

Parish Council Report

£380 spent on Dog Poo bags

Despite the fact that the Parish Council supplies free dog poo bags to residents of the village there are still many irresponsible dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs both in the village streets and on the footpaths around the village. The Parish Council has installed a new dog poo bin at the Vine Meadow, at the request of dog walkers, but there are still people who are allowing their dogs to foul the area – in some cases close to the new bin. The fine for allowing dogs to foul is now £1,000. The BDC Dog Warden will follow up complaints and there have been recent incidents in the village where people have used mobile phones to provide evidence of dog fouling. This is not something the Parish Council would endorse but it may deter persistent offenders.

Parish Precept/Budget 2017/18

It was agreed that a Precept figure of £30,809 be submitted which, together with the Localism Fund contribution of £2,845.00, would provide an income of £33,654.00. This is an increase of 5.93% or £3.29 per annum per household and less than the increase in 2016/17. The Localism Grant (funding provided by Braintree District Council) is diminishing annually and we have worked hard to minimise the increase to less than 1p per day per household whilst seeking to maintain high quality services for the parish.

Planning applications

Hope Cottage, Braintree Road: essential floor repairs. There was no objection.

Lower Lodge Park Hall: erection of timber outbuilding. There were no objections however it was noted in the Council's response that this would have a negative impact on the beautifully restored building and its setting.

St Mary's Church: extension to graveyard. There was no objection.

29 Bendlowes Road: minor amendment to previously approved application. There was no objection.

Park Hall Farm: amendment to grain store application. There were no objections to this minor amendment.

The Stables, Northampton Meadow: tree work. Cllr Walsh, Tree Warden, said he had no objection to this application which involved the reduction of a Maple tree.

Street Lighting

Please continue to report any defects in the street lights to the Clerk so that we can alert our Contractor as soon as possible. Thank you to the gentleman who notified us of the outages in Newlands Avenue – these were dealt with within 48 hours of reporting. Residents of Bridge End will be pleased that at last the light opposite Gate House is working again – there was a fault in the power supply which required specialist work from UK Power Network.

Thank you to the Maidman Family

The bench in memory of Brian and Beryl Maidman has been installed on the Memorial Green. I'm sure everyone will be touched by the inscription which reads: "They loved Great Bardfield and they loved each other"

Date of next Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 8th at 8pm in the Town Hall Committee Room. Meetings are open to the public and a Public Forum is held from 8-8.15pm.