

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 21 January 2009

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), W Elson (WE), H Saxton (HS), P Summers (PS), K Churchill (KS), S Thurlow (ST) and J Fielder (JF),
Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell
PCSO C Hassler (part time)
Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland
Parishioners Mr N Hayward and Mr N Holland-Brown

1-0809/6 - Open discussion with members of the public who may be present

PCSO Christian Hassler introduced himself as the new Community Support Officer for Brandeston. He advised that there were only two reported crimes in the village between 01 November 2008 and 20 January 2009, being :-

- (i) burglary from farm buildings (Red House Farm)
- (ii) misuse of public communications.

PCSO Hassler explained that he understood the village concerns at speeding motorists and stated that he had been trained to use the police SL700 speed gun. He would endeavour to visit at differing times and places with the intention of making motorists aware of his presence and reducing incidents of speeding.

PCSO Hassler offered advice to keep vehicles locked with any items of value not left in the vehicle overnight.

The Chairman thanked PCSO Hassler for his attendance and his advice and support.

2-0809/6 - Report of Cty. Cllr. Peter Bellfield

The Clerk advised that Cty Cllr Bellfield had sent his apologies for absence but reported as follows:-

Local Government Reorganisation

The Minister has announced that affordability and support figures for separate Unitary Councils can be aggregated, which looks potentially bad news for 'One Suffolk'

The Boundary Committee have said that they will not take any consultation on the proposal for three Suffolk Unitary Councils as has been proposed by four District Councils in Suffolk.

We expect to be informed of the Boundary Committees recommendation to the Minister by 13 February and that the Minister will tell us of her decision before the end of March. We will then know whether there will be County Council elections on 04 June.

Suffolk Records Office

The National Archives has inspected the Suffolk Records Office and has upgraded our service from two stars to four stars and excellent. We do some things well!!!!

Child protection

In next year's budget the County is putting an extra £3.8m from savings, making £5.3m in total into child protection so as to ensure that we have enough staff to monitor at-risk children. This will bring the number of cases per staff member down to well below the national average.

3-0708/6 - Formal Meeting Opening, Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman then formally opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He confirmed receipt of apologies for absence from Cty Cllr Peter Bellfield and Mr M Myers-Allen (Master, Brandeston Hall School)

4-0809/6 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in Agenda items 9 (i) and (ii) and 10.

5-0809/6 - Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the meeting of 12 November 2008 were signed as a true record.

6-0809/6 - Matters arising from previous minutes

- (i) Drainage in The Street (previous minute 6-0809/5 (i))
The Clerk advised that he had contacted BT as instructed but they disclaimed responsibility for the overflow from their manhole. They had stated that this was the responsibility of the highway authority since the manhole was in the pavement.
The Clerk was instructed to contact the Highways dept. for attention to the manhole
- (ii) Legal Charge on BVH&RG (previous minute 6-0809/5(ii))
The Clerk advised that he had contacted solicitor Steven Broughton of Ross Coates to enquire of progress. There had been a delay because Mr Broughton had only recently asked the Clerk for further drawing copies showing the Council's proposed area of the legal charge. The Clerk advised that he had forwarded these drawings immediately and Mr Broughton had in turn forwarded them to the Big Lottery Fund. Further news is awaited.
- (iii) Hedge at Footway, Hill House (previous minute 6-0809/5(iii))
The Clerk presented a letter from Mr and Mrs Gill which indicated that the Highways Dept (by their letter from the County Secretary and Solicitor of 09 December 1991 and confirmed by Mr Guy Pearse in 2003) had assumed liability for maintenance of the footway. Whilst not specifically stating that this "maintenance" included trimming of the inner hedge, the letter clearly implied that this was the case.
Accordingly, the Clerk was instructed to write to the Gills acknowledging their letter and advising that he would contact the Highways Dept. for action.
- (iv) Possible Purchase of Generator (previous minute 6-0809/5 (iv))
JF reported that the matter was currently with Mr Graham Edhouse and he would check with him on progress.

7-0809/6 - Planning

There were no planning matters to be raised.

8-0809/6 - Financial Report by RFO (The Clerk)

The Clerk advised the Council of receipts of the £700 contribution towards the new cupboards at the village hall from Cllr Peter Bellfield's locality budget and of £9.91 for recycled glass.
The Clerk then circulated the current cashbook statement showing that the main account has a current balance of £3,216.76. For the 100+ account the Clerk advised that the balance remained at £566.18.
The Clerk confirmed that the Council's finances remained satisfactory with a likely balance at year end of around £3,000 in the main account
The Clerk then presented the proposed budget for 2009-10 which showed a proposed precept request for £2,100. The Council accepted the proposal in full.

9-0809/6 - Financial Matters

The Council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) To BVH&RG of £4.25 for the Parish Meeting arranged for 11 February 2009
- (ii) To BVH&RG of £8.50 for the next Council meeting on date to be agreed (see agenda item 14)
- (iii) To Mr N Holland Brown of £16.02 for postal expenses for the Brandeston Parish Plan (Note that this brings the final total expenditure for the Parish Plan to £1,336.21 – slightly in excess of the previously agreed budget of £1,333)
- (iv) To the Clerk for 2008-09 expenses amounting to £240. The Council offered their thanks to the Clerk for his work on behalf of the Council over the past year.

10-0809/6 – Signatories to the 100+ Club documentation required by SCDC for Lottery Act purposes

The Council agreed that the signatories for 100+ Club licencing requirements remain unchanged as Chairman, D I Risk and Clerk A M Hounsell

11-0809/6 – Local Development Framework and Parish Plan Action Plan

The Council noted the classification of Brandeston as a “local service centre” because the village has four of the services required for such classification (meeting place (village hall), pub, employment opportunities (at the school) and public transport). However, the Council recognise the bus service may be under threat (as advised by our county councillor) and questioned whether it would be advantageous to appeal for re-classification. The Council also stated that further development may be unsustainable because of possible infrastructure and other shortcomings – employment, doctor, transport and sewage disposal.

After further discussion, which indicated the in clarity within the SCDC LDF documents, the Clerk was instructed to seek further detail from SCDC of the settlement definitions and their effect upon potential future developments. The Clerk was also instructed to seek attendance by an SCDC planning officer at the forthcoming Parish Meeting on 11 February 2009.

The Council also agreed to seek confirmation (from residents at the meeting) of the Council’s interpretation of the wishes of the residents (as expressed in the Parish Plan) that “no change to Brandeston” meant rejection of the proposed development area in Mutton Lane.

Parish Plan – the Clerk confirmed that he had written to The Master at 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. The Master had replied apologising for his inability to attend the meeting and stating that whilst there were lighting standards they had to meet, he was mindful of light pollution and would investigate to ensure this was kept to a minimum. He also stated that he shared concerns regarding speeding and continued to remind parents of the need to exercise great care but felt that, beyond this, there was little that he could do.

PS agreed to speak to staff at the Hall regarding light pollution and to advise the Clerk.

12-0809/6 - Correspondence

There was no correspondence in circulation requiring discussion.

13-0809/6 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman

There were no items for discussion under this heading

14-0809/6- Date of Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting was agreed as 11 March 2009 at 8.00 pm and the Annual Parish meeting on 20 May 2009 at 8.00 pm preceded by a Council meeting at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm