

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 15 June 2011

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), H Saxton (HR), J Fielder (JF), P Summers and W Elson (WE)
Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell
Parishioner Mr N Hayward

1-1112/2 – Chairman’s Welcome, Formal Meeting Opening and Acceptance of Apologies for Absence

The Chairman formally opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors. He advised receipt of apologies for absence from K Churchill and S Thurlow

2-1112/2 - To Receive Councillors’ Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

There were no declarations of interest.

3-1112/2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 17 May 2011 were signed as a true record.

4-1112/2 - Matters arising from previous minutes

- (i) White-lining opposite village hall (previous minute 13-1112/1 (i))
The clerk confirmed that he had written to Aaron Nobbs and Lucy Lea at 33 The Street advising them of the council’s decision on this subject. They had responded indicating that they had understood that the council would not be requesting extension of the white line to the west. Accordingly, the clerk asked the council whether they wished to reconsider this matter. After discussion, the council agreed to seek extension to the west by another 3metres and to the east to include the dropped kerbs to 33 The Street and to Oakside. The clerk was instructed to write to Aaron Nobbs and Lucy Lea advising them of this decision and to request of SCC that the line be extended as indicated.
- (ii) Leakage at Damming Boards, the Deben (previous minute 15-1112/1)
The clerk indicated that he had written to the Environment Agency regarding this matter. He had received reply advising that there had been a long-standing issue surrounding these boards and in the past there have been a number of suggested options to alter the structure to something which is easier to operate, access, maintain, and with reduced health and safety implications to EA operatives. EA had indicated that it is constrained by lack of funding and has to prioritise the funding it has primarily for the benefit of protecting people and property from flooding and at this time there are no immediate funds available to carry out any significant works to the control boards. However, EA has visited the site and has carried out some maintenance works to provide a seal to the boards along with repairs to boards to reduce the loss of water. EA confirmed that it will try to monitor the situation but would welcome any feedback that the council or any other local residents have with the suitability of the repairs (as local eyes on the ground).
The clerk was instructed to write to EA thanking them for their attention and advising that the situation appears much improved. The council agreed to monitor the position and advise EA of any perceived deterioration.

5-1112/2 – Planning

The council considered application C11/1144 (6 new houses, Mutton Lane). The council agreed that they strongly opposed this application and the clerk was instructed to so advise SCDC citing the following comments :-

“The proposed development lies outside the physical limits of the village of Brandeston as defined within the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan. Development of this site will have an adverse impact upon the countryside character and setting of the village.

The need to protect open countryside abutting the settlement boundary in the parish council’s view overrides any development in this location including development under Exceptions Policies and the provision of affordable housing is not sufficient justification (either as an affordable development alone or as part of a mixed development including both affordable and open market housing).

The development would have a negative impact upon the wider countryside.

Much of Brandeston village lies within designated Special Landscape and Conservation Areas which recognise the sensitivity of the village and surrounding areas. Designations to protect the village

should not be seen as justification to instead promote development outside the village settlement and designated areas and within open countryside.

The proposal neither helps protect nor enhance the natural and historic environment.

The development offers no positive contribution to the existing community.

The application site can only access a limited range of community facilities, limited or no identifiable access to jobs, key services or available infrastructure.

The applicant has failed to take into account the very clear statement set out within the Brandeston Parish Plan which was published in October 2008 and, more recently, endorsed in full at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17 May 2011. The Parish Plan states as a High Priority "residents of Brandeston are emphatically opposed to further development of the village". The Parish Plan resolves that the Parish Council are tasked with "investigating all ways of protecting the environment in and around the village and protecting the village against further development."

The application is contrary to the published Parish Plan. Brandeston Parish Council would also oppose development of this site as an exception site as this would also be contrary to the Parish Plan

The council have been advised by Mr N G Hayward, who as a parishioner acted as secretary in preparing the Parish Plan that he has written directly to SCDC with reference to the inaccurate interpretation of the plan within the application. (The clerk was instructed to include a copy of Mr Hayward's review and to state that the parish council wholly endorse this review).

The Parish have vigorously opposed any alteration to the existing village Settlement Boundary. The application would involve linear development between the northern edge of the village to connect through to the buildings clustered around Rose Farm. The "Rose Farm cluster" principally comprises a Suffolk farmhouse, converted timber frame barn (which would formerly have served Rose Farm) and an adjacent former farm worker's cottage. The proposed application would be damaging to the character of the village and the setting of Rose Farm which would be severely damaged by allowing development within otherwise open ground separating the village and the Rose Farm cluster.

The clerk was instructed to formally request refusal of this application.

There were no other planning matters to consider.

6-1112/2 - Financial Matters

The Council agreed payment of £6.00 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for this meeting.

7-1112/2 - Correspondence

There was no correspondence requiring attention.

8-1112/2 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16

The Chairman agreed consideration of the following matter :-

An email had been received from Earl Soham Parish Council regarding speeding. They advised that children from Earl Soham School had operated speed guns with PCSO Hassler in the past. Earl Soham parish council asked if BPC would be interested in joint discussions (perhaps including Kettleburgh parish council?).

The council agreed to respond positively. In addition, the clerk was instructed to write to Brandeston Hall School enquiring whether they might like to be involved.

Date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 12 July 2011.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm