

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 17 January 2012

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), S Thurlow (ST), K Churchill (KC) and W Elson (WE)
Cty Cllr P Bellfield
Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell
Parishioner Mr N Hayward

1-1112/6 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public

There was no discussion under this heading

2-1112/6 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield, Dist Cllr B Snell and PCSO C Hassler

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported as follows :-

Chief Executive - The new Chief Executive, Deborah Cadman, started work the week before Christmas on a salary of £155,000 and no bonus. She has had 28 years of public sector experience, six of which as chief executive of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and more recently as chief executive of the East of England Development Agency.

Budget - Plans for meeting the £50million budget savings over the next two years have completed their public consultation and Scrutiny. The final report will go to Cabinet on the 24th January and Council on 9th February, The majority of the savings will continue to come from reduced management and back-office costs. Meanwhile it has been announced that for the second year running there will be no increase in council tax for 2012/2013.

Broadband - Once the government has selected the companies who can do the work to deliver broadband coverage, we in Suffolk will select one of these companies, which it is hoped to do in the first half of the year. Meanwhile we wish to show that there is high demand for super-fast broadband by asking businesses large and small to log on to the web site www.suffolk.gov.uk/broadband.

No-Cold calling zones - The latest zone has been set up in Felixstowe as part of the County's crackdown on rogue traders and uninvited doorstep sellers. These zones are set up in partnership with the council's Trading Standards team where the residents have identified the need. If any parish would like a zone set up they should contact Trading Standards.

Household Waste Recycling Centres - Following the announcement that the Council was closing seven centres, local communities, with our help, have now reopened six of them.

Fire and Police Collaboration - In the further pursuit of property utilisation Suffolk County Fire and Rescue Service and Suffolk Constabulary are to develop shared property at Debenham, Ixworth and Elmswell Fire Stations. This follows on from a similar arrangement at Framlingham. This will save the Fire Service over £400,000 with savings for the police as well.

Libraries - We have now confirmed that none of the County libraries will close with the management of them being taken over by a Industrial and Provident Society, to which the initial Board members have been appointed. This will reduce the cost to the County of running the service by 28% to around £6million per year. A final decision has yet to be made on mobile libraries.

PCSO Hassler had forwarded his apologies to the clerk and had advised as follows :-

There have recently been two reported burglary crimes in Brandeston and there has been an increase in rural burglaries in the Saxmundham and Framlingham Safer Neighbourhood Team area with targeting of outbuildings and insecurities. PCSO Hassler asked for support from the public by locking up and putting away any valuable items and reporting to Police any encounters with persons asking for scrap metal. When possible get the Make, Model, Colour and most important the vehicle registration number.

The council expressed its concern at the apparent failure of the police to take any action to apprehend the offenders of these crimes and the clerk was instructed to express this view to the local police inspector.

3-1112/6 - 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 Cllrs. H Saxton and J Fielder, Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland and PCSO Hassler

4-1112/6 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in agenda item 9 (i)

5-1112/6 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 08 November 2011 were signed as a true record.

6-1112/6 - Matters arising from previous minutes

- (i) Speeding (previous minute 2-1112/5)
The clerk confirmed that he had contacted other nearby parish councils regarding a village speedwatch scheme and had received responses as follows :-
Earl Soham and Kettleburgh – do not wish to join
Easton – have previously considered but there was very little interest from the village. However, the Easton parish council would discuss again at their meeting in January
Charsfield – would discuss this at their meeting in January and they are also considering traffic calming measures. They would be interested in any comments on these from BPC
Cretingham, Monewden and Hoo – would be meeting in January (letter from BPC will be put to them) but their clerk thinks it unlikely to be of interest as they have considered before.

The council then considered this matter and KC expressed the view that the council should not have to purchase a gun. The police should provide it if they expect us to carry out speed checks. KC suggested that the police should provide the detailed results of their checks over the last 12 months and that they carry out a specific check during a weekday February morning at 8.00 am - 8.30 am (as a minimum). This might go some way to dispel the perception that the police treat prevention of speeding as a very low priority.

A number of councillors confirmed willingness to operate a gun if provided by the police and, despite the potential cost, the council did not rule out the purchase of a gun from council funds. After some further discussion, the clerk was instructed to write to the local police inspector expressing the council's dissatisfaction. The clerk was also instructed to communicate these views to the above named parish councils

- (ii) Legal Charge on Brandeston Village Hall (previous minute 6-1112/5 (iii))
The meeting noted the discussion notes prepared by the clerk and the draft charge document and agreed willingness to sign such a document subject to agreement by the Lottery of amendments as follows :-
- (i) The addition of a clause such that the charge does not create any personal liability to the trustees. The council noted the unlikelihood that this would be acceptable to the Lottery and agreed that (in reality) the possibility of a breach of grant conditions was extremely low and correction would be under the full control of the council.
 - (ii) It was agreed that it is perfectly reasonable that any claimed breach of the grant conditions should be stated in any claim and that a period of sixty days should be allowed before any further action by the Lottery under the terms of the charge.
 - (iii) The council do not accept that the charge should be upon the building AND the entrance and car park. However, they would accept a charge on the building TOGETHER WITH a right of access over the entrance and car park.
- The clerk was instructed to advise these details to the council's solicitor..
- (iii) Establishment of a Good Neighbour Scheme (previous minute 6-1112/5 (iv))
In view of the complete lack of response to previous requests to residents for guidance and support for similar measures, the council agreed not to proceed with such a scheme.

7-1112/6 - Planning

- (i) The council considered application C11/2845 (Retention of sign board at the junction of Friday Street and Brandeston Road, Cretingham)
The council agreed to support/approve this application.
- (ii) The clerk advised that applications C11/2461 & 2462 (Solar panels, The Broadhurst, The Street) had been approved.

There were no other planning matters to consider.

8-1112/6 – Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)

The RFO reported the current financial position with the main account holding £5,617.30 and the 100+ account £2,093.19 (both after accruals for approved expenditure and for future income).

9-1112/6 - Financial Matters

The Council agreed payments as follow :-

- (i) £10.50 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the next meeting (see agenda item 14).
- (ii) A maximum of £500 + VAT for purchase of a garden-style bench and commemorative plaque (to commemorate the late John Elliott) and £500 + VAT for a new barbecue (both for the village hall from 100+ funds)
- (iii) £20 to SCDC for lottery licence (from 100+ funds)
- (iv) £217 for clerk's expenses for 2011-2012

10-1112/6 - To consider and agree the council's budget and precept request for 2012-2013

The Council noted the budget and precept request as prepared by the clerk and agreed the details, including the precept request at £1,500.

11-1112/6 - 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

12-1112/6 – Correspondence

- (i) ST agreed to deal with the correspondence regarding the Queen's Jubilee
- (ii) SCC Consultation (A New Heritage Organisation). The Chairman advised that Mrs Woodland had agreed to respond.

13-1112/6 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16

The Chairman agreed discussion of the following items :-

- (i) The council noted that and thanked Cllr J Fielder for carrying out the clearing of the grass triangle at the eastern end of The Street
- (ii) The council briefly considered the documents received from SCDC regarding the Brandeston Draft Conservation Area Appraisal. It was agreed to request an extension to the closing date for submission of comments in order to allow consideration at the Brandeston Annual Parish Meeting to be held at an agreed date in mid-May. The council noted that there were a number of errors in the documents supplied.
The clerk was instructed to request an extension to the closing dates for comments and to invite an SCDC Conservation Officer to address the annual parish meeting.
- (iii) ST updated the council on the plans for celebration of the Queen's Jubilee as follows :-
 - (a) a street party is planned – probably to be held on the triangle at the entry to Mutton Lane or in The Street if road closure permission can be obtained.
 - (b) an exhibition is planned to show village life during the Queen's reign.
 - (c) new steps are to be constructed from the terrace at the village hall
 - (d) it is proposed to purchase commemorative mugs for presentation to all children in the village together with a quantity for general sale around the village. The council agreed to fund the costs for this.
 - (e) ST advised that the village hall committee are conscious that the playing field is just a green square and they are considering the purchase of new smaller football goalposts and the establishment of a tree-lined pathway down the eastern side of the field connecting to a petanque pitch at the south-eastern corner.
 - (f) the hall committee are considering improvements to the village hall sound system

14-1112/6 – Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed as 13 March 2012.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm