

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 21 July 2010

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), H Saxton (HR), J Fielder and S Thurlow (ST)
Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell (AMH)
Dist Cllr B Snell
Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland (WW)

1-1011/2 – Open discussion with members of the public who may be present

WW reported that the Brandeston Hall gates, which are listed in their own right, were not in position. DR stated that Brandeston Hall had advised that they were in a poor state, had been removed and were undergoing refurbishment.

2-1011/2 – Reports from Cty Cllr Bellfield, Dist Cllr Snell and PCSO Hassler

Cty Cllr Bellfield sent his apologies for absence but had advised the clerk as follows :-
The reduction in the government grant to SCC for the current year will be £6.4M and the chief executive is looking for a 30% reduction in expenditure for the next 3 years.

Dist Cllr Snell advised that the Local Development Framework (LDF) was approved by full district council in June and is now interim planning policy. The government has abolished regional spatial strategies and stated that it was up to local authorities to decide housing levels. SCDC must now go back to the housing numbers in the LDF – site specific allocations now been put back to next year for consideration.

He advised that a review of the planning process was being undertaken by the SCDC scrutiny committee, who had had a meeting last month. A future meeting will be held with some of the town and parish councils who had expressed strong dissatisfaction.

The government has announced a freeze on council tax levels for the next three years. Free swimming for over-60's is to be stopped and it is likely that the free bus pass will be reduced in scope.

SCDC's working cooperation with Waveney District Council has been held up as beacon by Mr. Pickles (Minister for Communities and Local Government)

Cllr Snell stated that Easton had won the Village of the Year competition and that they will be holding a parish council election (almost a unique event).

PCSO Hassler sent his apologies for absence but had advised the clerk as follows :-

There has been only one reported crime in the village of Brandeston (harassment warning) between 19 May and 20 July

Speed enforcement checks in and around the village are to continue, so motorists are advised to be mindful of their speed. PCSO Hassler advised that as the weather is much warmer, criminals can and will take advantage of people spending more time outdoors and of people leaving windows and doors open. He urged residents to make sure that all windows and doors are secured when leaving property.

3-1011/2 - Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed Councillors and advised receipt of apologies for absence from Cllrs W Elson, K Churchill and P Summers and from Cty Cllr Bellfield and PCSO Hassler.

4-1011/2 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in agenda item 9 (i)

5-1011/2 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 19 May 2010 were signed as a true record.

6-1011/2 - Matters arising from previous minutes

- (i) Parish Plan – Brandeston Hall lighting (previous minute 13-1011/1 (i))
The clerk advised that he had once again written to Mr Andrew Payn at Brandeston Hall (with copy to the Headmaster). No response had been received from either. The council expressed its dismay and offence at these discourtesies. The clerk also advised that he had contacted SCDC Environmental Health Dept. to seek advice as to whether the council has a legitimate complaint under environmental health legislation. The council noted the response and agreed not to proceed with this possible route at this time. It was again noted that this matter had been first raised with Brandeston Hall in November 2008 with no discernible progress to date. The clerk was instructed to write to Mr Payn again expressing the council's views and to send hard copy to the chair of the school governors.

- (ii) Highway matters – Notification of potholes requiring attention (previous minute 13-1011/1 (v))
The Clerk advised that SCC had been informed (separately) of those potholes requiring immediate attention and those which it was anticipated would be repaired under the works anticipated for July.
- (iii) Blocked highway drains (previous minute 13-1011/1 (vi))
The chair advised the council of a list of blocked drains and ditches. The clerk was instructed to forward this to SCC, Highways requesting attention.
- (iv) Salt bins and approved operatives (previous minute 13-1011/1 (vii))
The chair reminded the meeting of a previous list of those covered by SCC insurance against the risks of salting of roadways and junctions during adverse weather. The meeting agreed that a full list of those willing to undertake this work be provided to SCC, Highways for inclusion in this coverage. Those to be included were John Garratt, Paul Baker, Richard Martin, ST, KC, PS, DR, JF, WE and Steve Western.
The clerk was also instructed to request SCC to replenish the bins at Mill Lane, Queens Head, Manse Hill, Old Maids Lane, opposite The Forge and at Quaker House, Friday Street (where a suitable container already exists).

7-1011/2 - Planning

The council considered and approved/supported the following applications :-

- (i) C10/1672 - Grove House, Riggle Street, retention of tractor shed and siting of portable stable.
- (ii) C10/1618 - 33 The Street, replacement of porch, alterations to rear door, demolition and alteration of part of shed and alteration to rear garden.
The council noted that "laying out of parking area" was included in the applicant's documentation but not referenced in the SCDC documents. It was also noted that this section of work appeared to have been completed.
- (iii) C10/1657 – 33 The Street, insertion of door in garden wall and part removal and alteration of sheds
The council also noted that SCDC had issued for consultation the proposed settlement boundaries under the next phase of the LDF and it was agreed to consider these at the next council meeting. (response required by 05 October 2010)

8-1011/2 - Report from Responsible Financial Officer (The Clerk)

The RFO advised that the period for public inspection of the accounts had passed and the completed documentation had been forwarded to the external auditors.

The RFO then advised of receipt of recycling credit of £6.94 and presented the current cashbook position showing the community account with a current balance of £6223.37 and the 100+ account a balance of £2,239.14 both after accruals and allowance for future approved expenditures.

9-1011/2 - Financial Matters

The Council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) £9.00 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the next council meeting on date to be agreed (see agenda item 13).
- (ii) £111.60 to SALC for 2010-11 subscription

10-1011/2 – Review of Financial Risk Assessment

The council then considered the Financial Risk Assessment and agreed that all was in order and the financial position of the council is satisfactory.

11-1011/2 - Correspondence

There was no correspondence requiring attention.

12-1011/2 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16

- (i) The council briefly discussed the SCDC Playspace Levy and agreed to support applications by the village hall management committee.
- (ii) HS and the Council expressed their congratulations for the Suffolk ACRE Individual Initiative Award (Campbell Cup) for 2010 made to the chairman.
- (iii) The untidiness of the grass triangle at the junction of Old Maids Lane and The Street was raised. The council agreed to organise a working party to clear this, subject to approval by the landowners, Lord and Lady Cunliffe.

13-1011/2- Date of Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 28 September 2010 at 8.00 pm

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm