

## **BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 16 January 2008

### **Present**

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), W Elson (WE), P Summers (PS), K Churchill (KC), S Thurlow (ST) and J Fielder (JF),  
Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell  
Parishioner Mr R O'Brien (part time)  
Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland

### **1-0708/7 - Open discussion with members of the public who may be present**

Parishioner Mr. R O'Brien stated that the drainage in The Street was still causing concerns and water is ponding outside his house. During cold spells, this forms into ice with consequent serious road safety implications. DR stated that a major part of the cause was the drain at the southern boundary to The Cottage which is inoperative. The Clerk was requested to write to the occupants asking if they were minded to take remedial action.

DR also pointed out that the work undertaken by SCC, Highways at 37 The Street had not improved matters and noted that the proposal by SCC to re-instate the drain on the verge at The Yews had not been undertaken.

The Clerk was further asked to write to SCC, Highways raising the Council's continuing serious concerns on this drainage issue with particular emphasis on safety concerns.

KC undertook to speak to Karren Piper of The Partridges, Mill Lane concerning drainage from their property which appeared to be exacerbating the problem.

### **2-0708/7 – Report of Cty. Cllr. Peter Bellfield and Dist Cllr Bob Snell**

The Clerk advised of receipt of apologies from Cty. Cllr. P Bellfield but he had submitted a written report (see attached).

The Chairman noted that Cty. Cllr. Bellfield had undertaken at the last Council meeting to look into the legal issues that might arise from posting of notices and to advise the Council. The Clerk was requested to raise this matter with Mr Bellfield.

Dist. Cllr. Bob Snell indicated that the government decision that a Unitary Council for Ipswich be not agreed meant that business for SCDC continued "as usual". It is understood that there would be an inquiry to consider the future of Suffolk local government but the terms of reference had not been published as yet – there were a number of possible future structures such as an unitary combination of Suffolk and Norfolk.

Cllr. Snell also advised that a review of local electoral boundaries was under way but this would not affect the Earl Soham ward.

He advised that parking charges were under consideration for Wickham Market but Framlingham was to be excluded from such consideration (at present).

The Council mentioned the possibility of payments from the SCDC Playspace Levy to the Brandeston Village Hall and Recreation Ground for assistance with costs for the Brandeston playground and for field maintenance (including grass cutting). Mr Snell undertook to investigate. The Clerk pointed out that SCDC advertised the availability of these facilities to other villages in the district and it seemed unfair that Brandeston should bear the entire burden of the facilities' maintenance.

### **3-0708/7 – Formal Meeting Opening, Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman then formally opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors and visitors. He advised that there were apologies for absence from Cllr. H Saxton and he confirmed the receipt of apologies from Cty. Cllr. Bellfield.

### **4-0708/7 – To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items**

ST declared interest in agenda item 9 (i)

### **5-0708/7 – Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2007 were signed as a true record.

### **6-0708/7 – Matters arising from previous minutes**

- (i) Planning Application C07/1987 – Red House Farm, Replacement barn as dwelling replicating original approved barn conversion (previous minute 7-0708/6 (iii))  
The Chairman advised that he and the Clerk had attended the meeting of the SCDC Development Control Sub-committee at which this application had been determined. The decision made was to approve with conditions that the cartlodge be omitted, that the other barns on the site be demolished and other conditions. In particular, the approval makes clear that specific conditions must be met BEFORE development takes place.  
The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Holland Brown asking if he would keep the Council advised of compliance or otherwise with the terms.
- (ii) Planning application C07/1491/FUL – Rose Farm Cottage, Mutton Lane, Change of use from agricultural to garden (previous minute 7-0708/6 (iv))  
The Clerk advised that following submission of revised drawings (as reported to the previous meeting) this application had been approved with conditions including restriction of use to purposes incidental to the use of the dwelling as a single planning unit, removal/replacement of trellis and removal of permitted development rights. In addition, the planning office have pointed out that the summer house requires a separate planning application.  
This approval and its conditions were noted by the Council.

### **7-0708/7 - Planning**

- (i) The Clerk advised that application C07/1223/FUL (53 The Street, Erection of first floor side extension and other alterations) had been approved. After query by the Clerk, SCDC Planning Dept. had advised that drawings for planning applications do not need to be correct and that solar panels are permitted development and therefore, do not need planning consent. The Council expressed its surprise at these statements by SCDC.
- (ii) The Clerk also advised of approval of application C07/1731 (Pre Prep, Brandeston Hall, Erection of extension etc).

### **8-0708/7 – Financial Report by RFO (The Clerk)**

The Clerk advised of banking of the second place prize in the SCDC Village of the Year competition, amounting to £125. The Clerk then circulated the current cashbook statement and advised that the main account has a current balance of £2,784.58 and the 100+ account a balance of £54.18 (both after allowing accruals for cheques raised and for latest receipts). The Clerk pointed out there were various future expenses to be met (including room hire and election costs for which the Council's approval would be sought later in the meeting) but income would be improved by VAT to be reclaimed before the end of the financial year. He confirmed that the Council's finances continued to be satisfactory.

The Clerk also confirmed that the paperwork had been completed for change of signatories to both the Council's accounts – confirmation of new arrangements has been received from Barclays for the main account and is awaited for the 100+ account.

### **9-0708/7 – Financial Matters**

- (i) The Council agreed payment to BVH&RG of £8.00 for room hire for the next meeting at the village hall on a date to be agreed (see below).
- (ii) The Council approved payment to SCDC of the 03 May 2007 election costs of £79.10.
- (iii) The Council considered and approved the Budget for 2008-09 as submitted by the RFO and the precept request of £2,050.

### **10-0708/7 – Correspondence**

There were no items for discussion under this item.

**11-0708/7 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman**

The Chairman advised the meeting of a Good Neighbour scheme being promoted by Suffolk ACRE. Correspondence by email had been exchanged with Kettleburgh Parish Council with a view to promoting a joint scheme. The Council agreed to add this item to the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and to invite Mr. Gavin Hodge of Suffolk ACRE to address the gathering.

The Chairman also advised of the Community Speed Watch initiative – the Council expressed interest but agreed to take no action at present.

At the request of the Brandeston Village Hall and Recreation Ground Management Committee, the Council considered the documentation required by the Big Lottery Fund in respect of the legal charge on the hall and the playing field which had always been a condition of their (Big Lottery Fund) grant to part fund the building of the new hall. The Council, in their role as Custodian Trustees, raised their concern to protect the village assets noting that the charge, with a lifespan of 80 years and as written, covered the entire playing field as well as the new hall. They specifically considered the possible unfavourable situation in the future should the parish wish to undertake further development of the site, perhaps funded by borrowing. The Council considered that a more reasonable charge would be upon the ground of the hall itself with reasonable access thereto. The Clerk was instructed to speak to solicitor, Lynne Gurney

**12-0708/7 Date of Next Meeting**

Dates of the next meetings were confirmed as 12 March 2008 (Council meeting), 14 May 2008 (Annual Parish Council Meeting at 7.00 pm and Annual Parish Meeting at 8.00 pm) – all at the village hall.

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm