

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 02 December 2014

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman), J Fielder, W Elson, P Summers, S Thurlow and H Saxton
Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell
PCSO C Hassler
Parishioner Mr N Hayward

1-1415/5 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public

There was no discussion under this heading

2-1415/5 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield, Dist Cllr B Snell and PCSO C Hassler

Dist Cllr Snell had advised his apologies to the clerk but reported as follows :-

1. Planning – Site specific allocations

On 3 November 2014 SCDC published its Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), an evidence-based document providing important information to help the preparation of the Local Plan documents that will allocate housing land for future development in line with our Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2013.

The SHLAA is required by Government to inform the preparation of Local Plan documents and the Suffolk Coastal's annually updated 5-year housing land supply position.

Along with sites identified by the Council, developers, landowners and others have submitted around 700 sites for assessment, a process that looks at the suitability, availability and the likely economic viability of land to help meet the identified need for housing. It does not mean that planning permission will automatically be granted, even if a site is identified in the assessment as having potential for development. It is for the Local Plan making process to determine the most appropriate sites to be taken forward for development, which would then require planning permission in the normal way.

More than 40 meetings have already taken place with individual town and parish councils, prior to the wider, more formal 'Issues and Options Consultation' due to take place between 15 December and 28 February 2015.

2. SCDC 40 years old!

Suffolk Coastal District Council celebrated its ruby anniversary this year at my special Chairman's Reception in October at Easton Grange. Guests included past chairman and employees from Suffolk Coastal District Council, some current members and employees as well as civic, business and educational dignitaries from throughout Suffolk.

3. Business & Community awards 2015

As part of SCDC's 40 years anniversary, I have added a "Chairman's Award" to the programme for the 2015 Suffolk Coastal Business & Community Awards. This special award will honour a business that has made a significant contribution to Suffolk Coastal during the last 40 years and will continue in future years.

This award is the only award that is solely open to businesses. It is also the only award that will not result from public nomination, as the winner will be chosen from nominations made by councillors for businesses within their ward. The Chairman's Award will recognise a business which has made a substantial difference to its local community or to the Suffolk Coastal district over the last four decades through job creation, skills development, training, charitable work or through other such initiatives.

4. Community Grants

Local community groups are being urged to apply for a cash grant through the Suffolk Coastal Community Grants programme. The second round of the Revenue and Capital Grants programme is now open, with over £100,000 to be awarded to communities throughout the district, £50,000 for capital type projects and £64,500 to support revenue based projects. Under the Capital Grant Programme you can apply for 30 per cent of the overall project up to £10,000. This funding can be used towards the purchase of equipment, or for example the refurbishment of a building. Under the Revenue Grant Programme you can apply for a grant from £500 to £5,000. Revenue grants can be used to fund project costs.

Small grants are also still available from my own Communities Enabling Budget – applications are needed before 31 December 2014 from any qualifying local organisations for eligible projects (see web site for conditions) so that grants can be agreed before the end of February 2015. There is no carry forward for ward members' budgets to 2015/16.

[Additional Note Re my Communities Enabling Budget (Sue knows all about it), applications are not restricted to PCs and their offshoots, but any eligible organisation meeting the criteria can apply, provided the project also fits the rules (on line).]

5. Yet more benefit fraud

A woman from Melton pleaded guilty at Ipswich Magistrates Court on Tuesday 30 September. to dishonestly failing to disclose all of her income to the Council, including money she had made from trading on eBay, the second recent case of this nature, which is an offence under section 111A(1)(a) of the Social Security Administration Act 1992. She also acknowledged that she had failed to promptly report that her husband had moved back in with her in September 2013. In addition to having to repay all the money she was overpaid (£8,283.26), she was given a 12 month conditional discharge and ordered to pay costs of £150.

6. Recycling update

From Monday 3 November residents have been able to put food and drink cartons, aerosol cans, books and metal pots, pans and trays into their recycling bin, along with the usual paper, card, cans, foil and plastic bottles, tubs and trays, as textiles in their specially supplied bags. The people of Suffolk are amongst the top performers in the country with 53% of our waste already being recycled, though more can be done to recycle the estimated 18,000 tonnes of material that gets thrown away each year, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of pounds in land fill fees and other costs.

7. A very Happy Christmas and a successful 2015 to one and all.

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. His latest health report is very positive. He also advised the allocation of further funds for broadband improvements. He expects to resume "normal service" in the New Year.

PCSO Hassler reported as follows :-

CRIME UPDATE

There has been 1 reported crime from 1st September 2014 through to 31st of October 2014

1 x Driving a Motor Vehicle with excess alcohol on a public road 28 / 09 / 2014 Friday Street

We want to hear your views on local crime and policing.

To help with this, we hold regular meetings where you can tell us your concerns and set our priorities.

Our next SNT Priority setting meeting:

Wednesday 14th January 2015 at 2pm Framlingham Police Station.

Open to the public all are welcome to attend.

NEW !!!!

Police Connect

For those of you that haven't signed up for the New Police Connect yet, please don't forget about it!

This is replacing Police Direct.

The service is free, easy to use and is proving to be a very valuable policing tool.

The service doesn't just assist us it also benefits you. You will receive regular updates either via text, email or landline letting you know what is happening in your area.

Leaflets are available at all police stations or visit our website.

suffolk.police.uk/policeconnect

CONTACTING THE POLICE

YOUR LOCAL OFFICERS ARE:

PC 1410 BURT

PCSO 3034 HASSLER

PCSO 3051 MANN

PCSO 3195 HINTON

In an emergency always dial 999

To report a crime, speak to your local officers or leave a message, please dial **101**

Any member of the team can be contacted at FRAMLINGHAM.SNT@SUFFOLK.PNN.POLICE.UK

Our office phone number is 01986 835497 (answer phone).

Check the website www.suffolk.police.uk for our engagements.

Our website as detailed below also has an email link to contact us.

Please also have a look at the Suffolk Constabulary Website, which can offer further help and advice.

To find the Framlingham and Saxmundham safer neighbourhood team website please see

www.safersuffolk.org.uk

1415/5 - 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 Dist Cllr B Snell

4-1414/5 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in agenda item 9 (i)

5-1415/5 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings of 01 and 28 October 2014 were signed as true records.

The council recorded their thanks to Mr N Hayward for stepping in and recording the minutes of the meeting of 28 October 2014.

6-1415/5 - Matters arising from previous minutes

(i) Update on Anglian Water Sewage Works Enhancement (previous minute 1-1415/3)

The clerk advised that he had twice contacted Anglian Water to request an update on the latest status and received details this afternoon. The following is a précis of the information :-

QUOTE

Sewage Improvement Works – Brandeston to Framlingham

The aim of the scheme is to remove unwanted storm sewage spills (to the environment) at Brandeston Pumping Station (PS) and Cretingham PS by increasing flow capacity at these pumping stations and within the local sewer network. An additional driver is to reduce reported flooding in Low Street, upstream of Brandeston PS.

A brief summary of the works is as follows :-

1. Storage tank works adjacent to the existing Brandeston PS close to the Brandeston- Kettleburgh boundary (8 weeks commencing December 2014)
2. Framlingham WRC connections and sewers (2 weeks commencing January 2015)
3. Upsizing of foul sewer adjacent to Brandeston PS (2 weeks commencing February 2015)
4. New rising main from Brandeston PS to Framlingham via Kettleburgh (along the roadway, 8 weeks commencing February 2015)
5. Conversion works at Cretingham PS (4 weeks commencing February 2015)
6. Works at Brandeston PS (2 weeks, March 2015)

There will be a number of road closures whilst the works are carried out – specifically a diversion along Friday Street, Brandeston towards Kettleburgh and a diversion to Framlingham via Saxstead. Timings of these diversions have not yet been confirmed.

UNQUOTE

The clerk advised that he had strongly protested to Anglian Water that the diversion via Friday Street (being a single track road) is completely inappropriate and will lead to substantial difficulties for residents along the Street and for those diverted. This complaint has also been conveyed to SCC, Highways.

Anglian Water have agreed to reconsider this intention.

Detailed drawings of the intended works are available by email from the Brandeston Parish Clerk (mark@fairfields.plus.com)

(ii) Local Plan Consultations (previous minutes 11-1415/3 (01 October 2014) and 4 (28 October 2014))

The clerk confirmed that in the absence of any further comment from councillors, he had advised SCDC of the council's views as set out in the minutes as referenced above. Although these comments were submitted after the stated date for receipt, SCDC have confirmed that they will be considered when they complete their proposals

7-1415/5 - Planning

(i) The clerk advised that it would appear that application DC14/2214 (Red House - Removal of condition 3 of previously approved application C12/1626) does not appear to have been considered by the North Area Development Control Sub-committee of SCDC. No notice has been issued to BPC.

The clerk agreed to seek advice of the current position from SCDC, Planning

(ii) Tree Order DC14/3507 (Pruning of chestnut at the recreation ground)

The council confirmed its support for this proposal

There were no other planning matters to consider.

8-1415/5 - Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)

The RFO presented the current financial position with the main account holding £3,799.28 and the 100+ account £127.11 (both after accruals for future income and approved expenditure).

9-1415/5 - Financial Matters

The council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) £5.25 and £10.50 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the council meetings of 28 October 2014 and for the next council meeting on date to be agreed (see agenda item 15).
- (ii) £200 to Mrs Jane Mitchell for Welcome Packs for new residents in the village.

10-1415/5 - 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

11-1415/5 – To consider the budget presented by the RFO for the coming financial year 2015-16 and approve same if thought fit

The council considered the budget proposal presented by the RFO and agreed the proposed precept request at £1900

12-1415/5 - Environment Agency proposal to remove weir on the River Deben

JF advised that earlier this year the Environment Agency (EA) announced that they were going to remove the weir at the school because of EU regulations related to fish movements and because of withdrawal of government finance. This would result in a drastic drop in level of the river, which during summer time might be a mere trickle. They measured river flow and levels against well depth in a property in Friday Street, but chose a property which is a 'holiday home' and actually uses a bore hole for its supply. Suffolk Wildlife Trust opined that the water voles (protected species) would suffer as would the fish stock including pike which need a reasonable depth.

The residents of Friday Street and Lord and Lady Cunliffe (whose land lies on either side of the river) met to discuss this and then responded to the EA report arguing that it was inaccurate in several particulars. A meeting has been arranged at Brandeston School for the 16th December to discuss the matter further. JF agreed to keep the parish council advised of the outcome.

13-1415/5 - To review any matters arising from currently circulated correspondence

There was no discussion under this heading

14-1415/5 - To consider whether to vary the business of the meeting under Standing Order 16 of the Council

(i) The council considered the poor provision of broadband in the village and noted the comments from the clerk as follows :-

It is generally recognised that the broadband speed in Brandeston is very poor

Parishioner Mr Terry Robinson has been doing some background work on this and has been advised that there is no possibility that our cabling will be upgraded under the current improvement programme which is to be completed by late 2015. Details of the next phase of improvement are not yet fully established but it appears that the completion will not take place until late 2017. The reason we will not be upgraded sooner is because it is claimed that the speed in Brandeston is above the "threshold" of 2 Mb/s. However, Mr Robinson's checks confirm that the speed is very frequently below this claimed level. Mr Robinson has proposed (and the clerk and many others have supported) the suggestion that representations should be made such that the upgrade for Brandeston should be carried out within the 2015 timescale.

The clerk suggested that this could best be done under the auspices of the parish council since it is appropriate that representations should be made with the backing of our MP and of District and County Councillors.

Mr Robinson is prepared to support this proposal with (for example) surveys of speeds achieved at residents' computers within the village. The clerk suggested that parish councillor would undertake becoming the public face of this "campaign" in support of Mr Robinson?

JF agreed to undertake this role and said he would seek the support of his neighbour Mr Graham Edhouse.

(ii) Planning Issues – issues raised by Boyton Parish Council

The clerk advised that he had received a communication from Boyton Parish Clerk indicating the inadequacy of notice and lack of access to on-line documentation for full consideration of several recent planning applications. They queried whether other parish councils supported these views.

The council did indeed agree these points were valid and the Chairman agreed to forward a reply in support of Boyton Parish Council

(iii) ST raised the matter of the poor state of roads within the parish. In particular, Cretingham Road over the Deben bridge and Kettleburgh Road past the gun club.

The clerk agreed to write to SCC, Highways at Saxmundham

15-1415/5 – Date of Next Meeting

Date for the next council meetings was agreed as Tuesday, 27 January 2015 at 8.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm