

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), H Saxton (HS), W Elson (WE), K Churchill (KC), P Summers (PS) and J Fielder (JF),
Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell
Cty Cllr P Bellfield

1-0809/3 - Open discussion with members of the public who may be present

There was no discussion under this heading

2-0809/3 – Report of Cty. Cllr. Peter Bellfield

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported that there has been a rethink about proposed revision to flight paths for Stansted airport to provide for stacking over the North Sea. Under the new proposals the bottom of the stack would be higher over the sea than over the land meaning less disruption over land. These changes are being supported by the County Council.

Cty Cllr Bellfield also reported that SCC is investigating whether public speaking at full council meetings be permitted. This is with the constitutional committee.

He then advised the Boundary Committee's proposals for changes to local government. The proposal is for two unitary authorities – one to be Ipswich and Felixstowe and the second to cover the rest of Suffolk except Lowestoft which it is proposed will join Norfolk. The committee also say that one authority for ALL of Suffolk may have its merits. Comments may be made on these two possibilities - and no other except to say (almost in passing) that we may prefer the status quo. SCC supports the one Suffolk proposal.

DR proposed a joint meeting with the parish plan group to discuss this matter. He also stated that with a view to reporting Brandeston's views, we should send representatives to a meeting of SCDC called to discuss this subject.

3-0708/9 – Formal Meeting Opening, Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman then formally opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors. He advised of apologies for absence from Councillor S Thurlow and from Mrs W Woodland (Parish Historical Recorder).

4-0809/3 – To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

5-0809/3 - Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meetings of 14 and 21 May 2008 were signed as true records.

6-0809/3 – Matters arising from previous minutes

(i) Drainage in The Street (previous minute 8-0809/1 (i))

The Clerk advised that Mr Aldous (of SCC) had not provided the promised wording relating to access at The Cottage and that SCC had not progressed any of the intended works in spite of persistent chasing by the Clerk. This had resulted in this matter being referred to the SCC complaints procedure for failure of service. Mr Oldham had reported to the Clerk on 21 June 2008 of the work already completed and the intentions for future work – all of which is already known to the Council. Presumably, Mr Oldham's report represents the results of the complaints procedure? No further progress has been made.

The Clerk was instructed to write to the occupiers at The Cottage in order to endeavour to speed-up this matter. The Clerk was also instructed to provide a note to the Brandeston website which would demonstrate the Council's previous repeated attempts to have this matter satisfactorily resolved by SCC, Highways.

Cty Cllr Bellfield agreed to press SCC, Highways to expedite the intended works.

(ii) Legal Charge on BVH&RG (previous minute 6-0708/9 (iii))

The Clerk confirmed that he had advised solicitor, Lynne Gurney that the Council considered that the Lottery's preference for the charge to include the access to the hall and the car park to be too restrictive. Ms Gurney has so advised the Lottery whose response indicated that they were prepared to agree the Council's view.

The Clerk was instructed to write to Ms Gurney confirming his return from holiday and that the Council await further developments.

7-0809/3 – Planning

The Clerk advised receipt of applications C08/0026 - Rose Farm Cottage (resubmission for re-siting of summerhouse) and C08/0964 – Orchard House, Mill Lane (erection of cartlodge, addition of bay window to house and cladding of garage wing). The Council agreed to support the former application and not object to the latter.

The Clerk then advised receipt of notice of approval of application C08/0585 (Brandeston Hall, change of use of Foundation House back to Master's accommodation)

The Clerk also advised that previous application C06/2241 (Brandeston Hall, new master's house) had been withdrawn.

8-0809/3 – Financial Report by RFO (The Clerk)

The Clerk confirmed that the public inspection period for the Councils accounts for 2007-08 had now passed and the documents had been forwarded to the external auditor for examination.

He advised of receipt of £8.41 (recycling credit) and of the first instalment of precept at £1,025.

The Clerk then circulated the current cashbook statement showing that the main account has a current balance of £3,436.44 together with the unspent balance of £833 of the Parish Plan grant. For the 100+ account the Clerk advised a balance of £1,371.18. However, the Clerk reminded the Council that future expenditures would reduce these amounts but confirmed that the Council's finances remained satisfactory.

9-0809/3 – Financial Matters

The Council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) to BVH&RG of £8.50 for room hire for the next Council meeting on 17 September 2008

10-0809/3 - Ipswich Housing Market Area – Draft Market Assessment

The Council considered the letter dated 13 June 2008 from Fordham Research and decided to take no action at present

11-0809/3 – Correspondence

There were no items for discussion under this item.

12-0809/3 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman

The Chairman agreed to permit discussion of the following items

- (i) The Chairman reported with pleasure that Cllr Bellfield had offered the sum of £700 from his Locality Budget towards the costs of the new cupboards at the village hall. The Council then agreed to add the balance required of £653.85 from council funds to cover the full cost of the materials.
- (ii) WE raised the subject of the recently introduced parking charges at Wickham Market and stated that he felt that the Council should write to support traders and others who were opposed to such charges. He agreed to provide a draft for forwarding by the Clerk.
- (iii) The meeting noted that the post-box at 18/20 Low Street had fallen to the ground. The Clerk was instructed to consult Cllr S Thurlow to confirm whether any action had been taken and if not to write to the Post Office pointing this out whilst reiterating the wish to retain this box.
- (iv) The Chairman advised that he had received comments at the lack of a bus service to Wickham Market. He understood that a petition was being raised. The Council agreed no action pending the result of the petition.
- (v) It was reported that some hedge clearance at the footway at Hill House had been undertaken. However, it was noted that further work was required at the western end.

13-0809/3 Date of Next Meeting

Dates of the next meetings were confirmed as 17 September 2008 and (provisionally) 12 November 2008 both at the village hall at 8.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm