

BRANDESTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minute of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday 30th May 2018.

Present: *Councillor Will Elson (In the Chair); Mary Ketley; Clemency Cunliffe; Mary Baker; Sue Thurlow; Marion Kirton; Rev Graham Hedger; Richard Mitson-Woods; Kevin Duffy; Paul Kirton, Nick Hayward and Mary Mitson-Woods (Clerk)*

2018/1. Welcome from Parish Council Chairman Will Elson

2018/2. Apologies for absence: *Helen Buckingham*

2018/3. The Minute of the Parish Meeting of 17th May 2017 was signed as a true record.

2018/4. Reports from Brandeston Parish Council for year 2017/18

- a) **Chairman Councillor Elson** *(Attached)*
- b) **Financial Report from Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer**– *Mary Mitson-Woods (Attached)*

5. Councillor Kirton to presented feedback from the Speed Indicator Display (SID). This demonstrated that the average speeds through the village was within acceptable limits and everyone agreed the installation had been a success *(Full report of statistics attached).*

6. Councillor Helen Buckingham, Vice-Chairman of Brandeston Parish Council, had sent a report to update the meeting on the provision **of faster Broadband in Brandeston.**

Infrastructure for Super Fast Broadband (fibre) is now installed in the most densely populated parts of the village and the black cables are visibly hanging, awaiting commissioning by August 2018. Soon after, BT will contact all eligible customers to offer upgrade packages. My own sluggish (copper) connection has slowed down considerably in recent months. I noticed this started after the snowy weather and despite resetting and trying my usual suite of fixes, nothing improved it and i was operating at only about 2Mbps (previously about 3.5Mbps). I contacted BT and arranged for an engineer to visit on the understanding that if the fault was inside my property I would then have to pay £130ish, but if it was found to be outside then BT would pay for the repair. The engineer who came was excellent, thorough and having spent 4 hours on site discovered that the copper cables bringing broadband into my house were waterlogged courtesy of a damaged connector box outside the house. So, he repaired it (at no cost), removed other old and unused cabling and now I have about 6Mbps all the time, even on my original copper connection. Keep this in mind if your own copper broadband falters!

Villagers can see Brandeston's progress towards Super Fast by visiting:

<http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/> This still shows (for Helen's postcode) 'upgrade planned for 2018 - 2021' but my contact at Better Broadband for Suffolk tells me Brandeston is still scheduled for August 2018 (main areas).

In relation to outlying areas of Brandeston, this information from Better Broadband for Suffolk was accurate as at Feb 2018 (I have tried to get another update this week but no luck yet):

IP13 7JU (Brandeston Rd Kettleburgh): Will be upgraded by late 2018 (FTTP connection via structure Earl Soham R9)

IP13 7BT (Friday Street): Upgrade is not within the scope of the current programme deployment plans.

IP13 7AR (Mutton Lane): Most properties will be upgraded by late 2018 (FTTP connection via structure Earl Soham R9) – however, some properties in this postcode are not within the scope of the current programme deployment plans.

01728-685673 (IP13 7AN): Will be upgraded by late 2018 (FTTP connection via structure Earl Soham R9)

01728-685190 (IP13 7AN): Will be upgraded by late 2018 (FTTP connection via structure Earl Soham R9)

“In terms of properties not in the deployment plan, solutions for making sure all properties within Suffolk can access high-speed broadband services are being worked on, but I don't have a definitive timescale at this stage. There is a voucher scheme to help with the installation of an interim broadband service – more information about this scheme (including the application form) is available from: <http://www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com/ApplicationForm.aspx>

Alternatives for residents are still:

- the East Anglian Community Broadband provider, Fram Broadband <http://www.frambroadband.com/> (monthly deals, various packages from £20 a month and no need for a landline).

- Mobile data - Vodafone's signal has improved markedly in recent months – I often receive 3G and even 4G from my home in The Street (indoors and outdoors). Other providers do not seem to have such good coverage, but residents can check here:

Vodafone: <https://m.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/welcome/support/coverage-checker/>

O2: <https://www.o2.co.uk/coveragechecker>

EE: <https://ee.co.uk/why-ee/mobile-coverage>

Three: <http://www.three.co.uk/Discover/Network/Coverage/>

This article is useful for explaining 'piggybacking' when it comes to mobile data. For example, Tesco mobile data 'piggybacks' (buys space from) O2.

<https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/phones/piggybacking>

2018/7 Councillor Buckingham sent in a written report on progress towards claiming ownership of the village triangles for the Parish Council on behalf of the village.

“Progress on formally acquiring or registering the two 'triangles' on behalf of the Parish Council continues. The Parish Council is attempting to formally register these two tiny parcels of land with HM Land Registry in order to add them to village assets and provide a legal basis for ongoing maintenance and upkeep. The land has long been informally looked after by kindly residents, parish councillors and others on behalf of the village; tasks like weeding, litter picking, protecting it from poorly parked vehicles and the associated erosion etc. It therefore seemed appropriate that the land be formally registered to the village based upon an 'adverse possession' procedure. It is currently unregistered.

Evidence via email has gratefully been received by two people who have previously given their time to look after these two parcels of land in some way in the past - these have now been made into statements for use to support the claim. However, more historical examples are still needed (spanning at least twelve years of effort) if our task to register the land is to succeed. I would

therefore like to invite anyone who has ever carried out any maintenance, improvement, safety, environmental, or any other such task on these two parcels of land, in the interests of the village, to contact me as soon as possible, so i can capture your story and help our cause:

helen8buckingham@hotmail.co.uk Mobile: 07775 714680

We can't succeed without you!

2018/8.Report from Village Hall Committee - Sue Thurlow began her report by explaining the history of the Trust Deed –detailing the role of the Parish Council as custodial trustees/ the hall management committee and it's charitable status.

The Management committee must abide by the following:

- Maintain the hall & playing field for the benefit of the inhabitants of Brandeston improving facilities where possible.
- The hall must be run without distinction of political, religious or other opinions for use for meetings, lectures, classes or other forms of recreation with the objective of improving the life of our residents.
- Hold regular meetings to manage the running of the hall – we now have 6 a year.
- To hold an AGM each year to present an operational report and financial statement which has been properly audited.
- Members of the committee for the next year should be elected at this meeting.
- Keep full minutes of all meetings which is accessible to view at any time. A copy of these are kept in the Minute Book in the lobby and placed on the website.

The AGM for the Year 2017

- Held on 12th Feb 2018.
- Financial statement presented by Jane Mitchell - our Treasurer.
- Overview – the hall financial position is v. sound.
- Hall hire income – approx. £9,500 vs. everyday items of expenditure i.e. oil, electric, water, insurance and maintenance costs last year approx. £11,000.
- The gap is filled by the donations from the clubs – coffee morning, film, whist and table tennis clubs. They have the hall for free giving any surplus money to the hall and this amounts to £2,000+. So, we are always solvent.
- Upgrading of facilities, new equipment etc. is paid for by our fundraising efforts + whatever grants we can gain to help.
- Fundraising last year raised £7,794 from events supported by the village.
- Darryl Morgan is our fundraising co-ordinator. The aim is to not only raise funds for the hall, but also have a varied programme throughout the year to achieve an ongoing community spirit in the village and making it a friendly and interesting place to live.

Key Points to Review since this time last year

The playing field:

- The play area – the RoSPA inspector failed the swings because the posts had rotted so these has to be taken out of action immediately.
- Quotes gained from 3 companies – Action Play were chosen to replace both the junior and toddler swings with the addition of a basket swing.
- The area had to be reconfigured as regulation concerning the space between equipment had changed since the original siting nearly 20 years ago.

- This project cost approx. £6,500 but managed to secure grants for approx. £4,500 + (playspace levy - £2,300, Suffolk community Foundation - £2,000, Brandeston PC - £500)
- The tower, climbing structure then needed repair for the same reason – the posts rotting but we managed to get this done per about £730 by SCDC's contractor – Norse.

Inside the hall

- In November the cooker broke down. This was a domestic cooker installed when the hall was built in 2005. The committee decided that we should have a commercial cooker this time as it would give more space and be much more robust. We were able to obtain a competitive quote from an Ipswich firm who were able to fit it in time for the Christmas Village Community lunch. This item alone cost £4,300 but fortunately we were able to secure a grant for a large proportion of this.

Current projects

Inside the hall

- Projector – The current projector and operating device have become unreliable and the image projection is not great. This is used by the Film Club, the Camera Club and for films shows at fundraising events e.g. Riding for the Disabled. After a demonstration of upgraded equipment by the audio visual company we have been using the committee has decided to update the whole system including a facility to show high definition films. This will cost approx. £2,000.
- Storage – this has been an ongoing problem for some time but after a rigorous clear-out the committee has decided not to progress any building additions to the hall at this stage. We have for many years been storing tents, chairs, signage and all sorts of things in Eileen Leach's barn. We have now been informed that Eileen wishes the house to be sold so we needed to find alternative space. By kind permission of Sue and Victor Scott we have been offered storage at their farm so when we have been able to make it secure and weatherproof we shall move all our stuff down there.

Outside the hall

There had been 2 major projects outside the hall.

- The first – the improvement of the play facility for children will be the installation of a zipwire at the lower end of the playfield. We have investigated this v. thoroughly with 4 possible suppliers and have decided on Action Play – the firm who supplied the swings. We hope that this will be in place for the school summer holidays. This will cost the hall approx. £7,000.
- The second is a major repair to the entrance drive. When the hall was built in 2005 we ran out of money for the drive and carpark so the job was not done to a high enough standard which has meant we are always filling in potholes in the drive in particular. So, we are currently looking at possible contractors to do the work - we always aim to get 3 quotes for any major project. We hope to get this done by the autumn.

So, these are the main things that the committee have been dealing with over the past 12 months and I am obviously very happy to answer any questions.

But there is one issue which is causing us considerable concern for the future and that is trying to encourage younger members of our community to get involved with the running of the hall. Currently we have 80% of members over sixty with 3 in the 70s. Before too long many of the committee may step down and the hall does need efficient management. Has anyone any ideas how we handle this problem?

Sue thanked everyone for listening.

2018/9. Mary Baker, Churchwarden, at All Saint's Church reported on activities during the year.

Thank you for inviting me to speak again. It's been a good year for the church in Brandeston and the neighbouring villages.

REVD DEIRDRE WEST'S final PCC meeting in Brandeston was on June 20th. The formal meeting was followed by refreshments and an opportunity for the members of the PCC to thank Deirdre for her work in the parish, personally and on behalf of parishioners, before her final service where she was thanked by the people from all 7 churches of the benefice and presented with gifts for her garden and her holiday. We must also thank all the retired clergy who helped us out with services after Deirdre's retirement.

REVD GRAHAM HEDGER

We were all really pleased (and relieved) to welcome Graham Hedger as our new priest in charge. Not all parishes are as fortunate. He's got loads of good experience and enthusiasm for his new role. He's very anxious to meet as many people as possible to get a feel for village life, so expect a call! If you need him urgently, please contact me or Alison or find his contact details in the church or the parish magazine.

GROWING YOUNGER

This year it's been great to see the school using the church every week for their Wednesday worship and reflections, the children are getting familiar with using the church and their Chaplain, Revd Brynn Bayman, gave us a lot of help when we didn't have a vicar, especially by leading the Harvest and Christingle services. Graham and Brynn are anxious that this good relationship should continue. It's good to see children and families from the village and the school using the church. We had a fantastic Christingle service this year with all the under 11s from the village attending and they've been to some other special services too.

MAINTENANCE

In June 2017 an inspection of our bells by Taylors' of Loughborough bell foundry, revealed a serious crack in number four bell at Brandeston so the ringing had to stop. All the other bells were found to be in a good condition. The cracked bell was welded at Newmarket and work in the tower (lowering it with lifting tackle) was carried out by Taylors and local volunteers.

The front wall has been fixed.

More of the hedges behind the church have been trimmed back by the school and they've also kept the churchyard grass tidy for us. They even strimmed round all the grave stones last summer and we were very grateful for that.

The mortuary chapel hasn't needed much work on the building recently but maintenance of the churchyard is a big task which is tackled from time to time by church helpers and by Alison's Molyneux's gardener Andy Cook.

The most important work this year is the renovation of the war memorial in time for the centenary celebrations in November. This work will be taking place soon. We've secured grant aid for this. We are planning a village event with an exhibition and possibly a booklet about the people named on the memorial using Wilda Woodland's material from Wickham Market local history archives and contributions from their descendants. The war memorial has now been listed.

FUNDRAISING

The need to contribute to an ever-increasing parish share, as well as the maintenance of our Grade 1 listed building, means that fundraising is never far from our thoughts. As always, we have received

fantastic support from our friends and neighbours in the village. I talked a lot about money last year so I'm not going to burden you with that again, but we did raise what we hoped to raise last year and we're working hard to do the same this year.

This year's breakfast was very well supported with about 50 customers.

Surprisingly, on the day of the fete the sun shone and it didn't rain. In fact people complained that it was too hot! The village worked together under the leadership of Darryl Morgan to make it a great day. With the support of the pub team everyone worked hard to make the event as successful as possible, rounded off with a delicious feast in the pub garden.

The bike ride organized by Ruth and John Garratt always brings in welcome money for the church as well as for the Suffolk Historic Churches Trust.

2 events were held in October: a Sunday Serenade concert was organized by Janet Weston and Lady Cunliffe's plant sale was the main feature of a coffee morning at the village hall.

Plans for an Open Gardens weekend in 2018 are developing with members of the PCC working with representatives of the village hall committee. It will be a big event for the village, calling on support from many gardeners and even more helpers with associated activities such as refreshments. The dates fixed are the weekend of 9th and 10th June. Thank you for this.

Finally thank you all for your continued support for the church in so many different ways.

There were no other matters raised by villagers and the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8.30pm.