

## BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 01 October 2014

### **Present**

Councillors D Risk (Chairman), K Churchill, J Fielder, W Elson, P Summers, S Thurlow and H Saxton  
Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell  
District Cllr R Snell  
Parishioner Mr N Hayward

### **1-1415/3 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public**

Parishioner Mr N Hayward asked whether the council were aware of the current status of the intended upgrade to the Anglian Water sewage system. The clerk advised that AW had promised to advise the position prior to the council's meetings and he had advised the date but no report had been received. The clerk agreed to seek this information from AW

### **2-1415/3 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield, Dist Cllr B Snell and PCSO C Hassler**

Dist Cllr Snell reported as follows :-

- 1. Planning.** The outcome of the fast tracked NANT oral hearing on 30 July, of which I spoke optimistically in my July report, was both disappointing and surprising, as the application was granted by a judge in the High Court, with the hearing proper in the Court of Appeal now established for 21 or 22 January 2015. This inflicts another frustrating delay on the completion of our Local Plan process. Meanwhile, early consultation has been launched to PCs on the current state of the site specific programme to preface its formal launch once the outcome of this latest NANT hearing is known.
- 2. Boundary Committee review.** The Committee's decision at the end of August was to confirm the transfer of villages in the Earl Soham ward to an enlarged Framlingham ward, with the exception of Charsfield (into Wickham Market) and Easton and Letheringham (into an enlarged Hacheston ward). Not even the district council was advised of their conclusion before it was made public. The SCDC leader expressed his satisfaction with the outcome, which was more or less in line with the District Council's own recommendations.
- 3. SCDC HQ office.** In a special meeting on Monday 15 September, full Council approved in principle the cabinet's recommendation on our proposed office move to a location in the Woodbridge area. A press release was issued immediately (see council's web site) but the matter remains confidential, as commercially sensitive negotiations will now begin in earnest. The leader has reported that the move is not financially dependent on the sale of the Melton Hill site and will save £200,000 a year. The investment is expected to be recouped in eight years.
- 4. Benefit Fraud.** Two more prosecutions in August: On 16 August, a Woodbridge woman was a two-year conditional discharge, and will have to repay the money, when she pleaded guilty to £6K's worth of benefit fraud, after claiming she was single, whereas she was in fact living with her partner. A Felixstowe woman will have to repay about £20K overpaid Housing and Council Tax Benefit and was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 1 year, as well as 120 hours of Community Service, after she admitted she had been receiving a regular income from trading commercially on EBay, from which she had not declared a bank account.
- 5. Red Farm Barn.** The retrospective application to regularise the domestic use of the garage is expected to come before the sub-committee 15 October, when the PC and objectors will have the opportunity to have their say. I have discussed the case (again) with the planning officer and been to see the property again for myself (inside and out). I believe that, taken in isolation from the rest of the history of the site, as a Planning Inspector would probably do, it would be difficult, and possibly unreasonable, to resist (prior conditions notwithstanding), provided a suitable timing condition is imposed and, of course, enforced.

Cty Cllr Bellfield had advised his apologies but confirmed that during his convalescence he would still be available to assist if requested. He could be contacted by phone (01473 735259) or e-mail. He will finish medication in mid-December and so hopes to resume normal service in the New Year.

PCSO Hassler had advised his apologies for absence but reported to the clerk there had been no reported crime from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 through to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014

### **3-1415/3 - Chairman's Welcome, Formal Meeting Opening and Acceptance of Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman formally opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors and others. He advised of apologies from Cty Cllr Bellfield and PCSO Hassler

#### **4-1414/3 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items**

ST declared interest in agenda item 9 (i)

#### **5-1415/3 - Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2014 were signed as true a record.

#### **6-1415/3 - Matters arising from previous minutes**

(i) Enforcement (Dist Cllr's expression of concerns) (previous minute 6-1415/2 (i) )  
Dist Cllr Snell advised that he was continuing to review the present position on enforcement issues within SCDC

#### **7-1415/3 - Planning**

(i) The clerk advised that their views on application DC14/2214 (Red House - Removal of condition 3 of previously approved application C12/1626) had been communicated to SCDC and a decision was awaited

There were no other planning matters to consider.

#### **8-1415/3 - Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)**

The RFO presented the current financial position with the main account holding £3,467.26 and the 100+ account £44.94 (both after accruals for future income and approved expenditure).

The RFO confirmed that he had finally received a receipted invoice for the work at the village hall for the provision of a basketball area and he had applied to HMRC for a refund of the VAT element.

The RFO reminded the meeting that they had agreed the five-year fixed price council insurance premiums at the meeting of 24 September 2013 and that the premium for renewal was now due. He confirmed he would arrange premium payment of £248.46 in accordance with this agreement.

#### **9-1415/3 - Financial Matters**

The council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) £10.50 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the next council meeting on date to be agreed.
- (ii) £20 to SCDC for the lottery licence for the 100+ Club

#### **10-1415/3 - Review of the Council's Financial Risk Assessment in Respect of the Current Financial Position of the Council**

The council agreed that the current financial position was satisfactory

#### **11-1415/3 - Correspondence**

Local Plan Consultations

The council briefly considered the latest documents issued by SCDC with regard to the Local Plan currently undergoing consultation. It was agreed that the suitability of the three sites for future possible development was correct - sites 789 and 963 were considered unsuitable and the third in Mutton Lane was already approved for development.

PS agreed to write a letter confirming the Council's acceptance of the Local Plan proposals with the above notes and forward this to DR for signature.

#### **12-1415/3 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16**

KC raised the suggestion from parishioners for the provision of a Vodaphone mobile phone signal enhancement system. It was noted that any enhancement would only be available to Vodaphone customers and that provision would only be available for 100 parishes over the entire country. Furthermore, it was advised that the support of the local MP was required for any application

The council agreed not to support this suggestion, not least because of the proximity of the closing date for applications of 12 October.

#### **13-1415/3 – Date of Next Meeting**

Date for the next council meetings was agreed as Tuesday 02 Dec 2014 at 8.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm