

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on 17 May 2011

Present : Councillors D Risk (Chairman), H. Saxton, K Churchill, S Thurlow, J Fielder and W Elson
Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell
County Cllr P Bellfield
District Cllr R Snell
PCSO C Hassler
Mr P Holland and Mr H Crerand (Anglian Water)
26 Parishioners
Mrs J Samson (non resident)

1-1112 - Chairman's welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that apologies had been received from Councillor P Summers and from Lucy and Richard Daykin, Pam Reade, Lord Cunliffe, Anne Hayward, Sarah Thorne, Jackie Hounsell, Wilda Woodland, Lydia Freeman John and Ruth Garratt, Ruth Risk and Peter Thurlow

2-1112 - Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 19 May 2010 were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record

3-1112 - Matters arising from previous minutes

(i) Sewage Pumping into the Deben (previous minute 9-1011 (II))

The Chairman confirmed that the clerk had written to the hearing of Anglian Water's appeal against the decision not to permit discharge of sewage into the Deben. Anglian Water's appeal had been dismissed. Members of the council had met informally with Mr Hugh Crerand, Operations Manager of Anglian Water (AW) and he was present at this meeting with his colleague Mr Pete Holland to discuss the matter with residents. The chairman invited Mr Holland to address the meeting.

Mr Holland opened by stating that AW was anxious to resolve difficulties with pumping of (very dilute) sewage into the Deben at Kettleburgh. He advised that the sewage system was built to accommodate foul flows (only) but that some properties and systems have over the years connected their surface water into this system. As a result some inundation of the system results after heavy rainfall (but not recently!!) and consequent overflows causing flooding to properties.

This is clearly unacceptable and AW has been working with the Environment Agency (EA) and Brandeston and Kettleburgh Parish Councils to resolve the situation. Some significant improvements have been made but AW sought permission for a Storm Overflow Consent from the EA to allow this very dilute flow to be discharged into the Deben in storm conditions due to composition being largely surface water, which should be going into the watercourse anyway. This consent request was refused.

Accordingly, AW is looking at alternative solutions. They are intending to carry out a trial in Brandeston at Mutton Lane and Low Street to clear ditch systems and liaise with residents to ensure that they are connected in the correct way. AW will be writing to ALL residents in Brandeston to explain these details and to seek cooperation.

Mr Holland advised that they will be employing a contractor to discuss with householders the clearing of existing ditches and changes to the surface water collection system. He emphasised that they will be doing everything possible to ensure that this a collaborative project and they will be working with residents through liaison staff. Any views from residents regarding the problems of blocked ditches etc. in Brandeston will be welcomed.

Mr Holland confirmed that this work would be free of charge to residents.

The clerk suggested – and the meeting agreed that an item on this subject be publicised in “the Brandeston” newsletter and on the Brandeston website.

4-1112 - Chairman's Report for 2011-12.

The Chairman reported upon the Council's work over the year – see attached notes

5-1112 - Financial Report

The RFO then provided a brief summary report indicating that the Council's financial affairs remained healthy (see attached).

The RFO thanked Mr Donald Evans for his diligent internal audit of the council's accounts.

6-1112 - Village Hall

Mr Daryl Morgan, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee, presented a brief report whilst advising that there would be a full report to the Annual General Meeting of the Hall – see attached notes.

7.1-1112 – Report of Cty Cllr Bellfield

Cty Cllr Bellfield presented his report - see attached notes

7.2-1112- Report of Dist Cllr Snell

Dist Cllr Snell presented his report – see attached notes.

8-1112 - Report of PCSO Hassler

PCSO Hassler presented his report for the period 17 May 2010 to 17 May 2011 and advised that during this time there were three crimes in Brandeston – one harassment, one domestic and one burglary. (The “break-in” at Brandeston Hall School was not a break-in but damage caused by staff) This compares with no crimes in 2009-10. However, Brandeston continues to suffer far less crime and disorder than other local villages.

The Safer Neighbourhood Team moved into new offices early in the year at the fire station in Saxmundham Road and the shared meeting facilities are very useful and available for Safer Neighbourhood Team business.

PCSO Hassler said that he had conducted speeding enforcement measures throughout the year at various times of day just outside the village hall and had not thus far had to issue and fixed penalty notices. He advised that he would be conducting further speed enforcement measures early in the morning as requested by residents of Brandeston.

9-1112- Parish Plan Review

Councillor Elson briefly described the process to arrive at the parish plan, which had been presented to the parish in October, 2008. He said that with a 90% (very high) return of questionnaires distributed to parishioners and other Brandeston stakeholders, the plan clearly reflected the views of the full village. The conclusions of the plan were very clear – that residents wanted Brandeston to stay as it is and not have further development undertaken in the village. Cllr Elson confirmed that the parish plan is referenced by the parish council when responding to planning applications.

The parish council had agreed to offer parishioners the opportunity at this meeting to reconsider the plan and to endorse its findings. Accordingly he asked for a show of hands to support the council's continuing opposition to further development. The council's position was overwhelmingly supported with no expressions of opposition.

10-1112 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman

The Chairman agreed discussion of the following item :-

Mr Roy O'Brien raised the subject of continuing light pollution from Brandeston Hall School. The clerk stated that he had been advised of some changes by the school but Mr O'Brien commented that he had seen no discernible change.

The clerk was instructed to write to the school stating that this matter had again been raised at the Brandeston annual parish meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 10.00 pm