

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of a meeting of Brandeston PC held on Tuesday 10th January 2017 at 7.30 pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall

Present: Councillors Elson, (in the Chair), Buckingham, Duffy, Kirton, Mitson-Woods and Norman.

1-1617/7 Welcome from the Chairman Councillor Elson.

The meeting was opened for parishioners to raise any issues pertaining to the village and for District Councillor Paul Rous and Councillor Robin Vickery from Suffolk County Council to report to the Council.

Councillor Rous from SCDC reported that devolution talks have been scrapped. Suffolk has always been in favour in principal but Norfolk was not in favour. However, the merger between Waveney and SCDC is progressing. SCDC Enabling Communities Budget currently still has a small amount of money and Councillor Rous would welcome applications for any worthy cause. The Clerk remarked that there is a shortfall of 1800.00 in the Manse Hill project. Councillor Rous stated that if we were too late to apply this year he could allocate it in the new financial year.

2-1617/7 To receive any Declarations of Interest – there were none

3-1617/7 To receive and consider apologies for absence - there were none

4-1617/7 To receive and sign as a true record the minutes of the meeting of 15th November 2016 (Circulated) These were signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting after an amendment.

5-1617/7 Finance

- a) **To receive a financial report from the Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer, to consider the Draft Budget for Councillors' input and to decide on the amount of the Precept to set for the year 2017/18.** After careful consideration of the draft budget, including a discussion on the need to provide funding for the ongoing maintenance of the SID, including new brackets to allow the monitor to be reversed to slow traffic as it leaves the village in each direction. Councillors also provided for low level posts at the Low Street triangle to stop vehicles parking on the west side and eroding the area and damaging the delicate orchids and other biodiversity. The Councillors decided to grant aid to the Village Hall Committee with £200 from the annual PC budget to help with maintenance of the children's play area. **Councillors resolved to raise the Precept for the year 2017/18 from the current 1900.00 to 2400.00.** Proposed by Councillor Elson and seconded by Councillor Buckingham this was carried unanimously.
- b) **To approve salary payment to the Clerk** from November 11th to December 30th 2016. 7 weeks = 140.00. An additional payment was presented for Brandeston VH for the Committee Room for January and March 2017. Cheque number 100461 for 14.00 was issued and signed. The remainder of the invoice for April to December 2017 will be paid after the 1st April to coincide with the Council's year end.

- c) To consider the **Council's Financial Risk Assessment** and make any amendments. It was agreed that the Financial Risk Assessment was sufficient to safeguard the Council's finances and assets.
- d) **To report payments from 100+** Club account for 290.00 prizes for December, January, February and March. (185.00 for Christmas draw (1st 100.00, 2nd 50.00, 3rd 25.00 & 4th 10.00) (1st 25.00, 2nd 10.00 for each of Jan, Feb and March)
- e) To report **SALC subscription** will be 131.19 for 2017/8, a rise of c. £3.00

6-1617/7 Reports from Councillors

- a) **Broadband speed in the village** – to receive an update from Councillor Buckingham. There was nothing further to report at this time. Brandeston remains in the 2017-19 upgrade timeframe.
- b) **Report from Councillor Buckingham and the Clerk on the acquisition of the village triangles.** Councillor Buckingham appealed to Councillors to provide evidence to substantiate the PC claim. It was suggested that she talks to ex-Councillor Sue Thurlow about the Low Road triangle and John Clement, to whom the Clerk had previously written but received no reply. Mr Clements' wife used to cut the grass from 1999 until they left the village. Alan Randall, a past landlord at the Queen, also used to cut the grass and Councillor Buckingham will approach him. In order to prevent further ingress into the Low Street triangle from parked vehicles it was resolved that the Council will place low level round tanalised posts on the western perimeter of triangle and Councillor Mitson-Woods was authorised to source the materials and Councillors will carry out the work.
- c) **Report from SALC area** meeting held in December – Councillor Mitson-Woods reported that the meeting was taken up by discussion on the developments at Sizewell C. There was a report from police. Officers are to be re-equipped with new radios etc. Information exchange included planning issues. It was suggested that in large developments open spaces should be included. Snape Parish Council reported that the SID there was running it's batteries down very quickly due to the volume of traffic. The PC was considering using power directly from power lines rather than battery power.
- d) Report from **Councillor Duffy on Police Liaison** – to be scanned in
- e) **Report from the Clerk and Councillors Mitson-Woods and Norman on a meeting with Mike Ling, Highways Officer from SCC,** about the safety issues at the bottom of **Manse Hill.** Mike Ling had stated that the real issue is the width of the carriageway on the bend itself, at 4.8 metres it is too narrow for vehicles to pass or to escape in a skid. The Clerk had contacted the landowner to see if a piece of the field corner could be made available to widen the bend. However, the land is in the process of being sold so the Council will need to wait to contact a new owner. It was confirmed by District Councillor Rous that Brandeston PC could apply to his locality budget to fund the extra 1800.00 needed to put in place the extra SLOW signs and white lining the edges of the bend to highlight the danger. If it is too late to apply before March the Council can apply for next financial year.

7-1617/7 Updates from Councillor Kirton on use and maintenance of SID (Report attached)

Sue Thurlow had suggested that additional clips could be fixed in order that SID could be placed in a reverse position so that it would slow vehicles just at a point where they are increasing their speed on the way out of the village. It was agreed that Councillor Kirton should get the extra clips to enable this. More people are needed to provide continuity of tending the SID. SID was at the meeting, as it is down at the moment in order to stop drivers from being so used to the device they

no longer see it. Members were able to inspect it and to arrange for the data to be downloaded.

8-1617/7 Trees on Mutton Lane Hill

To consider what can be done to limit damage, improve the appearance and help them to thrive. In 2016 the Clerk wrote to Mr Tuckwell to seek permission to prune them more sensitively than can be done mechanically. No reply was received. Councillor Mitson-Woods and Councillor Elson agreed to do the work themselves. It will entail removing lower branches from the field side in order to balance the trees where the mechanical trimmer has taken out the roadside ones.

9-1617/7 No further action is to be taken on a suggestion that the area near the ford could become a picnic area.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 14th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the village hall.