

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Tuesday, 22 March 2011

Present

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), H Saxton (HR), W Elson (WE), K Churchill (KC), S Thurlow (ST) and P Summers (JF)

Cty Cllr P Bellfield

Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell

Parishoners Mr A Nobbs and Ms L Lea

Mrs J Samson (non-resident)

1-1011/7 – Open discussion with members of the public who may be present

(i) Mr Nobbs described the problem created for parking by the white line outside their house. The Chairman explained that there had been a long-term problem with difficulty for the considerable number of cars exiting the village hall and with the danger of speeding cars to children leaving the play area. In addition, the police (who attend at the village hall every month) had strongly pointed out that parked cars would prevent the access of emergency vehicles.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the chairman meet the occupants of Oakside (Mr & Mrs Robinson) on site to agree a new line including possible extension eastwards across the entrance to the Nobbs' rear area and the driveway to Oakside. It was noted that Mr Nobbs confirmed he had no objection to the current line but would like to be able to park a car outside his property.

(ii) Mrs Samson stated that she wished to discuss their refused planning application (C10/2699 – 9 new houses, Mutton Lane) with the council and answer any questions. She said that they wished to use their assets (the land) to fund their retirement. They had hoped that the plans would be sympathetically viewed since they had tried to accommodate the views of the council and the village. The chairman responded by stating that the council opposed the application guided by the views of the village as a whole – as expressed in the adopted Brandeston Parish Plan and the public village meeting of February 2009. Therefore, the chairman said, he could not see any justification for Mrs Samson's statement.

Mrs Samson said that her husband had given 6 houses to Brandeston in Mutton Lane and yet 6 houses in Mutton Lane had objected to the proposals.

The Clerk noted that the trees on the land had been felled and that implied that this was to negate the reason for planning refusal no. 2. She replied that they had been advised that they had until July to appeal against the refusal and they were working with SCDC on an appeal. Also, the developer with whom they were working wished to do the tree felling now to minimise the adverse effect on wildlife.

Mrs Samson said there had been complaints about the untidiness of the land but that they were not going to do anything about this. These complaints were not from the parish council.

2-1011/7 – Reports from Cty Cllr Bellfield, Dist Cllr Snell and PCSO Hassler

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported as follows :-

The bleak picture for SCC finances is continuing but there would be no increase in council tax for 2011-2012. SCC is going out to consultation on devolved services and there has been lots of interest and offers of sponsorship (including by town and parish councils). Specifically, much interest had been expressed in the operation of libraries. Some services may not be closed but divested.

Cllr Bellfield said a bleak picture was being portrayed in the press but the situation was not that bad.

Dist Cllr Snell had advised the clerk of his apologies but reported as follows :-

1. *Budget cuts*

No increase in Council Tax, efficiencies of more than £2m and a commitment to safeguarding priority services are at the core of the SCDC 2011/12 budget. SCDC's part of the Council Tax will remain unchanged and the County Council and the Police have also frozen their charges this year. The 110 or so town and parish councils may have changed their figures so there may be a slight alteration in tax payers' bills.

Having saved an average £1 million a year for the last 10 years, it was very challenging to reduce our costs by another £2.2m but we have minimised the impact on our services, our employees and most of all our communities. Priority services have been protected, as have key projects such as the coast defence works at Central Felixstowe and Thorpeness.

The Government Formula Grant, which helps pay for local services, has fallen by over £1.1m to £6.3m in the coming year; falling income, inflation and rising costs left the Council with a budget gap between the cost of maintaining all its current services and its total expected income of over £2m. This gap has been closed through a very thorough review of services and working practices, with minimal impact on existing services. More than £310,000 will be saved in the coming year from closer working with Waveney, including its shared corporate management team and its shared computer staff. The Council's partners, Suffolk Coastal Services and Norfolk Property Services are scheduled to make savings of nearly £400,000. Nineteen members of SCDC staff will be leaving under the voluntary redundancy scheme, which is around seven per cent of its permanent full time staff.

The Council's budget requirement for 2011/12 is £13.7m, down £1.9m from last year. The total Council Tax income will be £7.4 million. We shall still need to find a further £2.3m in savings by 2014/15.

2. *LDF Core Strategy*

The Council meeting on 9 March to consider the LDF Reviewed Core Strategy (RCS) was postponed to allow for more analysis of a new study on visitors to the Suffolk Sandlings that was submitted by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust as part of the consultation process. The Council's legal advice was that the European Habitats Directive demands that the study be fully analysed prior to any decision on the RCS. It is expected to take a few weeks to complete the necessary independent appraisal of the study.

The SWT report is based on a study of visitors to the Suffolk Sandlings Special Protection Area and is largely about the impact of visitors' dogs, particularly as the majority were not kept on a lead. That area, centred on Tunstall and Rendlesham Forests, clips the Deben estuary, at Wilford Bridge and the very top part of Butley creek. However, under the regulations, the 'Appropriate Assessment' of potential effects on those habitats needs to be updated, to take account of the SWT report, so that the Council knows it has relied on the best scientific knowledge available.

This is quite separate from concerns in the RCS about potential effects on the Deben Estuary protected areas themselves, which have been fully considered in the existing Appropriate Assessment. For those, the Council was advised and believes that its processes have been correct, and that the measures proposed to mitigate any effects on that area are appropriate.

3. *Village of the Year 2011*

Suffolk Village of the Year competition has been launched for small villages (under 500). Judges will consider community spirit, appearance of the village, the parish council and special activities. Deadline for entry is Friday 27 May. The district competitions will be judged in June with the winners progressing on to the county wide semi-final in July. Winners of the district round will receive £200 and an engraved silver cup, second place £125 and third place £75.

4. *Scores on the Doors*

The national scheme introduced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) will be rolled out in Suffolk Coastal in April, giving all food outlets, and businesses that provide food direct to the customer, a food hygiene rating between zero at the bottom (urgent improvement necessary) to the top rating of five (very good).

PCSO Hassler had advised the Clerk of his apologies but reported as follows :-

Crime Report

There have been 3 reported crimes from 26 November 2010 to 22 March 2011.

1 & 2 Domestic / ABH both related but counted as two separate crimes

3 Burglary other building

Speeding and Parking concerns

Speed enforcement checks in and around the village will continue, so please be mindful to watch your speed. Also may I please have an update with what's happening with the H marking outside the village hall entrance?

Crime Prevention Advice

Tips for keeping Home Heating Oil Safe:-

Screen your tank with Fencing or Hedges.

Close and secure any perimeter gating

Conceal/Cover any external oil pipework/fuel lines

Install Dusk to Dawn security lighting

Regularly check your fuel levels, Consider installing a sensor that is monitored from inside the home.

Consider installing a tank alarm/security device (consult your tank supplier)

Join a NHW scheme & keep an eye out—telephone immediately if you see anything-suspicious 999

Note vehicle Index Numbers and descriptions of suspicious persons.

Further advice ring Suffolk Constabulary MAIN switchboard number 01473 613500 & ask for the Crime Reduction Officer for your area, further help on Crime Reduction can be found by logging on to Suffolk Constabulary Web page which is <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/Crime+Reduction/>

3-1011/7 - Chairman's Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman formally opened the meeting and welcomed Councillors and Parishioners and advised receipt of apologies for absence from Cllr J Fielder, Dist Cllr B Snell, PCSO C Hassler and Mrs W Woodland (Parish Historical Recorder)

4-1011/7 - To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items

ST declared interest in agenda item 9 (i)

5-1011/7 - Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 25 January 2011 were signed as a true record.

6-1011/7 - Matters arising from previous minutes

- (i) Blocked drains (previous minute 12-1011/6 (ii)
The clerk advised that a meeting was to be arranged with Mr Hugh Crerand of Anglian Water (probably on Thursday, 24 March 2011) Accordingly he had left this matter for discussion at that time since it was related to the issue subject of this minute..

7-1011/7 - Planning

- (i) The clerk advised of receipt of Tree Works Consultation C11/00031/TCA (The Old Vicarage, Low Street – fell willow tree in garden). The council noted there were no plans and therefore they could not take a decision. The clerk was instructed to obtain further detail and circulate to councillors before response.
- (ii) The council confirmed its support for the application for retention of shower building at The Queens Head (C11/0326)

There were no other planning matters for consideration.

8-1011/7 - Report from Responsible Financial Officer (The Clerk)

The RFO advised of receipt of £8.56 for glass recycling credit and of £271.35 VAT refund. The council agreed transfer of £262.60 of the VAT refund to the 100+ account. The RFO then presented the current cashbook position showing the community account with a current balance of £5,450.18 and the 100+ account a balance of £1,001.19.

9-1011/7 - Financial Matters

The Council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) £15.50 to Brandeston VH&RG for room hire for the next council meeting and the annual parish meeting on date to be agreed (see agenda item 13).
- (ii) payments to the clerk for distribution as prizes in the 100+ club for 2011-2012 as follows;- £140 (payable 01 April 2011) and further payments of £140 (payable 01 August 2011), £185 (payable 01 November 2011) and £105 (payable 01 January 2012) (All from 100+ account – total £570).

10-1011/7 – 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 was satisfactory.

11-1011/7 - Correspondence

PS raised the subject of the government's Localism Bill which would mean that more influence will be devolved to town and parish councils. Planning policy would still apply but the bill should mean that town and parish councils would have more influence. He suggested that the council ask Mr N Hayward to undertake a census for the village in order to update the core issues at the next Annual Parish Meeting. PS undertook to speak to Mr Hayward. This was agreed.

12-1011/7 - Any other business as may be raised and accepted as appropriate by the Chairman under Standing Order 16

The chairman agreed discussion of the following items :-

- (i) The council agreed payment of Suffolk ACRE subscription of £25 for 2011-2012.
- (ii) The clerk advised that the village had been invited by SCDC to enter the Village of the Year competition for 2011 (as mentioned in Dist Cllr Snell's report). The council agreed to enter and the clerk was instructed to ask Mrs Mitson-Woods to undertake this.

13-1011/7- Date of Next Meeting

Date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 17 May for the annual council meeting at 7.00 pm followed by annual parish meeting at 8.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm