

## BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

#### **Present**

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), P Summers (PS), J Fielder (JF), H Saxton (HS) and W Elson (WE)  
Dist Cllr R Snell  
Parish Clerk and RFO, A M Hounsell (AMH)  
Residents Mr A Sangster and Mrs G Lofting

#### **1-1213/3 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public**

Residents Mr Sangster and Mrs Lofting stated their concern at the speed of traffic through the village – specifically, today they had observed a lorry with gas cylinders went through at an estimated 40-50 mph. They felt that there was a need for some deterrent and that it was up to local residents to take action. They suggested the possibility of the purchase of speed gun and that it was not possible to rely on the police.

JF commented that the council had had a meeting with the police and the local inspector. From this it was established that when operating a speed camera, a yellow jacket must be worn and this means that drivers immediately slow down. The council had already installed speed bumps and narrowing white lines.

Dist Cllr Snell said that most villages have this problem and the use of a gun by villagers carries no legal sanction.

AMH pointed out that the police accepted that speeding took place but had suggested that there was frequently a perception of speeding rather than a serious reality. They had carried out complete speed measurement checks through the village with more than 16,000 readings which confirmed this view. The council had considered the purchase of a speed gun and this had been discussed at the recent Brandeston Annual Parish Meeting – there was little support for such a purchase in the village  
Dist Cllr Snell stated that there was also little support for speed gun purchase in other local villages.

#### **2-1213/3 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield, Dist Cllr B Snell and PCSO C Hassler**

Cty Cllr Bellfield had forwarded his apologies and his report (received by the clerk after the meeting) is appended to these minutes.

Dist Cllr Snell reported as follows :-

The Brandeston Conservation Area appraisal had been adopted by SCDC Cabinet on 24 July 2012 and now forms a material consideration on planning matters.

Red House Barn – a decision on demolition of the existing farm buildings will be taken shortly. The council noted that Mr Ruffles had confirmed to them on 08 May 2012 that the mobile home accommodation would be occupied from that date. The clerk was instructed to enquire of SCDC whether a licence for such occupation (exceeding 28 days) had been obtained.

Local Development Framework – the Inspector's examination of the Core Strategy had been suspended pending confirmation that the district's overall housing needs number is high enough.

New council standards – following abolition of the standards board, "personal and prejudicial" interests had been replaced with DPI (declarable pecuniary interests)

Olympic Torch – had passed through the district to enthusiastic crowds.

PCSO Hassler had sent his apologies but reported through the clerk as follows :-

"I have researched the crimes for Brandeston from the 22/04/2012 to 17/07/12 and there was 1 crime during this time - a burglary at the Queens Head public house. Regarding speeding, I was asked at the last parish meeting to report back the findings of the SDR to show whether the speeding results were higher or lower during school holidays and the results are as follows :-

From 29/03/2012 - 04/04/2012, 6950 vehicles scanned and from 24/04/2012 - 01/05/2012, 11433 vehicles scanned. The times when vehicles were exceeding the speed limit the most are between the hours of 06:00 / 07:45 and 17:00 / 19:30"

#### **3-1213/3 - 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 S Thurlow and K Churchill and Cty Cllr P Bellfield, PCSO Hassler and Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland.

#### **4-1213/3 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5-1213/3 - Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting of 22 May 2012 were signed as a true record.

### **6 -1213/3 - Matters arising from previous minutes**

- (i) SCDC Draft Core Strategy (previous minute 7-1112/8)  
The clerk confirmed that he had raised the matter of the distinction between a Neighbourhood Plan and a Parish Plan with SCDC had they had advised that :-  
"The key difference between a neighbourhood plan and a parish plan is that a neighbourhood plan forms part of the Local Plan and has a formal regulatory process to follow including independent examination, referendum and formal adoption. Planning applications will need to be determined in accordance with the policies it contains.  
A parish plan is a material consideration in the planning process and often covers a multitude of issues which are not necessarily land use matters, but which are equally important to that local community. Which path you choose to take will depend on the issues which are important to your local community. Neither one is compulsory. It remains the case that the Council will, following adoption of the Core Strategy still progress with its site specific allocations document eg looking at village envelopes; housing sites; local green spaces etc. This document would be drawn up in conjunction with the relevant town and parish councils whose area it covers"
- (ii) Speeding (previous minute 13-1213/2 (i))  
(This item is also covered under minute 1-1213/3 (above)).  
The council agreed to continue making every effort to discourage speeding and to press the police for support. The chairman said the council would welcome support from Mr Sangster and Mrs Lofting.  
The council also agreed not to proceed with the purchase of a speed gun.
- (iii) Legal Charge on Brandeston Village Hall (previous minute 6-1112/6 (ii))  
The clerk advised that the council's solicitor had replied to his request for the current status on this matter on 23 May 2012 implying that the council had not acted upon the solicitor's email of 18 November. The clerk had replied (also on 23 May 2012) advising that this was not correct and that the council had sought changes in the draft document. No further correspondence has been received.  
The clerk to write was instructed to enquire again of the current status

### **7-1213/3 - Planning**

The clerk advised that application C12/0529 (Extension – 32A The Street) had been approved without any change.

There were no other planning matters to consider.

### **8-1213/3 – Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)**

The RFO reported the current financial position with the main account holding £5010.35 and the 100+ account £1,844.44 (both after accruals for approved expenditure).

### **9-1213/3 - 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 13).

### **10-1213/3 - 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

### **11-1213/3 – Correspondence**

- (i) The Chairman advised that Cllr Thurlow had asked if Cty Cllr Bellfield would be able to contribute from his Locality Fund towards the petanque pitch costs. It was suggested that help may be available from the SCDC playspace levy. The clerk was asked to advise the village hall committee accordingly.
- (ii) The Chairman advised that it had been reported that the village sign may need attention. He had carried out an inspection which showed that there is no danger at present but work will be required not too far in the future.

### **12-1213/3 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16**

There was no discussion under this heading

### **13-1213/3 – Date of Next Meeting**

Date for the next council meeting was agreed for 04 Sept 2012 at 8.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

#### REPORT FROM CTY CLLR BELLFIELD

“In my report to you for the last year I said that we had exceeded our savings target of £42.5m. Now that the accounts have been drawn up the total amount saved comes to an additional £13.5m at £56m. However we are still looking to save a further £26m in each of the next two years.

You may have seen from the local press that we have short-listed two providers for high speed Broadband in the County and expect to announce the successful applicant before the end of September. The hope is that most, if not all, of the County will be able to receive the new service by March 2015. We are one of the first four counties in the country to be in this position thanks, in part, to the County putting £10m towards the project.

There has recently been some publicity in the media about a manifesto for the future of the railway services in East Anglia. This has been produced so that pressure can be put on the Government to ensure that the terms of the new fifteen year franchise for our services brings them into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The local Members of Parliament have gained most of the credit for this work, but it has, in fact, been Suffolk County Council who has commissioned and largely paid for the study. Guy McGregor, the portfolio holder for Transport, has been the driving force behind this project. We hope that this will result in the Norwich to London line no longer being the under invested second class service which it has been for many years.”