

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 14 January 2014

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman), S Thurlow, J Fielder, P Summers, W Elson and H Saxton
Dist Cllr B Snell
Cty Cllr P Bellfield
Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell
Parishioner Mr N Hayward

1-1314/5 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public

There was no discussion under this heading.

2-1314/5 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield, Dist Cllr B Snell and PCSO C Hassler

Dist Cllr Snell reported as follows :-

1. Community Enabling Budgets
A new Community Enabling fund has been set up by Suffolk Coastal to help support communities in the District. The fund will provide each elected member of Suffolk Coastal with up to £4,000 to help develop projects in their community that are consistent with the Council's Business Plan and Localism Strategy. It cannot be used to support existing services but is aimed at stimulating new community activity. See www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/enablingcommunities/communitybudgets/
2. Core Strategy
A legal challenge to certain aspects of the Core Strategy from NANT has begun in the High Court
3. New office for SCDC?
Recommendation of best choice for new location, offering greatly improved efficiency, will be put to Cabinet by the working group very soon.
4. Boundary Committee review
Reaction to SCDC's proposals expected from the Boundary Committee imminently
5. The Weather
Your district council with its regional counterparts responded well to the recent flooding emergencies and the system coped very well with only a few minor breaches. In the light of that experience, full Council will hear a report as to the defence system's likely future adequacy at its next meeting on 23 Jan.
6. Annual District Council Meeting
Because of a conflict the date with European elections, the Annual Council meeting has been changed to Thursday 29 May 2014.

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported as follows :-

Thus far of the £150M savings to be made by the county council, a total of £38.7M has now been identified. The largest saving of £9M comes from the new incinerator operation by saving land fill tax
The county council savings will have no impact on household waste services, highways, school crossing, transport or concessionary travel

Free school meals – these bring income of £900 to the school and an extra 2500 children will receive free meals, although over 1000 of those entitled do not receive them.

A grant of £300,000 has been received from central government which will be used to introduce apprenticeships giving opportunity for 80 young people

Cllr Bellfield advised that SCC is examining cross border cooperation with Norfolk and Essex.

PCSO Hassler had advised his apologies for absence but reported to the Clerk as follows :-

CRIME UPDATE

There has been No reported crime from 1st November 2013 through to 31st December 2013.

CRIME REDUCTION / SAFETY ADVICE

With the New Year underway, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service are asking people to make their resolutions in 2014 to make sure that their smoke alarms are up to date, in the right place and that they test them on the first of every month. Why not circle the first of every month on your new calendar and tick it off when you have tested your alarms?

The next SNT public priority setting meeting will be held at Saxmundham Market Hall on the 9th of April 2014 at 2pm.

All are welcome to attend

POLICE DIRECT

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

CONTACTING THE POLICE

Your local officers are:

PC 1410 Burt

PCSO 3034 Hassler

PCSO 3051 Mann

PCSO 3195 Hinton

3-1314/5 - 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 PCSO Hassler

4-1314/5 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in agenda item 9 (i).

5-1314/5 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 19 November 2013 were signed as a true record.

6-1314/5 - Matters arising from previous minutes

(i) Sewage discharge (previous minute 6-1314/4 (i))

The clerk confirmed that the public meeting with Anglian Water was held on 02 December 2013. Representatives from SCC, Highways were also in attendance. It was noted that there was very low attendance from residents.

AW explained their plans for expenditure of approximately £1M in 2014 so that discharges from Brandeston would be pumped direct to the works at Framlingham (thus by-passing Kettleburgh) and it was expected that this will overcome the current problems.

AW agreed to send a copy of their presentation made at the meeting to the clerk. This had been received and had been posted on the village website.

AW have since advised that they anticipate that works will be complete by March 2015.

The clerk agreed to post a précis of Mr Minter's (of AW) email detailing riparian ownership rights and obligations in the parish magazine and on the village notice board.

(ii) Flooding in Mutton Lane (previous minute 6-1314/4 (ii))

This subject was also discussed at the above referenced meeting. Resident Mr C Hutson stated most strongly at that meeting that in his view the construction of the new houses in Mutton Lane would greatly add to the drainage difficulties in the lane. He requested that the clerk obtain details from the developer of their intentions re drainage. Whilst agreeing to this request, the clerk pointed out that the parish council had made very strong representations in this respect at all stages of the planning process for both sites (total 10 houses) in the lane.

The clerk then advised that he had obtained these details for the 6-house site from the developer, which had been approved by SCDC. These had been passed to Mr Hutson with a request that he share them with his neighbours. Mr Hutson had replied stating that his concern was with the 4-house site for which details had not been provided. The clerk pointed out that this site was still at the outline-approved stage but that the developer had advised that they intended to follow similar details to those approved for the 6-house site. The clerk reiterated the efforts that the council had already made and had suggested to Mr Hutson that since he clearly felt so strongly, he might like to make his views known directly to SCDC.

The clerk advised that this (4-house) site has still not received full approval and suggested that such approval was likely to include provision for drainage arrangements to be submitted to SCDC for their approval

The clerk also advised of a meeting with SCC officers, parish councillors and Mutton Lane residents to discuss drainage issues in Mutton Lane. SCC had agreed to carry out clearance of the pipe crossing the lane and the existing ditches at the pipe entry and exit points at the northern end of the forthcoming development of 4 houses in the lane.

(iii) Business Rates on Brandeston Village Hall (previous minute 6-1314/4 (iii))

ST advised that SCDC had now formally withdrawn their business rates demand.

(iv) Tree at the triangle adjacent to the Queens Head (previous minute 13-1314/4)

The chairman advised that resident Mrs Cara Duffy had suggested that her family would like to plant a tree at the triangle in memory of her late father, Mr Gerry Hollebone who had passed away in November 2013. The council agreed to initially fund the purchase and planting of this tree to a maximum cost of £100 + VAT.

7-1314/5 - Planning

(i) The clerk advised of approval of application DC13/2658 (Change of use of land to the east and north of existing development site; land at former Office Farm)

This application covered the two narrow strips adjacent to the site. The clerk had pointed out to SCDC that the ditches on this land were an important part of the surface drainage arrangements and that a condition disallowing in-filling should be included. This condition had indeed been included.

The council had opposed this application and pointed out that it was thought that the northern section of land in the application belonged to the residents of the property to the north of the site.

(ii) The clerk also advised that application DC/13/2908 (to vary condition 16 of previous approved outline application C12/1939 to read "No more than 4 no dwellings to be erected on the site" (Mutton Lane) had also been approved.

The council had opposed this application on the grounds that the original approval had required 4 single storey dwellings which the council considered more appropriate in the circumstances of an increasingly aging demographic both in Brandeston and nationally

(iii) A decision on application DC/13/2910 (Change of use of land to the east of existing approved development site to residential curtilage – Mutton Lane) is awaited

(iv) The council noted the correspondence between the clerk and SCDC in respect of further breach of consent conditions at Red House Barn development.

Dist Cllr Snell advised that he would be taking the matter of enforcement up generally with the Chief Executive on behalf of a number of parishes in his ward where there has appeared to be a reluctance to pursue matters that parish councils have expressed great concern about. He intends to canvass "his" parish councils for their examples before writing to the Chief Executive about their mutual concerns.

There were no other planning matters to consider.

8-1314/5 – Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)

The RFO presented the current financial position with the main account holding £2,359.40 and the 100+ account £769.94 (both after accruals for future income and approved expenditure).

9-1314/5 - 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 (see agenda item 13).
- (ii) £265 to cover the clerk's office expenses for 2013-2014
- (iii) £38.26 to Mr D Morgan for website hosting costs
- (iv) the council agreed the clerk's proposed precept budget at £1500.

10-1314/5 - 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

11-1314/5 – Correspondence

There were no items for consideration

12-1314/5 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16

ST raised the matter of the paper bank bin at the Queens Head which the new landlord had asked to be removed. The clerk agreed to advise Suffolk Coastal Services of this request.

13-1314/5 – Date of Next Meeting

Date for the next council meeting was confirmed as 18 March 2014 at 8.00 pm and 20 May 2014 for the annual council meeting followed by annual parish meeting

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm