

Joint Annual Meeting of
Brampton Bryan, Buckton & Coxall Parishes
Brampton Bryan Parish Hall, Tuesday 12 May 2015, 8:00pm

Present: Parish Councillors Maggie Brown (Chair) and Paul Derrick.
Also present: 2 residents from Buckton & Coxall, 7 from Brampton Bryan and 2 from outside the parishes.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr Susan Harley and 8 residents.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** were read out and signed as correct.
3. **Grass Cutting** – Cllr Brown explained that no funds had been budgeted in the precept for 2015 to pay for cutting various areas in Border Group, including Brampton Bryan Village Green, and the roadside between the main road and the Church. If a contractor is to be employed, the precept for 2016 will have to be raised by approximately £1k equating to £2 per household, depending on the household's council tax band. The village green in Brampton Bryan is listed by Herefordshire Council as being 'Owned'. There is no obligation to mow any greens whether they are owned privately, or by the parish, or anyone else, but a parish, or the owner, may opt to take on the work if they so wish. There is no obligation for the owner of an 'Owned' green to mow it.

5 residents in Buckton have offered their services to mow the grass there; 3 have offered to mow the Brampton Bryan green on a voluntary basis, and 1 to mow grass nearer the Church.

4. Comments included:
 - The Estate already does much for the village and is not able to take on responsibility for mowing the Green.
 - It is up to the Parish Council to increase the precept to a necessary level to keep the villages looking good.
 - A neighbouring Parish Council makes these decisions without asking residents.
 - It was suggested that such payments could be processed through the Highways fund if listed as something else - the person who suggested this then said they would condone such action.
 - A number of residents at a recent BGPC meeting had strong opinions that an 'Owned' green should be mown by the owner.
 - If an owner chooses not to mow the ground, would residents decide to have the precept raised to pay for it?
 - £150 per cut (for all the various patches in the whole of the BGPC area) is very high. Could a cheaper alternative be found?
 - Why not pay the volunteers? This would be cheaper.
 - The cost is high as it is time consuming to take a mower round several sites, loading and unloading equipment.
 - It is not reasonable to expect anyone to do the job for less than proper hourly wage.
 - If a stone thrown by a mower breaks a car window, who would be responsible?
 - What about the Big Society? Should we not be doing things for ourselves?
 - A volunteer group is likely to fail in the long run.
 - If BGPC has failed to budget for grass cutting, it must take responsibility for mowing the grass itself.
 - Why did BGPC not include mowing in the budget?
 - How much is the precept for the different council tax bands?
 - What is the precept spent on?

- Can Section 106 funds be used for mowing grass?

It was agreed that the grass should be mown, and votes were taken as follows:

For having the precept raised – 4 votes

For no grass cutting at all – 0 votes

For volunteers to cut the grass – 2 votes

For the 'Owned' green to be cut by the owner – 6 votes

Comments from emails received prior to the meeting:

- We should share the work.
- The person who owns the land should cut the grass and not expect other people to pay for it.

5. P3 – Mr Oliver (BGPC's Footpath Officer) reported that work has been planned, and will start when the P3 Grant for this year is received. Mr Thomas has been busy since the last meeting, installing kissing and bridleway gates, a bridge, and a wooden walkway in Lingen across ground that floods.
6. Cllr Maggie Brown was thanked for contacting Rachel Dixon at Balfour Beatty to report damage to the road at Pedwardine Cottages. The damage has now been repaired.
7. Gritting – a request was made for the C1007 between Brampton Bryan & Birtley to be gritted as this is a school bus route.
8. It was reported that the school bus and other large vehicles damage the grass triangle in Buckton.
9. Speeding in Brampton Bryan is still a problem. A 30mph repeater sign near the graveyard was suggested as vehicles are seen to speed up having passed the junction to the church when travelling toward Leintwardine.
10. The re-siting of the wall at the crossroads in Walford was discussed. How is the cost to be met? Can Section 106 funds be used? Could BGPC ask Balfour Beatty to add it to their list for next year as it is a matter of safety?

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:10pm