

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall on 14 May 2008

Present : Councillors D Risk (Chairman), S Thurlow, H. Saxton, K Churchill, P Summers, J Fielder and W Elson
Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell
County Cllr P Bellfield
Parish Historical Recorder W Woodland
PCSO Mary Thompson
41 Parishioners

1-0809 - Chairman's welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that apologies had been received from Alan Randall, Jackie Hounsell, John and Ruth Garratt, Sue Etheridge, Karren Piper, Anthony Fletcher, Ruth Risk, Eileen Leach, Mary Mitson-Woods, Helen Chapman, Anne Hayward and District Councillor Bob Snell

2-0809 - Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting of 27 April 2007 were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman as a true record

3-0809 - Matters arising from previous minutes

- (i) Drainage and flooding in The Street
The Clerk advised that further work had been undertaken at 37 The Street and at the entrance to the village hall. Regrettably this had not resolved the problem and further contact with SCC, Highways had been made. Additional work was anticipated at 40 The Street and at the junction of Mill Lane and The Street.
The Clerk mentioned that the work at the hall had also resulted in a very much improved entranceway.
Mr David Whiting raised the issue of similar flooding at his property - the Chairman invited Mr Whiting to the next meeting of the Council on 21 May 2008 to discuss the matter more thoroughly with the Council.

4-0809 - Chairman's review of 2007-2008.

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

5-0809 - Financial Report

The RFO presented a brief summary report indicating that the Council's financial affairs remained healthy (see attached). He also thanked Mr D Evans for his help in carrying out the internal audit of the Council's accounts.

5A-0809 - CSO Report

PCSO Thompson was pleased to advise that there were no reported crimes in Brandeston over the previous 12 months. Parishioners raised the matter of speeding through the village and PCSO Thompson commented that the police had visited with speed testing equipment on 3 - 4 occasions and issued some speeding tickets and some words of advice to offenders.
Several parishioners mentioned theft of heating oil from domestic storage tanks and PCSO Thompson said that vigilance was the best counter to this as it is an offence that is very difficult to solve. She asked that details be taken of any suspicious vehicles and passed to the police for follow-up.

6-0809 - Village Hall

Mr Darryl Morgan, Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee, presented a brief report whilst advising that he fully reported to the Annual General Meeting of the Hall – see attached

7.1-0809 - Report from Suffolk County Councillor

Cty. Cllr P Bellfield reported to the meeting – see attached
Mr Alastair Chapman asked Mr Bellfield what was the likely distribution of housing under the Local Development Plan? - how much of this is to be in rural areas? Mr Bellfield advised that much of the SCDC allocation of housing was already in the pipeline. Mr Chapman then asked whether the possible future unitary local government might affect this? Mr Bellfield confirmed that a change of structure will not affect the allocation - a lot of the SCDC allocation is already in the pipeline.

7.2-0809 Report from Suffolk Coastal District Councillor

Dist Cllr Bob Snell, who had sent his apologies submitted a written report – see attached.

8-0809 - Parish Plan Update

Mr Nick Hayward of the Parish Plan Steering Group advised that a fantastic response had been received to the questionnaire issued to all households in the village - 116 questionnaires had been issued and 104 returned. He commented that this clearly showed the great village interest.

A total of 249 people (including children of 10 years or more) responded. Mr Hayward gave a précis of the results whilst advising that a further public meeting is to be held at the village hall on this subject on 29 May 2008. Mr Hayward's précis included the following highlights :-

There was an equal male-female split of respondents

Most of the households in the village are owner-occupiers

Few real health problems are suffered by residents.

There is a high proportion of long-term residency

There are a high proportion of retired residents in the village

Brandeston does not have a significant crime problem

35 respondents state that Brandeston is their place of work

The overwhelming majority of respondents value Brandeston as it is and want it to stay that way.

There is a high satisfaction with what we have – “do not change significantly”.

Mr Hayward stated that if any felt there were relevant areas not covered these could be raised at the meeting on 29 May.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hayward for a most interesting presentation and Mr Nick Holland Brown supported this and added that Mr Hayward was due thanks for the enormous amount of work he had undertaken on the Parish Plan project.

9-0809 - Draw for Parish Plan Respondents' Prizes

The draw for four prizes to be awarded to respondents to the questionnaire then took place with prizes for Richard Daykin, Doug and Christine Parr and Paddy Fielder. The fourth prize could not be awarded since the winning ticket could not be identified. The Clerk undertook to publicise the ticket number through “The Brandeston” and the website in the hope of identifying the winner.

10-0809 – NATS Airspace Changes Consultation

Cllr Will Elson opened his remarks by stating that the reason for the proposed changes was increases in air traffic. Any changes around Brandeston airspace will involve arrivals at Stanstead or Luton. If the airport enters a very busy period the air traffic function creates a “stack” with aircraft at 7,000ft and then 1,000ft intervals above – but these are not much used at present. However, NATS are clearly looking to future potential rises in air traffic movements. The proposals are to produce a separate holding area for Luton and two for Stanstead centred over Sudbury. It is unlikely that there will be aircraft circling over Brandeston – more likely Stowmarket. NATS are conscious of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Cllr Elson closed his remarks by asking residents to advise any comments they might wish to make to NATS directly or to him or the Council – the Council will then pass these on to NATS.

11-0708 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman

(i) Cllr Thurlow mentioned the notice posted in the phone box, which indicated that subject to a 42 day consultation period, BT would be removing this box. After some discussion, those present voted 28 in favour of removal, 11 against. The Chairman indicated that the Council would support the wishes of the meeting.

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