

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 24 September 2013

Present

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

1-1314/3 – Open Discussion with Members of the Public

There was no discussion under this heading.

2-1314/3 – Reports from Cty Cllr P Bellfield and PCSO C Hassler

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported as follows :-

The revised offer from BT for SCC's IT contract has been turned down because there were potentially large additions for any changes. The work will now be brought in-house. SCC will be recruiting their own specialist.

Planning approval has been granted for new SCC offices in Waveney district for which are to be shared with Waveney District Council. The costs of the development will be offset by the sale of other facilities.

Cllr Bellfield advised that it is expected that 20 of 35 fire stations will be fully operative during the Fire Service strike on 25 September.

With respect to "education", Cllr Bellfield reported that Offsted are reviewing 35 schools in the county and were perhaps "having a go" at Suffolk. He noted that GCSE results in the county had recently improved.

Cllr Bellfield reminded the meeting that SCC were facing grant cuts of 37% in two years but made the point that there would not necessarily be the same level of cuts in expenditure.

PCSO Hassler had advised his apologies for absence but reported that there had been two reported crimes in Brandeston since the last council meeting

3-1314/3 - 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 Cllr K Churchill and from PCSO Hassler

4-1314/3 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in agenda items 6 (iv) and 9 (i).

5-1314/3 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 23 July 2013 were signed as a true record.

6-1314/3 - Matters arising from previous minutes

(i) Sewage discharge (previous minute item 1-1314/2 (i))

The clerk advised that he had written to the Managing Director of Anglian Water (AW) regarding this subject as instructed by the previous council meeting. He had eventually replied and arranged for contact to be made by Mr N Minter, Customer Liaison Manager. Mr Minter had contacted the Clerk and had agreed to arrange a public meeting in Brandeston at the village hall in order to advise villagers of AW's intentions. The clerk had confirmed that he would assist AW with publicity for the meeting.

Mr Minter had since that time contacted the clerk by telephone – leaving an ansaphone message indicating that he would be arranging the meeting for October and an email would be sent. These arrangements are awaited

(ii) Potholes around Brandeston (previous minute 6-1314/2(iii))

The clerk confirmed that he had advised SCC, Highways of the areas requiring attention – namely old Maids Lane, Low Street and Mill Lane. It was noted that work had been completed in Mill Lane and Old Maids Lane.

(iii) Flooding in Mutton Lane (previous minute 7-1314/2 (ii) (f))

The clerk advised that he had reported this to floods@suffolk.gov.uk in respect of planning application C13/1278 (4 houses, Mutton Lane) who had responded by saying that on small planning application, SCC is only a consultee when the District Council ask their advice/assistance. The clerk had responded to say that this application was not considered "small" and requesting that they take the initiative on this subject. SCC had again responded to state that the council should raise this themselves with the planning department. The clerk confirmed that this had been done already (see minute 7-1314/3 (ii))

Cty Cllr Bellfield said he would raise this matter with SCC staff.

(iv) Business Rates on Brandeston Village Hall (previous minute 8-1314/2)
SCDC had finally responded to the VH committee advising that there was no legal right of appeal against their decision but that it could be reconsidered if the hall provided detailed explanation of the intended allocation of their existing funds. The village hall has provided these details.

The council agreed to await the outcome of SCDC's consideration.

(v) Trees on green adjacent to The Queens Head (previous minute 13-1314/2 (ii))

ST advised that these trees are dying but had already flowered.

The council agreed to leave the situation to take its natural course.

7-1314/3 - Planning

(i) The clerk advised of approval of application C13/1217 (40 The Street, Erection of Conservatory), which the council had supported

(ii) Application C13/1278 (Land at Office Farm, 4 dwellings - submission of details)

The clerk confirmed that he had advised SCDC of the council's views as set out in the minutes of the meeting of 23 July 2013.

The clerk also referred to the previous agenda item 6-1314/3 (iii) [flooding] which had been advised to SCDC. Furthermore, AW had advised the clerk that they also were not a consultee on potential flooding issues of new planning applications. The clerk had strongly suggested to them that it would be in their interests to raise this subject on their own initiative. In addition, the clerk had verbally repeated to SCDC, Planning, the potential for further serious flooding due to the footprints of large houses, double garages and impervious driveway areas.

The clerk understood that this application will be considered at the early October meeting of the SCDC North Area Development Control Sub-committee.

(iii) New application C13/2658 – Change of use, land at Mutton Lane

The council objected to the inclusion of this agricultural land into the development as a further erosion of open land in a rural environment

(iv) New application DC/13/2405/FUL and 2406/LBC (Installation of 8 solar panels to existing roof – The Broadhurst)

The council raised no objection to these applications

(v) New application DC/13/2495 (Replacement of existing timber double glazed windows with evolution upvc timber alternative storm 2 windows and doors – 2 Pond Piece)

The council raised no objection to this application

There were no other planning matters to consider.

8-1314/3 – Report from Responsible Finance Officer (The Clerk)

The RFO presented the current financial position with the main account holding £5,644.86 and the 100+ account £769.94 (both after accruals for future income and approved expenditure).

The RFO also presented the completed Annual Audit Report to the council who confirmed approval and acceptance thereof.

9-1314/3 - 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) to an increase costs for repairs to the village sign to £1300 +VAT

(iii) to payment of insurance premium to Suffolk ACRE of £248.46 including IPT (this being the agreed fixed premium for 5 years)

(iv) to make a donation to the Citizens Advice Bureau of £100. (The council noted that legal aid was now much reduced resulting in a much greater call for their services)

10-1314/3 - 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

11-1314/3 – Correspondence

There were no items for consideration

12-1314/3 - 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 item :-

- (i) JF advised that he had attended the meeting at SCDC to consider the Local Plan. The overall view seemed to be that most applications would be approved.
- (ii) The chairman stated that he had attended the funeral of Les Brook – a former BPC chairman

13-1314/3 – Date of Next Meeting

Date for the next council meeting was confirmed as 19 November 2013 at 8.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.