

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minute of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 8th February 2021 via Zoom video call due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Present: Councillors Aitchison, Baker, Fletcher, Locke, Mitson-Woods (Chair), Summers and Williams and Clerk Catherine Bacon.

11/20-21/1 Welcome from the Chairman

Chairman Cllr Mitson-Woods welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. The chair thanked the council for their good behaviour after the media attention of a Herefordshire parish council recently.

11/20-21/2 There were apologies from Suffolk County Councillor West and East Suffolk Councillor Cook.

11/20-21/3 There were no Declarations of Interest.

11/20-21/4 Lydia Freeman updated the parish council with details of the management of verge cutting. She has discovered many hoops to be jumped to prevent verges to be cut and was too late to prevent verge cutting within the village last year. She wrote to Suffolk County Councillor Andrew Reid and managed to arrange a long phone call. The positive result is that cutting can be reduced from 2-3 cuts to one which would be undertaken (preferably) in July. The village would need a team of volunteers to remove the cuttings and dispose of them. The volunteers would need special training which, according to Amanda Hayse at SCC, should not be too difficult. Areas within the 30mph zones would have to be managed personally by homeowners. The chairmen of the parish councils from Easton, Kettleburgh, Brandeston and Earl Soham are all on board to help manage the verges. SCC had told Lydia that the verges between Easton and Earl Soham had to be cut as they were designated walkways for pedestrians to avoid traffic and conversations highlighted lack of knowledge of the route by SCC. Lydia has sent maps to her contacts at SCC and Cllr Locke. She suggested the village starts with the road between Earl Soham and Brandeston and gradually the offshoot roads can be added and hopefully the scheme will spread from village to village.

Cllrs Fletcher, Locke and Baker are also on board. Cllr Aitchison believed that it would work well, particularly as people are becoming more community minded. Cllr Williams thinks it is a fantastic idea but stated that he believes it will need several volunteers. Cllr Summer asked how many volunteers would be needed; Lydia stated that it would be a case of playing it by ear. Lydia also stated that the project can be provided funds to cover some basic items need to carry out the tasks. Cllr Mitson-Woods said that the parish council would check with their insurers whether villagers would be covered for clearing the cuttings. The same would be asked of Suffolk Highways.

It was resolved that Cllr Mitson-Woods would write to the chairmen of Easton, Kettleburgh and Earl Soham parish councils to initiate a plan for the verges.

11/20-21/5 It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minute of the Meeting held on 11th January 2021 as a true and accurate record. (*Circulated and on website*)

11/20-21/6 No report from County Councillor West

11/20-21/7 No report from East Suffolk Councillor Cook

11/20-21/8 Financial Matters

- a) The RFO reported the PC account had been reconciled and the current balance is £2602.94 (of which £90 is 100+ prize money).
- b) The RFO reported the 100+ account has been reconciled and the current balance is £76.31.

The Chairman reminded the parish council that the Cllr audit of the accounts would need to be completed by the end of March. The Clerk said she would drop the appropriate information to Cllr Williams once appropriate.

11/20-21/9 Cllr Fletcher reported that the battery on one of the SID devices is not holding its charge well. The chairman asked if he could monitor it and also investigate costs to replace the battery and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Summers reported that she had photographed and reported the missing and broken footpath signs that she was aware of. She asked for everyone to take cameras/phones with them on their walks and report them to SCC. Cllr Summers informed Cllr Locke that she had done so to prevent multiple reports being submitted.

Cllr Locke reported that she had received some responses to the Quiet Lane flyer that was distributed via the village email. Responses were 50/50 pro/against the project. Negative feedback included the clutter of extra signs and that the lanes were already quiet. Some residents did not understand the project whilst others had not read the flyer. Cllr Locke highlighted it would only create one sign at each lane and that the lanes had increased traffic during lockdown due to deliveries which were likely to continue. Cllr Williams stated that some of these delivery drivers drove fast and the sign associated with the Quiet Lane scheme may help with this problem.

11/20-21/10 Quiet Lanes

- a) Cllr Locke has assigned the 8th March as the date for the public consultation. This coincides with the parish council meeting. The consultation will be added to the parish council meeting agenda.
- b) Cllr Locke has received some feedback from the flyer that went out as part of the village email. A paper version needs to be distributed to capture all residents that may not receive either emails or the parish newsletter. The chairman agreed to print the flyers for Cllr Locke prior to distribution.

11/20-21/11 Cllr Baker stated that the BVH committee had discussed the tree planting scheme within the recreation ground. There is some discussion as to the location of where the trees can be planted without hindering hedge-cutting or removing too much of the play field. Cllr Baker will attend an onsite meeting of the BVH committee and represent the parish council when the possible placement of the trees is discussed.

11/20-21/12 There are no planning issues.

11/20-21/13 The Clerk reported that since contacting the SCC for an update in early January she had received an email from the assigned manager for the heritage sign project at Brandeston. He stated that the department is very busy and covering a large area. The clerk confirmed with the project manager that the signs are being paid for using grant funding from both SCC and ESC. Suffolk County Cllr Paul West reported to the clerk and the project manager that the allocated funding does not need to be drawn until March 2022 – and not by March 2021 as previously stated. The Clerk will ask the project manager for a progress report prior to the March parish council meeting. The chairman stated that it would be preferential to get the project completed as soon as possible so

that the grant can be claimed this financial year to prevent the parish council being hindered in claiming grant funding in the next financial year.

11/20-21/14 The chairman has spoken to Mary Ketley and Alastair Chapman regarding the Mary Revett Trust and offered the services of both herself and the Clerk to assist with the paperwork. The trustees agreed to stepdown as trustees and form a working party with Cllr Mitson-Woods and the Clerk. This working party could not be part of the parish council; parish council meetings need to be held in public and due to the current sensitive nature of the Mary Revett Trust the work needs to be undertaken privately. Cllr Fletcher asked whether reports would still be submitted to the parish council. Cllr Mitson-Woods stated that she would report back the facts that the trustees wished to be reported. **It was agreed to form a working party of the Mary Revett Trust.**

11/20-21/15 Susannah Roberts had kindly to write up a history of the Rev John Lowes and the village sign. She attended the meeting to report that she has made good progress and found out some interesting information from a variety of sources including a lovely interview with Mary Moore before Christmas. There is some information that she has not been able to find but will be available at the Suffolk Records Office (SRO). The SRO is currently closed to the public during the national lockdown, but a fee can be paid (£72) for two hours work by a SRO employee to search for information and has attended the parish council meeting to ask if it would be willing to pay the £72.

The chairman asked the Cllrs for their views. Cllr Summers asked if after lockdown is eased whether Susannah would be able to go in? Yes, this would be possible. Cllr Aitchison asked how time pressing it was to obtain the information? Susannah reported that initially she had intended to complete by Christmas, but the timescale as moved on since then. Cllr Baker asked how her findings were to be circulated? Susannah stated that it had been agreed to post the information on the website. Cllr Locke asked if the SRO information was holding up her research? Susannah said that she does need the information. Cllr Williams question whether having spent the money for two hours research, how do you know whether you will get the information you are looking for? Susannah informed the parish council that the SRO have items that cannot be found anywhere else such as birth certificates and death certificates. All records going back to 1599 are held at SRO and not in the village. Bury Records Office also have lots of information and it is known that Bury is the site of the mass grave where Rev Lowe is buried. Cllr Fletcher suggested that it could wait considering that savings were made during the January meeting to reduce the budget and precept request. Cllr Mitson-Woods said that SCC have a duty to look after our history and have an audacity to charge the public to access it.

The parish council voted to decline payment of the requested £72. The Chairman asked Susannah to wait and Cllr Summers offered to assist the research in the SRO when allowed.

11/20/20/16 Date of next Meeting Monday March 8th 2021