

Bradwell Parish Council



21 October 2021

A meeting of the Parish Council at 7.00pm
This meeting was held at Bradwell Bowling Club

PRESENT: Cllrs Candon(Chairman), Goodchild, Hale, Hamilton, Howe, Sargeant, Steggles, and Watson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Clerk, C Bacon, one member of the public

In the absence of a Council Chairman, Cllr Goodchild opened the meeting.

2110-PC168) ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN: Cllr Candon was elected as Chairman of Bradwell Parish Council. Cllr Candon was welcomed and congratulated for taking the role. The Chairman confirmed he is just the first amongst equals.

2110-PC169) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Annison and Wainwright

2110-PC170) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Harry Hamilton declared an interest in PC180c) Old School Village Centre; Chrissie Steggles declared an interest in PC180b) Mill Lane. Cllr Candon declared he is a Borough Councillor for Bradwell North.

2110-PC171) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: One member of the public was present at the meeting, but had nothing to say at this stage.

2110-PC172) MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 21st September 2021 were approved and adopted.

2110-PC173) RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLORS: It was reported that Cllr Hirst has resigned from this Council for personal reasons. If not already done so, the Clerk will write to all former members thanking them for their service.

2110-PC174) ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL VICE CHAIRMAN. Cllr Goodchild and Cllr Hamilton were both nominated and received four votes each. The Chairman used his casting vote. Cllr Hamilton was elected as Parish Council Vice Chairman by 5:4. Cllr Hamilton was welcomed as Vice Chairman.

2110-PC175) ELECTION OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. Cllr Howe was elected as Finance & General Purposes Committee Chairman.

2110-PC176) ELECTION OF FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN. Cllr Hamilton was elected as Finance & General Purposes Committee Vice-Chairman.

2110-PC177) ELECTION OF AMENITIES AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN. Cllr Goodchild was elected as Amenities & Highways Committee Chairman.

2110-PC178) ELECTION OF STAFFING & STANDARDS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN: Cllr Candon was elected as Staffing & Standards Committee Chairman.

2110-PC179) ELECTION OF STAFFING & STANDARDS COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN. Cllr Hale was elected as Staffing & Standards Committee Vice-Chairman.

2110-PC180) APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR(S) / REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES:

- a) Amis Memorial Fund – Cllr Candon. **Cllr Candon requested sight of the articles of association.**
- b) Mill Lane Centre Charitable Trust Management Committee: Cllrs Goodchild, Hale, Sargeant, Steggles and Watson.
- c) Bradwell Community Centre Trust Committee: Cllr Watson.
- d) Bradwell Bowling Club: Cllr Sargeant.

The Chairman thanked the Councillors for putting themselves forward for the appointments.

2110-PC181) DE-BRIEF ON MEDIATION WITH MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC REGARDING THEIR COMPLAINT ABOUT THE CO-OPTION PROCESS.

Cllr Howe gave a full and detailed de-brief on the mediation about an unsuccessful co-option, held on 6th October 2021. The member of the public who made this co-option complaint also made a complaint in February 2021 about posts on Cllr Hirst’s private Facebook page, of which the Monitoring Officer advised at the time that the Code of Conduct had not been breached. Cllr Howe advised that the member of public left the mediation thinking about whether he wanted to take his complaint to the next stage. A letter was received today (21st October) from this member of the public indicating he is suspending his second co-option attempt until his ongoing complaint has been resolved. Cllr Candon was passed a copy of the letter of complaint dated 21st October 21.

Cllr Candon thanked Cllr Howe for the report and for acting as mediator.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the unsuccessful co-option on 31st August 2021 from this member of the public, about his subsequent complaint and about the next steps of the adopted Complaints Procedure. This complaint is now at Stage 2 of the Complaints Procedure. **The Clerk will seek clarification from NALC whether Cllr’s are obliged to give a reason for a vote.** The co-option process must be audited and members should ensure due process is followed.

Cllr Candon advised members of the Parish Council to think carefully about the comments they post on Social Media and how the comments may be perceived by members of the public. Freedom of Speech being restricted was discussed, however Cllr Candon urged members to moderate any damage that may cause the Parish Council. All members must abide by the NOLAN principles.

If due process has been followed then this member of the public has the right to stand again to be co-opted. **The Clerk will check if there are any time restraints on a person putting themselves forward for co-option again.** Cllr Candon will happily speak to the member of the public and will be giving the complaint his full attention. The Clerk will **circulate a copy of the letter to all members. Any comments must be sent to the Clerk.**

Cllr Candon stated the Parish Council has lost a few members recently and continuity must be achieved. It is important people have their say and involvement in local matters. Cllr Candon indicated he will stand down as Chairman next year once processes have been sorted out and current issues resolved. Members were thanked for attending another extraordinary meeting. Next meeting Monday 13th December 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7.59pm

Signed: Date: