

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on 22 May 2012

Present : Councillors D Risk (Chairman), H. Saxton, K Churchill, S Thurlow, J Fielder, P Summers and W Elson

Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell

County Cllr P Bellfield

PCSO C Hassler

Mr R Scrimgeor (Conservation Officer, SCDC)

25 Parishioners

Mr A Payn (Brandeston Hall)

1-1213 - Chairman's welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that apologies had been received from Dist Cllr R Snell and from Rick and Pam Reade, Anne Hayward, Sarah Thorne, Jackie Hounsell, Wilda Woodland, Ruth Garratt, Ruth Risk and Peter Thurlow

2-1213 - Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 17 May 2011 were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record

3-1213 – Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Drainage Investigation by Anglian Water (previous minute 3-1112(ii))

The clerk advised that he had had correspondence with Anglian Water and they had advised in June 2011 that they were appointing a contractor and that a letter to residents in Mutton Lane and The Street would be sent confirming their intentions. The clerk confirmed that he had written to AW three times seeking further information and had eventually received a reply in May 2012 indicating that AW were to produce an information leaflet to inform residents of their options and they intended to launch this at a public meeting. Following this meeting they will be in a position to advise more definitively of their intended works and would also seek the parish council's involvement and advice on the timing of a public meeting.

The meeting agreed to await further news from AW

4-1213 - Chairman's Report for 2011-12.

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

The chairman also raised the subject of speeding through the village and advised that the council had met with Inspector Aitken from Saxmundham. Insp. Aitken had stated that his figures demonstrated there is no significant problem of speeding and the police believe there is a perception of speed rather than an actuality. However, further monitoring would be carried out, both in school term time and outside these times although their results showed that speeding is not a problem with the children being taken to school – albeit there is an increase in traffic.

Mr D Morgan felt we should keep pressing for checks. Mrs C Bays suggested an electronic sign giving speed indication but PCSO Hassler advised that those with a propensity to speed soon realised that there are no sanctions arising from these signs.

The chairman confirmed that the parish council would continue pressing for regular speed checks.

5-1213 - 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.

6-1213 - Village Hall

Mr D 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 Committee – see attached notes.

7.1-1213 – Report of Cty Cllr Bellfield

Cty Cllr Bellfield presented his report - see attached notes

7.2-1213 - Report of Dist Cllr Snell

Dist Cllr Snell has advised his apologies for absence but had provided his report – see attached notes.

8-1213 - Report of PCSO Hassler

PCSO Hassler advised of a total of 13 crimes in Brandeston during the previous year.

9-1213- Draft Brandeston Conservation Area Appraisal

Mr R Scrimgeor (RS) commenced by introducing himself and advised that he has been employed as the Council's Senior Design and Conservation Officer for the last five years.

The principle points of RS's presentation were :-

- RS was told when he started that of the District's then 33 conservation areas only 12 had had appraisals completed and adopted
- RS role is to ensure that the remaining conservation areas have appraisals in place as soon as possible – slow process
- Government advises that Councils should have appraisals to more effectively guide them in their decision making processes particularly in respect of planning
- RS then described how Brandeston was designated in 1988 – a late designation given that enabling legislation dates from 1967 and most of the District's conservation areas originate in the early 1970s
- However RS view is that Brandeston's boundary is well considered in that it includes virtually the entire built village and recognises that the villages are a single entity and that it is not necessarily desirable to carve it up into bits that are worthy of preservation and others that are not.
- RS then went on to explain the purpose of an appraisal as a means of identifying the character of a conservation area by analysing things like topography, history and archaeology, quality of buildings, local building materials, contribution of unlisted buildings, features like boundary walls, and the importance of open spaces and trees and tree groups
- Legislative test for development in a conservation area is whether it 'preserves or enhances the character or appearance of a conservation area'. Therefore that character needs to be defined via an appraisal.
- RS drew attention to the summary map at the back of the appraisal which illustrates all the key features of the conservation area
- RS advised that seven conservation area appraisals, including Brandeston, went out on public consultation at the end of January and will be presented to SCDC's Cabinet for adoption on July 3rd
- RS confirmed in response to a question that the Cabinet will adopt a revised appraisal, not the draft on consultation. The draft will be revised to take account of comments received, including where errors have been pointed out. RS confirmed that the PC would not see the revised draft before adoption.
- RS was able to confirm that the SCDC Tree Scheme is still in place
- RS answered queries on the conservation area boundary: some residents had written in with requests for changes but the boundary is not being revised at present. Suggested changes will be included in the appraisal for the boundary review likely in 2-3 years time. Outside the boundary conservation area legislation does not apply.
- RS answered a query on conservation area setting: listed buildings have setting and this is in the legislation but there is no equivalent for conservation areas. Their setting is important but is a more arguable concept and harder to apply than for listed buildings.

Mr Scrimgeor concluded by thanking the Meeting for his invitation to attend

10-1213 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman

There were no items raised for discussion under this heading.

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