

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), J Fielder (JF), H Saxton (HS), S Thurlow (ST) and W Elson (WE)
Cty Cllr P Bellfield
Dist Cllr R Snell
Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell (AMH)

1-1213/6 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public

There was no discussion under this heading.

2-1213/6 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield, Dist Cllr B Snell and PCSO C Hassler

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported as follows :-

“Council Tax 2013/14

We announced last month that the County Council element of the council tax will be frozen for the third consecutive year. This means that for the four years of the current administration at Endeavour House the council tax will only have risen by 2.4%.

The future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Suffolk residents are currently being asked their views about the county's Fire and Rescue Service working more closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough service. This could potentially mean a full merger. This follows the successful merger of the fire control centres for the two authorities last year. A business case is currently being prepared which it is hoped will show that fewer back office and top management staff will be required thus saving costs while maintaining or improving the service.

Future Back Office Requirements

At last month's Cabinet meeting it was agreed that the partnership between BT, the County and Mid-Suffolk D.C. to run back office services like finance, ICT and HR should not be extended or renegotiated after it ends in 2014. This means the end of CSD as we know it today. Many will say thank goodness! We are, therefore, now looking for other outside organisations to perform these functions at a lower cost as the BT contract has escalated significantly more than originally anticipated.

Records and Heritage Functions

It has become clear that it is necessary for the County to reorganise and re-site its records and heritage functions and we are currently investigating the options that we have. They include moving within Ipswich or to Stowmarket

Future of County Care Homes

The Scrutiny Committee has confirmed the Cabinet's decision to appoint Care UK as the new provider of the council's residential care homes and community wellbeing centres for older people (known as day centres). The running of the 16 homes will be taken over by Care UK who will then inject £60m to build 10 new homes, some on existing sites. Without exception the 16 homes need substantial investment which the council cannot afford in these difficult times and hence the need to transfer their operation to an outside provider. When the rebuilding programme is complete there will be around an extra 150 places with most of the new beds suitable for dementia patients.

Future Expenditure Savings

I have mentioned previously that in each of the next two years the Council is budgeting to save a further £26m on top of the £65m savings made last year, but this is unlikely to be the end. Before the start of the financial year 2014/15 the government is going to indicate the likely reduction in the central grant to local authorities over the following four years and the best guess that we can make is that we will be looking to find another £60M over that period.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year”.

Dist Cllr Snell reported as follows :-

“LDF

The Inspector stopped examination several months ago but has resumed and completed last week.

Felixstowe

New pier approved at a cost of £15M. Part of deal will mean improvement in landside for public use – landscaped area

Sea front garden improvement out for tender

Housing at Martello end should be commenced shortly

Boundary Commission

We were instructed to review with object of equalising constituencies and the no. of dist councillors.

The best dining pub in Suffolk has been announced as the White Horse in Easton”

PCSO Hassler had sent his apologies but reported to the meeting as follows :-

“Crimes of interest to Brandeston parishioners

From 04/09/2012 to 13/11/2012 there have been 5 recorded crimes for the parish of Brandeston. These consist of 3xburglary (other buildings) and 2xburglary (dwelling) A suspect is on Police bail

Crime Prevention Advice

The Weather is forecast to get colder - Heating Oil Theft - be proactive and follow just a few simple steps which can help make your tank and fuel more difficult for thieves to target.

- Screen your tank with fencing or hedges
- Close and secure any gates leading to the tank
- Conceal or cover any external pipes and fuel lines
- Install dusk to dawn security lighting
- Install lockable caps supported by a closed shackle padlock (check your are insured for any seepages)
- Regularly check your fuel levels - sensors which monitor levels from inside the home are available
- Consider installing a tank alarm/CCTV monitoring
- Join a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

Keep an eye on your neighbours' properties. Large quantities of oil are often stolen, which means the thieves will need sizeable containers to collect the oil in and a van or a larger vehicle to take it away. If you see any suspicious persons or vehicles in your road or a neighbour's driveway, contact police immediately by dialling 999

For non emergencies dial 101or for emergencies as before dial 999”

PCSO Hassler asked within his report if there any update reference the painted H marking outside of the Brandeston Village Hall

Cty Cllr Bellfield agreed to take up the matter with the SCC, Highways Dept.

