

## **BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday, 24 September 2008

### **Present**

Councillors D Risk (Chairman) (DR), W Elson (WE), K Churchill (KC), P Summers (PS) and J Fielder (JF),  
Parish Clerk and RFO A M Hounsell  
Cty Cllr P Bellfield  
Parishioners Mr N Hayward, Mr N Holland Brown and Mr and Mrs Graham Edhouse

### **1-0809/4 - Open discussion with members of the public who may be present**

There was no discussion under this heading

### **2-0809/4 – Report of Cty. Cllr. Peter Bellfield**

Cty Cllr Bellfield reported upon the Boundary Committee's proposed changes in Suffolk local government and advised that SCC had been asked to work out proposals for the inclusion of Lowestoft into a single Suffolk unitary (a change to the original BC proposals). He stated that dividing services as suggested by the BC will create much disruption when the services currently provided by SCC (e.g. education) will need to be rearranged into the new proposed unitary. He suggested that there are various savings in reducing the number of authorities but greater savings under the "One Suffolk" proposal including Lowestoft. Cllr Bellfield also explained the proposal of SCDC for "Suffolk Three"

### **3-0809/4 – Parish Plan update**

Parishioner, Mr N Hayward gave a presentation to the Council of the proposed final draft from the Steering Group for the Parish Plan. Councillors undertook to offer any comments to Mr Hayward within two weeks of this meeting.

### **4-0708/4 – 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 Councillors S Thurlow and H Saxton and from Parish Historical Recorder Mrs W Woodland.

### **5-0809/4 – To Receive Councillors' Declaration of Interest in Agenda Items**

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

### **6-0809/4 - Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting of 16 July 2008 were signed as a true record.

### **7-0809/4 – Matters arising from previous minutes**

- (i) Drainage in The Street (previous minute 8-0809/1 (i))  
The Council noted that the agreed work had been completed but that judgement on its effectiveness should await the next heavy rainfall. The Clerk was instructed to include this item on the next meeting agenda.
- (ii) Legal Charge on BVH&RG (previous minute 6-0708/9 (iii))  
The Clerk confirmed that he had advised solicitor, Lynne Gurney of his return and that the Council await further developments. No further communication has been received. The Clerk was instructed to progress this item.
- (iii) Hedge at Footway, Hill House (previous minute 12-0809/3 (v))  
The Clerk advised that there had been no response to his letter of 08 July 2008. He was instructed to pursue this with SCC, Public Rights of Way, requesting that they act to remove the dangers at this point.

### **8-0809/4 – Planning**

The Clerk advised of approval 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).

#### **9-0809/4 – Financial Report by RFO (The Clerk)**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council's accounts for 2007-08 had been approved by the external auditor and the second public inspection period had been completed. The Clerk then presented the completed annual return to the Council who approved and accepted it.

The Council approved payment of the external auditor's fee of £141 (including VAT)

The Clerk also advised the Council of receipt of a further recycling credit £11.62.

The Clerk then circulated the current cashbook statement showing that the main account has a current balance of £1,881.10 plus the remaining balance of the Parish Plan grant of £606.81 – both after allowance for accruals. For the 100+ account the Clerk advised a balance of £766.18.

The Clerk pointed out that although the balance in the main account might appear lower than normal, this would be raised by the forthcoming precept payment and the contribution from the SCC Locality Fund towards the costs of the cupboards at the village hall. The Clerk confirmed that the Council's finances remained satisfactory.

#### **10-0809/4 – Financial Matters**

The Council agreed payments as follows :-

- (i) To BVH&RG of £8.50 for room hire for the next Council meeting on 12 November 2008

#### **11-0809/4 – Correspondence**

There were no items for discussion under this item.

#### **12-0809/4 - 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 Clerk advised of receipt of the quotation for renewal of the Council's insurances from Suffolk ACRE in the amount of £278.62. The Council agreed payment of this sum.
- (ii) The Clerk advised of a request from the village hall management committee for purchase of kitchen equipment to a maximum value of £450. The Council agreed using funds from the 100+ account.
- (iii) KC advised that the village hall management committee had enquired of the Council's intentions with respect to a generator being installed at the village hall. The Chairman explained that this was a long-held intention of the Council resulting from emergency planning. JF undertook to approach parishioner Mr Graham Edhouse for guidance on possible availability of such generators.
- (iv) Resulting from the discussions under minute 2-0808/4 (above) the Council agreed that their preferred choice for the future of local government in Suffolk was to retain the status quo but that otherwise they supported the "One Suffolk" proposal of SCC. The Clerk was instructed to so advise the Boundary Committee.

#### **13-0809/4 Date of Next Meeting**

Dates of the next meetings were agreed as 12 November 2008 and (provisionally) 21 January 2009 both at the village hall at 8.00 pm

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm