

## BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 13 March 2012

### **Present**

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), S Thurlow (ST), K Churchill (KC), P Summers (PS), J Fielder (JF), H Saxton (HS) and W Elson (WE)

Cty Cllr P Bellfield

Insp. Aitken and PCSO C Hassler

Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell

Parishioner Mr N Hayward

### **1-1112/8 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public**

Insp Aitken and PCSO Hassler of the Saxmundham and Framlingham Safer Neighbourhood Team were in attendance and discussed the council's concerns on policing and speeding in Brandeston.

PCSO Hassler explained that the scene of crimes officer did not attend the burglary in The Street because any fingerprint evidence would have been obscured by the morning after the event. Insp. Aitken explained that the force had finite resources and could not always attend every crime scene.

With respect to speeding the officers presented a detailed recording of speeds through the village taken at positions opposite the village hall and further down The Street. They claimed that these showed that there was a minimal level of speeding through Brandeston. They agreed to carry out further speed checks.

The councillors made clear their view that Brandeston had recently been poorly served by the lack of action and lack of crime scene attendance and they did not accept that speeding was not a serious issue in the village.

### **2-1112/8 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield, Dist Cllr B Snell and PCSO C Hassler**

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported as follows :-

Budget – SCC is on track to save £42.5M in financial year to 31 March 2012 with only a minor adverse effect on front-line services. Around 1400 staff have left the council including a number of senior staff. Additionally others will be transferred to new organisations which are taking over some council services like the libraries and traded services (catering, cleaning etc.). The council is now looking to save a further £26M in each of the next two years and a significant no of further staff reductions will be made some of whom will be taking over services currently provided by SCC.

Council tax – there will be no increase in the SCC element of council tax for the second year running

Libraries – cost of running the library service will be reduced by around 28% (representing a saving of £6M per year). They are to be run by an Industrial and Provident Society supported by the council. A final decision has yet to be made on mobile libraries which currently cost £7.70 per visitor, but it is likely that it will be change from a two weekly to a four-weekly service.

Broadband - during the year SCC announced that it was contributing £10M towards the delivery of better broadband coverage in Suffolk. This secured an £11M grant from central government. It is hoped that we will be in a position to select a company to deliver the coverage before the end of the summer. Meanwhile we wish to show that there is a high demand for super-fast broadband by asking business large and small and all members of the public to log onto the web site [www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband)

Dist Cllr Snell had sent his apologies but provided his report to the clerk as follows :-

New Business Plan - A new plan setting out the Council's vision for the district over the next decade was approved at last month's council meeting (see it on the web site).

Council Tax 2012/13 – Frozen by SCDC for second successive year but charges from the Police and most parishes will rise. (SCDC 10% of tax collected; SCC 75.6%; police 11.1% and average parish 3.3%). Without the £2.1M further savings planned over the in next 12 months we would have had a budget gap of £2.8m by 2015, largely because of the cut in Govt grant of 30%. Funding is only going to get tougher.

Local Development Framework - The LDF Core Strategy (CS) was formally agreed for Pre-Submission consultation at a special meeting of Full Council in December and the CS and its policies have now become a 'material consideration' to be given much more weight in planning applications.

The CS was published for Pre-Submission soundness consultation which ended last week. It will then be submitted for Examination by an independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Government who will consider the Council's work to date and the responses to it from the public. It is hoped to be able to formally adopt the inspected CS by the end of 2012, with the site specific allocations exercise to begin in 2013, as advised in my previous report.

National Planning Policy Framework – Situation unchanged from my last report, as we are still waiting for the revised draft from Government.

Planning functions to merge with Waveney –Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have agreed to merge and modernise the planning service of the two Councils, in a move that should mean better performance and shared savings of over £800,000. The intention is to bring in both an organisational restructure and a complete cultural change in the way the planning services work, to improve the delivery of the service for customers and to make the most of new technologies. Philip Ridley has been the shared head of the two Councils' planning services since November 2008. His next major task is to bring together the expertise of the Development Control, Planning Enforcement and Building Control teams, comprising more than 50 people.

A substantial investment is planned to bring in the same modern computer system for administering the planning process as currently used at Waveney, which offers more comprehensive and easily accessible information to Applicants, Town and Parish Councils and the wider public.

C12/0190 - I am aware of the application at The Gables. The Planning Officer has visited the site and we are waiting for her to compile her report. In view of concerns expressed about the potential impact of another dwelling on the density and the street scene in Mill Lane, I have agreed that this application will be determined by the Development Control sub-committee.

### **3-1112/8 - 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 Dist Cllr Snell and Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland.

### **4-1112/8 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items**

ST declared interest in agenda item 10 (i)

### **5-1112/8 - Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meetings of 17 January and 14 February 2012 were signed as true records.

### **6-1112/8 - Matters arising from previous minutes**

- (i) Speeding (previous minute 6-1112/6 (i))  
The clerk advised of further comments from other parishes contacted with regard to possible speedwatch interest :-  
Cretingham, Monewden and Hoo – Monewden and Hoo confirmed that they do not have an issue with speeding but it is understood that some residents of Cretingham have shown some interest and are considering purchase of a speed monitor and setting up/joining a scheme. However, the councillor most concerned was not at the meeting so further information is not currently available but their clerk will advise later.  
There has been no further news from Charsfield or Easton.
- (ii) Legal Charge on Brandeston Village Hall (previous minute 6-1112/6 (ii))  
The clerk advised that he had forwarded the council's comments to its solicitor and further action is awaited from them.
- (iii) Brandeston Draft Conservation Area Appraisal (previous minute 13-1112/6 (ii))  
The clerk advised that SCDC were unable to grant an extension to the closing date for comments but that a Conservation Officer had agreed to attend the Brandeston Annual Parish Meeting and would ensure that any comments arising would be presented verbally at the SCDC Cabinet meeting considering the draft proposal.  
The council then considered this subject, commented that this was a very worthwhile document and agreed to advise SCDC of their support. It was pointed out that the "barn" at Red House Farm was actually newly constructed following destruction of the original structure by the developer. The council also pointed out that an airhall had been approved at Brandeston Hall (a listed building). It was also noted that there were a number of errors and the clerk was instructed to advise these and the comments of the council to SCDC.

### **7-1112/8 – Consideration of Draft SCDC Core Strategy**

The council briefly considered the issued SCDC Core Strategy document. The clerk was instructed to question SCDC on the current status of the planning process and to request clarification of any difference between a Neighbourhood Plan and a Parish Plan. Further they were to be asked to clarify how much weight is given to the Core Strategy, the government's National Planning Policy Framework and the Localism Act.

### **8-1112/8 - Planning**

- (i) Due to the shortage of time at this meeting, the council agreed that the documents for application C12/0470 (Brandeston Hall – Various internal alterations) would be circulated and comments advised to the clerk for transmission to SCDC.
- (ii) The clerk advised that application C12/0190 (The Gables, Mill Lane – New house in garden) had not been considered at the SCDC North Development Control Sub-committee meeting of 29 February 2012 but would presumably be determined at the next meeting on 28 March 2012. The council noted that Suffolk Preservation Society were opposed to this application.

There were no other planning matters to consider.

### **9-1112/8 – Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)**

The RFO reported the current financial position with the main account holding £4,326.97 and the 100+ account £1,648.29 (both after accruals for approved expenditure and for future income).

### **10-1112/8 - Financial Matters**

The Council agreed payments as follow :-

- (i) £12 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the next meeting (see agenda item 14).
- (ii) £25 to Suffolk ACRE for 2012-2013 subscription

### **11-1112/8 - Review 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

### **12-1112/8 – Correspondence**

The council agreed to make a donation of £20 to the Disability Advice Service.

### **13-1112/8 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16**

The Chairman agreed discussion of an email from Mr M Johnson advising of his intention to make a planning application for an extension at 32A The Street. Prior to this he intended to stabilise the hedging at the rear of the property at the boundary to the Recreation Ground. The council stated that they would prefer that sleepers be used in preference to a block wall and that the ditch not be reduced in width.

The clerk was instructed to pass this email to the village hall management committee and advise a joint response thereafter.

### **14-1112/8 – Date of Next Meeting**

Dates for the next council meeting (Annual Parish Council Meeting) and the Annual Brandeston Parish Meeting were agreed for 22 May 2012 at 7.00 pm and 8.00 pm respectively.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm