the boat, on condition that matched funding of at least 50% or greater can be found. This will provide much needed improvement of facilities, including slides, scramble nets, and climbing opportunities.

The trees have been regularly inspected, and considerable work carried out to ensure they are safe. Some trees have had to be felled, but replacements are already being considered for the Autumn, when it is the prime planting season. An oak was planted on the 11th March, the 70th day of the Jubilee year, to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. We were delighted that the School Council came to help as the rest of the school watched, on what was a very wet and miserable day.

Highways

Issues with the crossroads, speeding, parking and general poor state of some of the roads continue. The Council have six monthly meetings with Highways and do try very hard to address the issues as best they can at these meetings, and regularly report other items that are noticed or brought to our attention in-between. 32 issues were reported and dealt with in the last 12 months. Speedwatch are recruiting and training new members and hoping to increase their presence in the parish. New members are always welcome, do please speak to Cllr Wey or myself for more details.

Street Furniture

An additional dog waste bin was finally installed in early 2021, and after 10 months the crossing fence in Northiam Road was finally repaired by ESCC.

Plans for a replacement bench in Kingwoodland Hill and a new bench at the top of Furnace Lane should be completed later this year.

We are very grateful to the volunteer group who took on the refurbishment and fitting out of the Telephone Box near the Village Green in Brede. It is now looking very smart and a useful asset to the parish. We are still looking for another group to take on the box in Cackle Street, perhaps a plant/seed swap would be a useful idea?

District and County Council reports

District Report

Cllr Carl Maynard paid tribute to Cllr Johnson, who had spent 58 years living in Brede. He had been a diligent councillor, particularly in planning, the committee he had served on in Rother. He had an outgoing and optimistic personality, and enjoyed country life immensely and representing the people of Brede. Jonathan had been Chairman of Rother District Council in 2018-19 and enjoyed meeting people.

ESCC Report

East Sussex County Council had not needed to make too many cuts to deliver a balanced budget. Cllr Maynard encouraged the residents of Brede to report any issues with highways directly, or to contact him with ongoing issues. He emphasised that the more people that reported issues, the quicker they would be dealt with.

Cllr Maynard finished with thanking the Parish Council for their hard work, and the current and previous clerks for their work and support.

Presentation of Awards

The Brede Shield was presented to Mr Bryan Clayton for his work on the Telephone Box
The Community Spirit Award was presented to Trinity Methodist church for their Open Tuesdays, providing Post Office facilities, book swap, knit and natter and refreshments for the whole community

Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Tamsin Visick, Pam Sands and Sophie Emerson for their hard work at the Vaccination at Tilling Green

Open forum

Questions from the Public

Q1 Road Markings in Cackle Street. Will they be replaced, including the 30mph signs and can they be better spaced out?

Cllr Maynard will get a response

Q2 Are the motorcycles which go through the Villages included in the Speed watch Campaigns

Cllr Nottage—all vehicles are treated the same, so yes, they are. Excess noise and other offences such as using phones are also noted and reported

Q3 Fly tipping. There seems to be lots of fly tipping in the parish, resident has reported it themselves but can anything else be done?

Cllr Nottage - Do report it online, but also inform the clerk where it is and that you have reported it. The clerk can then follow it up if needed. Exact location and pictures if possible are helpful.

Q4 Update on plans for a building on the recreation ground

Previous plans had been drawn up costing around £250,000 three years ago. A parish questionnaire had been circulated in 2020 but interest was low and concerns of borrowing the money high. Currently the Parish Council are looking at designs for a simpler building – to support recreational facilities. Once some plans are available there will be a public meeting to discuss.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm