

# BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 12 November 2008

## **Present**

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), W Elson (WE), H Saxton, P Summers (PS), K Churchill (KS), S Thurlow (ST) and J Fielder (JF),  
Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell  
Cty Cllr P Bellfield  
Parishioner Mr N Hayward

## **1-0809/5 - Open discussion with members of the public who may be present**

There was no discussion under this heading

## **2-0809/5 - Report of Cty. Cllr. Peter Bellfield and Dist Cllr Bob Snell**

Cty Cllr Bellfield opened by congratulating the Brandeston Parish Plan Steering Group on the excellent final document they had produced.

Cllr Bellfield advised that that business mileage recorded by officers was being examined by the SCC Scrutiny Committee who was to make clear to the county council officers that the plan is to reduce mileage by 3% for first year and similar reductions to continue in future years.

Cllr Bellfield referred to the press advertisement for a Diary Secretary for Chief Executive but advised that this vacancy had been withdrawn on instruction of the SCC Chairman. He also advised that the county council had taken the lead in convening economic meeting with other authorities in order to see how they can alleviate current economic problems.

Mr Bellfield stated that the HGV study has been accepted by cabinet. Recommendations made have been received favourably by those particularly affected. A particular recommendation was that planning permission for haulage operations only be granted when immediately adjacent to a primary route.

Mr Bellfield continued by advising that there had been no hint, as yet, on the outcome of the boundary commission consultation.

The Clerk advised that Dist Cllr Bob Snell had advised of his apologies for absence due to illness but that he had submitted the following report :-

“Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Bob Snell’s report to Parish Councils, 12 November 2008

### 1. Local Government Review:

The first consultation period has ended and we await the Boundary Committee’s deliberations.

### 2. Local Development Framework (LDF):

The draft paper on Preferred Options of the Core Strategy has been agreed by Council for issue to public consultation (shortly). It proposes to put a large part of the new housing in the district to the year 2021 in the Martlesham and Felxtowe/Trimleys areas. In the Preferred Options, the villages of Kettleburgh, Brandeston, Charsfield, Easton and Cretingham are all classified as “local service centres” despite their paucity of facilities. The implication of this is that within the defined physical limits (which may be a different boundary from today’s) development is permitted, but limited to small groups of housing and infill, with one in 3 (in the case of 3 or more in a single development) being affordable homes. If an argument could be successfully made to reduce a village classification to “Other Village”, there would be no physical limits and the presumption would be against development (with some exceptions, including “affordable” homes), much the same as in the “countryside”. The document to be released for consultation will need very careful analysis in this respect.

It is therefore important that PCs provide their views during the period of consultation on the village classification, on site proposals submitted to the council for development sites and changes in the village boundary, as well as on implications within the various strategic policies and planning policies, as these (once finalised) are likely to form the basis for planning decisions for the next 20 years.

There are many detailed policies and proposed planning policies in the Framework, and parish councils may wish to check on how these conform with their own wishes or plans as contained in the new Parish Plan (if they have one).

### 3. Economic climate.

SCDC has not, and never has had, any money in Icelandic banks (unlike some other local councils and the Audit Commission!). A paper presented to Council by the leader on 23 October 2008 on the impact of the current financial situation is attached.

#### 4. Planning

An application has been received from BT for the construction of 2,000 houses and an Innovation Park at Adastral Park.

#### 5. Plain English

The Council has won an Internet Crystal Mark ward (only the 39<sup>th</sup> to be awarded in the UK) for the plain language of its web site and willingness to do everything practical to make its web site clear

#### 6. Wickham Market car parking

Eleven spaces have been made "free for 30 minutes" in response to local pressure"

### **3-0708/5 - Formal Meeting Opening, Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman then formally opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He advised of apologies for absence from Dist Councillor Bob Snell and Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland.

### **4-0809/5 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items**

ST declared interest in agenda items 9 (i) and (ii)

### **5-0809/5 - Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting of 24 September 2008 were signed as a true record.

### **6-0809/5 - Matters arising from previous minutes**

#### (i) Drainage in The Street (previous minute 7-0809/4 (i))

The Council noted that the recent heavy rain meant the problem had not been solved. In particular, it was noted that significant quantities of water were running from the BT manholes 30 metres to the east of the Mill Lane/The Street junction. The Clerk was instructed to pursue BT for a resolution.

#### (ii) Legal Charge on BVH&RG (previous minute 7-0708/4 (ii))

The Clerk advised that he had spoken with solicitor Steven Broughton of Ross Coates who is dealing with the conveyance aspects of this matter. Mr Broughton advised that it was not legally possible to arrange the charge as proposed by the Council. The Clerk advised that he and Mr Broughton had agreed to offer the legal charge on the building only (i. e. not including any right of access). It is thought that this might not be acceptable to the Lottery but developments would be awaited.

#### (iii) Hedge at Footway, Hill House (previous minute 7-0809/4 (iii))

The Clerk confirmed that he had been in contact with SCC and had received acknowledgement only. He had written further to Mr Derek Oldham of the Highways Dept but the Council agreed that any action by them be held in abeyance. The Clerk confirmed that he had again written to the residents at Hill House – again requesting that they take action (in the interests of safety of their fellow villagers).

#### (iv) Possible Purchase of Generator (previous minute 12-0809/3 (iv))

JF reported that he had spoken to Graham Edhouse who advised that a power survey would be required and he would undertake this. Mr Edhouse had also advised that his employers may have a suitable generator available but that it would not be up to "full-time-use" standards due to noise levels but it was potentially suitable for emergency use

JF was asked to arrange for Mr Edhouse to speak to Mr Fred Mugglestone of the village hall committee.

### **7-0809/5 - Planning**

There were no planning matters to be raised.

### **8-0809/5 - Financial Report by RFO (The Clerk)**

The Clerk advised the Council of receipts of the second precept payment of £1,025, a further recycling credit of £9.91 and the contribution from Cty Cllr Peter Bellfield's locality budget of £700 towards the new storage facilities at the village hall.

The Clerk then circulated the current cashbook statement showing that the main account has a current balance of £2,245.04 plus the remaining balance of the Parish Plan grant of £146.81 – after allowance for accruals. For the 100+ account the Clerk advised a balance of £566.18.

The Clerk advised that the sum approved at the meeting on 24 September 2008 (being £450 maximum) for expenditure for new kitchen equipment at the village hall would not now be required – the equipment had been purchased with funds held by the hall management committee.

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's finances remained satisfactory.

**9-0809/5 - Financial Matters**

The Council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) To BVH&RG of £8.50 for room hire for the next Council meeting provisionally arranged for 21 January 2009.
- (ii) To SCDC for 100+ licence of £20 for 2009

**10-0809/5 – Parish Plan Action Plan**

Council formally received the completed Parish Plan, expressed their thanks to the Steering Group and endorsed the praise of others including County and District councillors.

The Council agreed their first priority to be the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Document and the effects of its proposals on Brandeston.

In the meantime, the Clerk was instructed to write to the Master of Brandeston Hall School requesting his help in reducing light pollution from the school's sports area and the perceived problem of speeding by parents of scholars and to invite the Master to the next council meeting.

**11-0809/5 - Correspondence**

PS agreed to attend the SCD LDF workshop meeting at Stratford St Andrew on 25 November 2008. The Clerk was instructed to advise SCDC.

**12-0809/5 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman**

There were no items for discussion under this heading

**13-0809/5- Date of Next Meeting**

Date of the next meeting was agreed as 21 January 2009 at the village hall at 8.00 pm

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm