**Broughton Parish Council**

The Annual Parish Meeting of Broughton Parish was held in a virtual ‘Go To’ meeting room at 19:00 on the 4th May 2021.

**Present:** Mary Bradley, (Chair), Paddy Gorrill, Joanne Sewell, Sue Hannah, Steve Hannah, Claire Winter, Adrian Davis-Johnston, Bill Smith, Becx Carter (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

# Welcome & Apologies

Mrs Mary Bradley welcomed all those present to the meeting.

# Approval of Minutes of last year’s Annual Parish Meeting 21st May 2019

All present were in favour of the minutes being signed as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved** by all present that the minutes be signed by Mrs M Bradley

**Action: Clerk to upload minutes to the website.**

# Chairman’s Report 1st April 2019-31st March 2021

It has been an honour to be chairman during this year, which I am sure you will agree has been like no other we have previously experienced in our lifetimes.

I would like to pay tribute to all the councillors who have worked tirelessly to ensure we not only maintained business as usual but responded promptly and imaginatively to other issues which emerged. The work of the parish council has actually come much more to the fore this year partly because of Covid 19 but also because we have maintained our proactive stance. We have adjusted our numbers, but at the end of the year still had 2 vacancies, one which we hope to have filled.

We have also enjoyed the support of Allerdale councillors, Nicky and Janet and CCC Jim Lister. All in their own way have kept us informed and been pleased to champion our causes when appropriate to do so.

I would like to thank Bill for all the times he has walked round the allotments – we now have almost every plot let or prepared to be let. One long time allotment holder took the opportunity yesterday of telling me that it has been many years since the allotments looked so well and how he enjoyed just sitting and relaxing down there. This has taken a 5 year project to achieve our goals and we are now in a position to reconvene our allotment working group and plan for the breakeven future we aspire to!

I would like to thank those who have supported the young people’s projects, the playground (and john who although retired councillor continues to do the monitoring) . We have on going work around the nets and the youth shelter which I am sure will come to fruition in the next few months.

The planning considerations, formal and informal brought before the council are always taken seriously and the eagle eyes of the councillors on their various walks contribute to meaningful discussion and onward comments. We need to find ways of ensuring those coming into the village, particularly in the larger new houses are connected to village life.

Soddy gap, as ever is a constant agenda item, we are delighted that the community asset registration has been renewed. However, the ongoing licencing appeal against Allerdale DC continues to take up an awful lot of time but hopefully a decision will be reach when this returns to court on 27th May 2021.

Adrian did a sterling job in being the administrator for Broughton Crack which unfortunately came to a sorry end, but the new administrator appears to have learnt from this and has the measure of the less helpful comments. This overall has been a very positive initiative and one I know is appreciated.

We have engaged proactively with the Derwent Forest development and hopefully the suggestions we have made to form a community group will be responded to not only by Utopia but also by the neighbouring parishes. It would be good to have a relationship that can avoid some of the more contentious proposals being a source of conflict. The village community has much to offer and this needs to be recognised.

I am sure we will all be relieved when the roundabout is completed. We are informed that this is at an advanced stage, so fingers crossed. Traffic management in general is a significant tissue in the village and experience of heavy traffic being a constant worry and annoyance to particularly those on main street in Great Broughton. It is a huge frustration that neither the weight limit or speed limit seems to be adhered to. There have been a number of car parking issues raised and hopefully we will be able to engage more meaningfully with CCC in the next few months when things return to a more normal state.

One of the positive affects of Covid lock down has been the increased use of all our footpaths and bridle ways. I have had several requests for walking maps during the past 12 months and maybe there is an opportunity here to promote a village that is truly blessed with a lovely river, woods, wildflowers, and a seemingly endless number of different routes.

This in turn has highlighted the need to address the painting of the benches, which we hope will be a village project. Maybe we can build on the Covid volunteering and have a community corps or similar.

The basic administration of the council goes on quietly behind the scenes, so thanks to those who sign cheques, organise contractual work (thanks Steve for the bus shelter and notice boards) , put up monthly and other notices and so much more.

I think we would all agree that we are very fortunate to have a professional clerk who can not only undertake the work in a knowledgeable and timely manner but also has the right contacts. Life has not been easy for Becx this year as working from home has had its limitations and frustrations. Becx, we owe you a huge thank you and I do hope this year coming will be less trying and we can move forward together with an exciting agenda.

Well done everyone – now its onwards and upwards to a brighter year ahead. We have much to do but together we can!

# Questions & Open Discussion

None

Meeting Closed: 19:09