

## BRANDESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minute of the Brandeston Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30pm. Coffee and biscuits were provided from 7pm.

Present: Philip Bays, Kathy Churchill, Helen Saxton, Sue Thurlow, Mary Baker, Paul Kirton, Peter Thurlow, Richard Mitson-Woods, David Russell, Mary Ketley, Helen Buckingham, Terry Robinson, Kevin Duffy, Cara Duffy, Will Elson (In the Chair), Daniel Norman, Darryl Morgan, Paul Baker, Alison Molyneux, Nick Hayward and Mary Mitson-Woods (Clerk).

1. **Welcome from Parish Council Chairman Will Elson.** The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** were received from Brian and Val Smerdon, David Risk and Anne Hayward
3. **The Minute of the Annual Parish Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016** was signed by the chairman as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Report from Brandeston Parish Council for year 2016/7**
  - a) **Chairman Councillor Elson** – Chairman of Brandeston PC (*attached*)
  - b) **Financial Report from Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer** – *Mary Mitson-Woods*  
Sue Thurlow asked Mary to explain why the Parish Council holds the 100+ Club funds. She responded that if the PC bought items for the 100+Club account it holds it is possible for the Parish Council to reclaim 20% VAT. This increases the power of purchase.
5. **Presentation of data from the Speed Indicator Display (SID)**  
Councillor Kirton presented feedback from SID and reported that feedback from villagers indicate the equipment is having an impact road safety. Councillor Kirton outlined the background to the purchase of SID. Villagers had raised the issue of road safety and speeding through the village at the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting . The Parish Council had taken this on board and accessed funding from the Suffolk County Councillor and District Councillor to pay for the equipment. Reports and anecdotes suggest that SID is having a significant effect on reducing speed through the village. Soon after the installation a villager suggested that if SID was rotated on each of the two poles it would double the exposure to motorists and therefore have an increased affect; this has been done  
  
Councillor Kirton demonstrated the data that can be downloaded from SID to be put in Power Point presentation. Villagers were able to question Councillor Kirton about the data. These included whether it would be possible to have data recording those vehicles which are exceeding 40 mph. It was explained that there is an enormous amount of data and as we become more familiar with the equipment this will be explored. It was asked if speeds could be recorded without SID indicating it. He agreed and said this is possible and may be interesting to see if, with the SID not showing a speed, people are more likely to exceed the 30mph speed limit. Councillor Kirton said he did not believe that SID is a panacea to cure the all of the problems of speeding but it is certainly having a positive effect. He will take up the suggestion of downloading more varied information. Each PC meeting will include a download data report. (*Presentation attached*)
6. **Update on provision of faster Broadband** – Councillor Helen Buckingham  
Councillor Buckingham reported that she has spoken with Suffolk Better Broadband who confirm that there's no change to their planned timeline for bringing Super Fast Broadband to Brandeston. This means that we're still in the 2017 - 2019 'consideration for upgrade' timeline. The website is updated every 3 months to show

developments planned for the following 3 month period. So, our area on the map should change colour in early 2018! ([www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com](http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com)). I she has also been in touch with Sean Quinn about his offer to the village of providing an alternative private broadband service. He tells her that his system is up and running (and has been for 3 months) and that he's wholesaled it to Fram Broadband for their management of it. Fram Broadband is in discussions with the church about the potential for an aerial on the church tower, as the number of trees blocking line of sight between Sean's mast and the village is quite problematic. Anyone interested in accessing this option should contact Fram Broadband directly ([www.frambroadband.com](http://www.frambroadband.com)). Prices start from E20 a month plus a standard installation charge of E200. Worth remembering that this option DOES NOT require a landline to be present, which itself costs about E200 a year.

*(Presentation attached)*

7. **Report on Village Triangles** – Councillor Buckingham presented slides to show what the process of acquiring the two village triangles at Low Street and at the junction of The Street and Mutton Lane entails. In acquiring Adverse possession of land in the village Councillor Buckingham has done some more research on the evidence required and has emailed Head of Legal Services at SCDC with a few key questions. Her view is that, because the two parcels of land are so tiny; the parish council has always looked after them; that there would appear to be no competition for ownership and that the land is not connected to anyone's land (therefore cannot be 'developed' as part of something larger)... there ought to be a very pragmatic solution to this.

The presentation outlined the steps that have to be achieved, for instance planting trees, putting up the village sign, caring for the land by mowing or planting and 'excluding the public at large' etc. Land Registry records show that there is no registered Title Holder. She appealed to the Meeting for any information that will promote the Council's claim. Sue Thurlow stated that Ray Bumpstead, one time landlord at the Queen, used to mow the triangles for the village. Councillor Buckingham said this was exactly the information that was valuable. If the PC cannot prove sufficiently that it has been intending to claim the land it is still possible to do so by continuing to care for it and demonstrate this for a period of 12 years. After this Title can be established,

8. **Report from Village Hall Committee** - Sue Thurlow

Sue Thurlow is the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee and told the meeting that Jane Mitchell, Treasurer, is confident that the VHMC is in a solid financial position. Money is being put on one side for repairs and maintenance. This is very important as the Hall is now 12 years old and plans must be made for repairing and replacing the fabric and equipment. Sue took over the Chair from Paul Baker, who had been in the role for a number of years. Cara Duffy is the booking secretary and Terry Robinson is the manager. Jan Baldwin, Sally Western and Ruth Garrett are new committee members as is Claire Burgess who has taken on the role of VHMC Secretary.

Peter Thurlow has taken over publishing The Brandeston from Mary Mitson-Woods and Sue appealed for material for the publication. A new fence has been put up around the play area. RoSPA had inspected the play area and has told the VHMC that the swing supports are rotten, they had to be immediately taken out of use. Quotes for around £6000.00 to replace them have been acquired. Grants have been accessed but more money is needed. If there is a shortfall in grant funding the VHMC may need to dip into it's reserves. The equipment is now 20 years old and in the next few years will all need to be replaced. Nick Hayward asked if the VHMC had to use specific providers for play equipment. Terry Robinson responded by saying the Committee is getting three quotes from suppliers that adhere to RoSPA guidelines.

The lack of storage, in common with every other village hall., is a major issue. An area was taken from the gent's toilet to provide another store room but this is already full. A mother and toddler play group meets each week with up to 50 children; this is really good but the group does need lots of space for it's indoor play

equipment. The committee will have to consider how to address and providing an extra shed is one option. The floor of the main hall is due to be refurbished later this summer and the driveway needs repairs. The VHMC is putting on monthly events to fund raise for all these needs. Darryl Morgan is responsible for fund raising and will help with any ideas. Sue appealed for everyone to encourage friends, neighbours and family to attend these fund raisers.

### **9. Report from All Saint's Church**

Mary Baker, Church Warden at All Saints Church Brandeston, presented slides to tell the meeting about the formation of the Orebeck group of churches early this year, Brandeston is part of this. Rev Diedre is retiring soon and her last service will be at Brandeston Church and will be followed by a party to bid her farewell. The replacement process will be long drawn out and it is feared that there will not be a large number of applicants.

Mary referred to the need to fund raising. Brandeston has to raise £16,000 as part of the Parish Share which has to be paid to the Diocese. This is extremely hard to achieve. The Diocese has cut staff and costs to try and alleviate the issue. If the Diocese can show it has made sufficient cost savings it may be able to access some central funding. Mary reported on fundraising that has been successful last year and this is far more than merely raising money, it is about how the community comes together and enjoy events as pleasant neighbourly occasions.

Necessary repairs and maintenance were highlighted, lime work on the church walls, cleaning window etc. The war memorial is in the churchyard but it belongs to the Parish Council and it would be good to have it in good repair for the centenary of the end of the First World War. The mortuary chapel belongs to the church but it is maintained by the Friends of the Old Chapel. Pam Yates replaced the gates to the Old Chapel in memory of her late husband, Malcolm. Mary answered a number of questions from the floor.

**10. Reports from other local authorities.** No other authorities were represented.

### **11. General discussion on any matters raised by villagers.**

Nick Hayward raised the subject of road repairs, some have already been done in the Street but the road from Brandeston to Cretingham is in a third world state of disrepair. The Chairman said that SC Councillor Vickery attended Parish Council meetings and it will continue to be raised with him. It will be put on the next Agenda and continue on until action is taken by SCC. Darryl Morgan asked about Sizewell C and the impact on the Street by heavy vehicles cutting through from the A1120 through Brandeston. Councillor Mitson-Woods told the meeting that there has been much discussion on this at the SALC area meetings he attends of behalf of the PC. There will be designated routes for all contractors and any breach of this will incur penalties or even the loss of the contract.

Tippers 'R' Us have been a problem and the Clerk asked for anyone who notices a problem to report to her and the company will be contacted again.

There being no other matters raised the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm