

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of a meeting of Brandeston Parish Council held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the Village Hall

Present: *Councillors Elson (in the chair), Churchill, Duffy, Norman and Kirton.*

1-1516/7 **The Chairman Councillor Elson** welcomed Councillors to the meeting.

There were no members of the public or principal authority representatives at the meeting and no apologies were received.

2-1516/7 **To receive any Declarations of Interest** There were none

3-1516/7 **To receive and consider apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Councillor Buckingham due to a work commitment and Councillor Mitson-Woods who was unwell. Their apologies were accepted by the meeting

4-1516/7 **To receive and sign as a true record the minute of the meeting of 10th November 2015.** Councillors agreed these should be signed as an accurate record.

5-1516/7 **Matters arising from the Minutes**

The Clerk reported that she has corresponded with Ian Melton from Suffolk welding. He had reported that he was still waiting for the Village Hall gates to be sand blasted before the full extent of the damage could be assessed; this would not be for another two weeks.

Winter salt has been delivered to Mutton Lane but not in Low Street where conditions can be treacherous. No grit had been delivered to Manse Hill. Clerk to chase up and get a quote for a salt bin. Councillor Churchill reported that the Village Hall Committee had decided against providing a defibrillator at present.

6-1516/7 **Finance (Report and Budget proposal attached)**

a) **To receive a financial report from the Responsible Finance Officer and draft budget for Councillors' input and production.** The Clerk's end of year forecast predicted that £1800.00 would be in the Community Account at the end of the financial year (31st March 2016). With this in mind the Council agreed that the Precept for 2016/17 be set at the same rate as current year, £1,900.00. This was proposed and carried. This figure will reduce the Council's reserves to an acceptable level. It was agreed that the Clerk should get Mr Tuckwell's permission and a quote for pruning the trees in Mutton Lane. It was also agreed that a dog bin should be bought at a cost of £175.00 and sited near the village hall just inside the gate. The Clerk to discuss with the Village Hall Committee chairman. It was hoped that this will prevent dog fouling on the playing field and plastic bags of dog mess being discarded on the field.

b) To retrospectively approve a further £200.00 for the Brandeston welcome pack, payable to Jane Mitchell. This expenditure has increased with the above average influx of new residents. (Cheque number 100409) This was agreed.

c) To approve salary payment to the Clerk from July 16th to December 30th 2015. 48 hours at £10.00 per hour: £480.00. This was approved and cheque number 100104 was signed. It was decided that the Clerk should have a formal appraisal carried out by the Chairman at the end of March.

A cheque (number 100104) was signed for £105.00 from the 100+ Account, payable to the Clerk who had paid for the January, February and March prize money. This leaves a surplus of £1029.00 for the year end 31st March 2016.

7-1516/7 Reports from Councillors

a) **Broadband speed in the village** – to receive an update from Councillor Buckingham. The report was an update on a report presented to the July 2015 PC meeting. In summary Brandeston is not included in roll out plans for Superfast Broadband between now and September 2016.

Brandeston remains in the pipeline for Superfast Broadband between September 2016 and the end of 2019, subject to the 2Mbps commitment. Latest updates on the roll out plan and the ability to register for email updates are available here: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com An interim satellite based service may be available to householders, depending on eligibility criteria. **See attached full report for more details.**

b) **Report from SALC area meeting held on Monday 7th December and AGM on 12th November** – Councillors Mitson-Woods and Kirton. Councillor Kirton reported that the speaker at the SALC AGM was encouraging people to come forward with ideas to Government. **Councillor Mitson-Woods' report is attached.**

c) **Report from work party on signage** – Councillors Duffy and Kirton. The work party had a very good day cleaning signs and trying to upright where possible. The fingerpost on the Low Street triangle is insecure. The Friday Street sign opposite the cut through to Cretingham is unsafe. The 30mph sign opposite Grove Farm has fallen over. The Welcome to Brandeston sign is broken in Low Street. It was agreed that the Clerk would report these findings to SCC.

d) **Report from Councillor Duffy following a Police Liaison meeting held in December 10th.** Talks were given by Tim Passmore, Police Commissioner and the Chief Constable. Councillor Duffy reported that there will be changes to parking management whereby the police will pass this to local authorities. Police station manning will change and there has been an exponential increase in cybercrime which has necessitated developing a new unit to address the problem with enhanced processes for investigating. He also reported that 37% of police time is spent dealing with mental health issues and efforts are being made to have local authorities deal with these on a 24/7 basis. There will be refocus on Neighbourhood Response Teams and the number of Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be reduced. Of the 18 Police Stations presently open to the public only Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds will continue to man a front desk. Apparently this will save enough money to provide 15 police officers. (*Full report attached*).

8-1516/7 Speeding issues in the village including feedback from PCSO Hassler's black box monitoring.

PCSO Hassler was not present and had not sent a report. Councillors asked the Clerk to email PCSO Hassler to get results from the monitoring. Councillor Kirton suggested that roundels on the road are less intrusive than flashing signs although a number of villages are putting in electronic signs. The matter should be the leading item on the Parish Meeting Agenda to discover what parishioners actually want. The Clerk to talk to neighbouring Parish Councils about how successful other solutions

have been and what they have cost. It was suggested that white lining to narrow the entrance/paling works in other villages.

9-1516/7 Dog Waste Bins - to consider a suggestion from a parishioner that the PC installs a bin in the street. This would help to avoid plastic bags being thrown into hedges or left on verges. If the parish council would like to have a doggie bin installed the cost would be around £175 which includes the bin, post, fixings and installation. There is no cost for emptying, but the bin would need to be in an accessible location, near to vehicular access. It was agreed to provide a dog bin as near to the road as possible to the entrance to the Village Hall to prevent dog fouling on the playing field. The playing field was considered a priority area to keep clear.

10-1516/7 Registering the village pub as a Community Asset

To consider registering the Queen as a Community Asset; this would give the community a window of up to 6 months to consider a community buy out should the building be up for sale or a change of use applied for. (Background papers attached) It was decided that this could be a sensitive issue and Councillors felt they needed time to study Community Right to Bid legislation. The clerk to discover which villages have registered a village asset and talk to them about how it worked.

11-1516/7 Highway Matters.

Opportunity for Councillors to report potholes, verge damage etc. for the Clerk to report to Highways on the website. Pothole in village street. Damage at Low Street triangle to be repaired by a work party of councillors in February. Councillor Norman to organise.

12-1516/7 Trees on Mutton Lane Hill - to consider what can be done to limit damage and improve the appearance and help them to thrive. Councillor Mitson-Woods had asked for his views to be discussed, these young trees have been cut back mechanically and this is spoiling their development. Councillors agreed that a quote should be obtained from Wayne Cook for a professional job to be done. If this is too expensive Councillors will undertake the work themselves. The Clerk was asked to contact the land owner, Mr Tuckwell prior to any work starting.

13-1516/7 Planning Matters if any

Clerk to find result from Red House barn application. No other panning applications had been received.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 8th March 2016 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the village hall.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm