

BROADMAYNE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019

1. Welcome

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Steve Diamond, opened the Annual Parish Meeting held in Broadmayne Village Hall on Monday 20 May 2019, by welcoming local residents, members of the Parish Council, Mrs Helen Collings, head teacher of Broadmayne First School, PCSO Jane Goodwin, and Mr Tim Merry of J V Farming Ltd. The Parish Council Clerk was in attendance. Approximately 35 people were also present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Police Community Support Officer, Alison Donnison; Dorset Councillor Roland Tarr; Parish Councillor Peter Lamb; and Mrs Leri Ayre.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21 May 2018

The minutes of the last meeting had been made available, and were signed as a correct record.

4. Presentation on modern farming practices by Mr Tim Merry of J V Farming Ltd

Tim Merry, Operations Director, opened his presentation by explaining that J V Farming is a cooperative of local farmers who joined together in 2002 and that the arable fields around the village were farmed as part of the scheme. Joint Venture Farming comprised three member farms (including parts of the Herringston Estate in West Knighton), 16 blocks of land and 196 individual arable fields. There were four full time staff. The crops grown were wheat (mostly feed wheat for animals), malting barley (for lager), oilseed rape (for vegetable oil production) and maize and rye (for energy).

The enterprise undertook a considerable amount of conservation work which included 50 skylark plots (plots left uncropped within the centre of cropped fields of winter wheat); four hectares of unharvested headlands (field boundaries that have no fertiliser or pesticides where arable weeds will flourish to provide a food source for birds over the winter months); nectar plots (typically one hectare in size, planted with nectar rich species such as clover & lucerne; and three beetle banks in the middle of larger fields (these banks can hold beneficial insects and provide nesting for birds and a habitat for small mammals). There were also two hectares of grey partridge plots and two hectares of corn bunting plots. The field hedges were only being cut every third year. In many fields crops were surrounded by uncropped "Conservation Margins" left for the benefit of wildlife. The grass on these Conservation Margins can be harvested once a year and is intended for cattle feed. Unfortunately much of the harvested grass has had to be rejected in recent years because of problems with dog fouling, there being a possibility of the transmission of the parasitic disease Neosporosis from dog faeces to cattle which can cause abortion and still-birth in cows. This loss of feed is a financial loss to the farms.

Other problems included fly tipping (household and garden waste); and poaching, using both dogs and vehicles, which caused serious damage to crops, gates and fencing, and distress to wildlife. Tim urged anyone observing people driving in fields at night with lights to phone 999. Theft (mostly organised criminal activity) including the theft of agrochemicals was also an issue. J V Farming worked closely with the Police Rural Crime team to try to combat this and was a member of Farm Watch.

Modern farming innovations meant that tractors were fitted with tracking devices which allowed for efficient management and improved safety & security for the operatives. Fields could be mapped via satellites, with yields recorded to enable the variable application of seed & fertiliser. Soil type maps and nutrient maps could also be produced.

Tim explained that he wanted to try to eliminate damage to, and contamination of, the "Conservation Margins" by restricting public access in the fields to the designated rights of way network because the indiscriminate use by walkers, dogs, horses was frustrating the conservation objective. With

that in mind, he and the landowner were proposing to seek to exclude the public from the conservation margins but, recognising the desire to walk in the fields, they were suggesting the creation of “permissive paths” around some fields, creating further walking opportunities that would cause no damage. A map showing these proposed routes was shown and comments on the proposal were invited.

[It was agreed that the presentation, including the map of the proposed permissive routes, should be made available on the community website, www.broadmayne.org, so that there would a full opportunity to comment on the proposals.]

The Chairman thanked Tim Merry for an interesting and helpful presentation.

5. Parish Council Chairman’s introduction to the Annual Report

The Chairman introduced the Annual Report, a summary of the Parish Council’s activity in the financial year 2018/19. He began by thanking the delivery team for once again making sure that every household received a copy. He also thanked the Clerk and his fellow Parish Councillors for their hard work and support throughout the year, highlighting the contribution of Councillor David Eaglestone who had retired from the Council in May after much diligent work, particularly on traffic and road safety issues. Insufficient candidates had stood for election in May to result in a ballot and a vacant seat remained but fortunately a volunteer had expressed an interest in being co-opted to fill the seat.

The Chairman also thanked the outgoing County Councillor Nick Ireland, and outgoing District Councillors Alan Thacker and Nigel Bundy for all of their support over the last years. Now that the county and district councils had disappeared and been replaced by the new Dorset Council, the new ward of Winterbourne and Broadmayne was being represented by a single councillor; Roland Tarr had been elected to the seat but he would have a large area to deal with.

The Chairman went on to thank the many volunteers who helped to make the village function. These included the Village Hall Management Committee, the Playing Fields Committee, the Defibrillator Group, the Patient Support Group, the Scout/Cub/ Beaver and Brownie leaders and many more.

One important piece of work which had been finished in the last year was the Community Emergency Plan. He thanked Councillor Lamb and Alyson Carroll, the Emergency Response Coordinator, for all of their work on this, and all of the other volunteers who had agreed to be part of the team. The plan was now available on the website.

He finished with a reminder about the website for the latest news about events in the village, and the fact that it was possible to sign-up for e-mail notification of new postings. He also urged everyone to talk to members of the Parish Council about their concerns, and to come along to Parish Council meetings when there was always a public participation session.

6. Reports

(a) Broadmayne First School: Mrs Helen Collings, Head Teacher

Mrs Collings said that she had been Head Teacher of Broadmayne First School since September 2018, although she had been deputy head for three years prior to that. There were five classes at the school, with 142 pupils from reception age to year four and approximately 27 children per class. The school fed into three local middle schools. Quite a few of the children attending were from outside the catchment, even from as far afield as Portland.

Although the school was lacking in central space it had tremendous grounds and a swimming pool. Sadly, the recent grant application for improving the pool had been unsuccessful but some improvements had been made and the pool was available for use by community groups. FABS (Friends of Broadmayne School) had done a tremendous amount of work fundraising, particularly in the context of the pool.

Mrs Collings went on to say that there were concerns about funding for the school as a whole, particularly from April 2019 onwards. A meeting had been sought with Oliver Letwin MP to discuss this. This had proved a productive meeting and there had been an assurance that there would be improvements next year.

The school had been awarded an Eco-Schools Green Flag which recognised efforts to become more environmentally friendly, enhance school surroundings, save money and reduce impact on the environment. Much recycling was being undertaken, including building a greenhouse from old plastic bottles. The school also had a good record in sports, having achieved success in rugby, athletics and basketball. The coming year would see work on improving mental health and well-being.

In reply to a question about some school children not having enough to eat, Mrs Collings said that the school was aware of problems and that they provided support including a breakfast club.

(b) **Dorset Police: PCSO Jane Goodwin**

PCSO Jane Goodwin presented the police report on behalf of Alison Donnison who had sent her apologies. Alison is the PCSO for the Dorchester East Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team whilst Jane is the PCSO for Dorchester Town. Jane explained that the Dorchester East Rural territory is a large area and that policing it involved travelling long distances which was a problem in itself. However, the team endeavoured to make regular visits to key locations and a member of the team tried to make a visit to the shop in Broadmayne on the third Friday of each month and to be available to talk to residents between 2.30 and 3.00pm. If no-one came to speak to the officer then a foot patrol was carried out.

In the year from May 2018 only two crimes had been reported in Broadmayne, one of these was the theft of the battery from the SID and the other was damage to some fencing.

On-line and telephone scams were an increasing issue and the police were trying to assist the most vulnerable. When such scams were reported the call-handler would try to assess the vulnerability of the caller and if certain criteria were met then a house-visit would be made, with two follow-up visits because evidence suggested that once a person had been targeted by a scammer they were likely to be a victim again.

The team was also making efforts to engage with young people and had attended scout and beaver meetings in Broadmayne as well as making contact with the school. This was part of their on-going effort to forge links with local communities.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their reports.

7. **Open Forum**

A number of questions and issues were raised by residents during the open forum session. These included:

- The planting in the verges around the Chalky Road/Coombe Valley Road junction.
- The possibility of additional parking space in the village.
- The traveller encampment on the Ridgeway.
- The promised 'virtual pavement' beside the church.

A member of the public said that she was proud to live in Broadmayne and thanked the Chairman and the Parish Council for all of their work and for organising events such as the Annual Parish Meeting which gave everyone the opportunity to discuss locally relevant and important issues such as modern farming practices. The meeting voiced its agreement with those sentiments.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting which closed at approximately 9.30 pm.