

Bradpole Parish Council (BPC) Chairman's Annual Parish Report 2022 (Apr 2021~ Mar 22)

The Parish Council has achieved much in the past 12 months but has learnt in recent weeks that a Dorset Council [Governance Review](#) has recommended abolishing the Parish Council (est.1884) by annexing the Civil Parish area of Bradpole to Bridport Town, under a warding arrangement proposed by the Town Council, without the expressed consent of parish electors, At the time of writing this recommendation is subject to a 2nd [public consultation](#), closing 23rd May. The outcome is expected to be announced in July to be effective from 1st April 2024. In a similar 2021 consultation of those Bradpole residents who responded some 90% were in favour of supporting the continuance of their Parish Council. Bradpole Parish Council welcomes the support shown by residents which was unfortunately ignored by Dorset Council. The Parish Council will be holding an Open Day for Parish residents on Saturday 23rd April, at the Village Hall, to provide more information relating to the Review and the current Consultation.

Over the past 12 months, whilst the COVID pandemic has persisted, the Parish Council has managed, with a mixture of both COVID safe face-to-face public Council meetings and virtual internal administration meetings, to enable the following to be achieved in addition to providing our normal services:

- Completion, within budget, of the refurbishment of our 3 heritage finger posts in Pymore and Bradpole with the help of volunteers and a grant from CPRE/AONB.
- Installation, within budget, and in collaboration with the village fete committee, of a defibrillator at the Village Hall, which included a public training session. A [Defibrillator Management Policy](#) has been adopted.
- Refurbishment of the Bradpole village [WW1 Memorial text](#).
- Completion, with stakeholders, of a [Community Emergency Plan](#)
- Adoption of a new [Code of Conduct](#)
- Adoption of a new [Health & Safety Policy](#)
- Parish Plan [2021 report](#)

PLANNING

Some 20+ planning applications have been considered by Councillors over the past 12 months. Bridport Area Neighbourhood Plan policies applied to many of the applications received. In most cases the Parish Council was able to support the applications by adding additional detail for Dorset Council Planners.

The Parish Council has received no Community Infrastructure Levy in the past 12 months.

COUNCIL TAX

For the third year in succession we were able to hold the parish part of the full Dorset Council tax at around the current level (£43.03p.a. @ BAND D average). However with inflation running above 6% at the time of writing this is likely to have an affect on financial planning for 2023 ~24.

We are concerned with [Bridport Town Council's 3 year plan to raise their own precept by £200000 in 2024~25](#), already the highest in Dorset, that Bradpole's households will find they face some hefty increases if the Community Governance Review results in Bradpole Parish Council being abolished.



CURRENT PROJECTS

In line with our Parish Plan we have been managing our finances over recent years to ensure that we have funds available to undertake improvements to our Recreational areas.

Plans to replace the swings at Pageants Play Area are well advanced and we expect to see these installed during 2022.

We are also have plans to introduce an open-air Fitness Trail at the Gore Cross Recreational Area and expect to have an update on this new facility in the coming months.



A specimen/decorative Sorbus “Joseph’s Rock”, funded by the Parish Council, has been planted on Parish land at Townsend Way by our volunteer Get Bradpole Buzzing Group, in liaison with local children from Bradpole Pre School, to commemorate the Queen’s Jubilee.

A special thanks here to the Group of Buzzers who have been doing great work to improve, and bring floral colour to, the green spaces around the village.

The Parish Council will also shortly be planting an English Oak at the Gore Cross Recreation Area as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy.

The Parish Council also hopes to host a Platinum Jubilee community event at the Gore Cross Recreational Area on Saturday 4th June.



COUNCILLORS & OFFICERS

We have welcomed Cllr Tony Veglio to our Parish team during the past year.

Cllr Mecki Testroet resigned from the Council over the same period to pursue other interests.

My personal thanks go to our volunteer Councillors and our two part time Clerks who have all helped in various ways to ensure that Bradpole Parish Council continues to serve its residents.

Please keep informed via the Parish Council website www.bradpole.org.uk facebook and the Parish notice boards.

Cllr Colin Baker
Chairman Bradpole Parish Council
April 2022