3-1213/6 - 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 councillors P Summers and K Churchill and from PCSO Hassler and Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland.

4-1213/6 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in agenda items 9 (i), (ii) and (iv)

5-1213/6 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings of 04 September and 09 October 2012 were signed as true records.

6-1213/6 - Matters arising from previous minutes

(i) Legal Charge on Brandeston Village Hall (previous minute 6-1213/4 (i))

The clerk advised that he had provided a copy of the council's email of 31 January 2012 which set out the changes the council was seeking to the charge document. The council's solicitor had in turn advised receipt (on 07 September) and confirmed that these details had been forwarded to the Big Lottery Fund. No further communication had been received.

The council agreed to take no further action at this time.

(ii) Advice from Planning Lawyer (previous minute item 1, paras. 3 and 4 – 09 October 2012)

The council considered the statements in recent applications that the Brandeston Parish Plan did not support the conclusions therein that the village was opposed to further developments. The council stated that they were deeply offended by these application mis-statements which impugned the integrity of those compiling the Plan and were potentially libellous. The Clerk was instructed to produce a draft letter to Suffolk ACRE seeking their guidance as to how the council might act further to prevent such misrepresentations and parishioner Mr N Hayward agreed to forward this over his signature to his contacts at ACRE. The Clerk was also instructed to write to SCDC, Planning Office to ensure that the SCDC Development Control Sub-committee were aware of the misrepresentations when considering the current application, C12/1939 (4 houses, Mutton Lane)

7-1213/6 - Planning

(i) The clerk advised that applications C12/1626 (Red House Barn –retention of mobile home, use of annexe), C12/1761 (Priory Barn extension) and C12/1862 (55 The Street, extension) had all been approved.

(ii) The council noted that applications C12/0529 (32A The Street) and C12/1761 (Priory Barn) had both been decided by delegated authority despite the parish council objections. The council had always understood that when they objected to applications, these would be decided by the Development Control Sub-committee. Dist Cllr Snell undertook to investigate these two applications and advise the reasoning for their delegated approval.

The council also noted that there was no blue-line plan (to indicate other adjacent land in the same ownership) with application C12/1939 (4 houses, Mutton Lane) and stated that it was their view that such incomplete applications were invalid. Dist Cllr Snell also undertook to investigate this matter. There were no other planning matters to consider.

8-1213/6 – Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)

The RFO presented the current financial position with the main account holding £6,942.35 and the 100+ account £1,534.44 (both after accruals for approved expenditure and for future income).

9-1213/6 - Financial Matters

The council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) £5.25 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the council meeting on 09 October 2012
- (ii) £10.50 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the next council meeting on date to be agreed (see agenda item 13 (below))
- (iii) £300.74 to Suffolk ACRE (budget £320) for insurance.
- (iv) transfer refund of £1,182 for faulty projector from community account to 100+ account

10-1213/6 - 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

11-1213/6 – Correspondence

The chairman drew the council's attention to the recent introduction of the Suffolk Code of Conduct for local authority councillors. The council agreed to consider whether to adopt the code at their next meeting.

12-1213/6 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16

The chairman raised the following matters :-

- (i) ST noted that it is unclear who might cut the grass around the village sign with the resignation of the landlord at the Queens Head pending? She suggested the council might take on this responsibility.
- (ii) It was noted that the village sign requires some repairs and the chairman undertook to speak to Mr Nick Ashwell about costs for this work.
- (iii) The clerk undertook to carry out revarnishing of the notice board at the village hall when the weather improved.

13-1213/6 – Date of Next Meeting

Date for the next council meeting was agreed for 22 January 2013 at 8.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.