

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Councillors Aitchison, Baker, Fletcher, Locke, Mitson-Woods (Chair), Summers, Williams, SCC Paul West, ESC Maurice Cook, Clerk Catherine Bacon and one member of the public.

12/20-21/1 Welcome from the Chairman

12/20-21/2 There were no apologies for absence.

12/20-21/3 There were no Declarations of Interest.

12/20-21/4 The Chairman asked the resident attending the meeting for his view on the designation of Quiet Lanes in Mutton and Mill Lane. He believed that delivery drivers would ignore the signs and the process would be ineffective. Cllr Locke reported that there were more deliveries over the past year and believed this would continue beyond the current pandemic and may increase if more houses are built. Only this week she met a father with his toddler who wouldn't have been able to get out of the way if a fast vehicle was travelling down the lanes. Overall responses have consisted of 5 against the proposal, 10 in favour and 1 neutral. The Clerk stated that the first phase of Quiet Lanes had been published in the EADT this week. There are an increasing number of Quiet Lanes locally and increasing the number will increase connectivity between villages. Cllrs were in favour of Cllr Locke to progress with the Quiet Lane initiative. **It was resolved Cllr Locke should progress the Quiet Lane initiative to the next stage.**

12/20-21/5 It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minute of the Meeting held on 8th February 2021 as a true and accurate record. (Circulated and on website)

12/20-21/6 Report from County Councillor. County Councillor West reported that the County Council had had its main budget meeting and the net revenue spending was £50million. SCC will see an increase in 3.99% in Council Tax – which makes up ¾ of the overall Council Tax bill. Of the SCC spend, two thirds is spent on adult social care or childcare services (separate to schooling). SCC has maintained its £6million spend on library services which have been particularly successful during lockdown with its click and collect service – an initiative copied across the country. SCC West is determined to see through the installation of the heritage signs in Brandeston as the local council elections will see a new County Councillor being the representative from May onwards with. The Chairman thanked Councillor West for representing Brandeston as well as his elected ward. His help and support had been enormously appreciated.

12/20-21/7 Report from East Suffolk Council. East Suffolk Councillor Cook has continued to send weekly briefings during the lockdown periods. The recent budget has seen more funds to support businesses with the vast majority receiving their grants automatically. Last weeks cabinet is set to create grants to support new businesses/startups. There have been several new businesses that have seen opportunities created through the pandemic. The announcement of Felixstowe becoming a Free Port and funding for Lowestoft Harbour have the potential for a large impact on the region generally. At Felixstowe there is a new Hydrogen Technology Hub which will provide fuel for heavier vehicles. This will allow vehicles such as the waste collection trucks to be fuelled by this method which would not have been able to be converted to battery powered methods.

The chairman reported to Councillor Cook that there had been good news regarding verge cutting; all parish councils from Easton to Earl Soham were on board with the scheme to only cut the verges once a year. Cretingham, Hoo and Monewden are also on board. East Suffolk Councillor Cook was



very pleased to hear this and stated this tied in nicely with the campaign 'Pardon the Weeds, I'm Feeding the Bees' campaign which is gathering in momentum with 40 areas across East Suffolk now being managed as 'wild spaces'.

12/20-21/8 Financial Matters

- a) The RFO reported the PC account had been reconciled and the current balance is £4439.78 (of which £90 is 100+ prize money and £2000 is ESC grant for Heritage signs).
- b) The RFO reported the 100+ account has been reconciled and the current balance is £143.31.
- c) It was resolved that payment of SALC invoice 24044 for Cllr Training P Locke and R Summers (£220 + £44 VAT) should be authorised.

12/20-21/9 There were no oral reports.

12/20-21/10 Cllr Baker reported that he has spoken to Sue Thurlow about planting tree on the playing field: it is understood the minimum order is 30 trees and the BVH committee are unsure where to place them in the village hall area due to hindering maintenance of current trees and hedging. Cllr Baker enquired whether it is a project the Parish Council could take on and recruit local landowners to plant the trees. The clerk informed the parish council that the closing date for applying for trees was 4th January and suggested spending the next few months planning locations until the scheme potentially reopens in the autumn. Cllr Baker will investigate whether the Woodland trust is planning to run the initiative again. Cllr Mitson-Woods will speak to local landowners.

12/20-21/11 12/20-21/11 Planning Listed Building Consent - Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing, 34 The Street Brandeston Suffolk IP13 7AE and DC/21/0745/FUL., Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing, 34 The Street Brandeston Suffolk IP13 7AE

- a) and b) Cllr Fletcher summarised that the applications; the first to demolish an existing extension and the second to replace the existing with a larger footprint extension (extra 3.5 metres). A report from the Heritage Trust raises no objections as the extension is to the rear of the property. A precedent for building work has been set on the neighbouring property. A similar application by the previous owners had been submitted and approved though not acted upon.
- A nearby resident contacting the parish council to raise concerns regarding the Heritage Impact Assessment commissioned by the applicant. "Though the author of the assessment suggests the listing of properties were for identification rather than noting architectural or heritage features", the resident asks the parish council to consider the "implications given future proposals for alterations or extension to listed properties in the village." The resident also questioned whether the design of extension reflects the architectural heritage of the cottage and has suggested enhancing the flat roof by altering from felt to green roof. Cllr Summers' only concern was the proposed used of felt for the roof covering, reasoning that a 'green/living' or, a leaded roof would be more sympathetic to this listed building in a conservation area. Cllr Fletcher stated that the living roof would require a deeper roof surface to accommodate the greener and would increase the height and this would have to go through Historic England. The height of the current extension application is to just below the sill of the upper windows and so the green roof may not be feasible. Cllr Locke thought that though the size of the extension was large, she understood the reasoning. She believed the green roof was a good recommendation. Cllr Baker was happy with the extension. Cllr Williams believed that the parish council could be setting a precedent with granting permission on a historic building and believed that each application should be considered



individually on its own merits. Cllr Mitson-Woods raised the point that there had been other larger properties on the market within Brandeston and that the family could have moved to one of these rather than increase the size of the property in question. Cllr Mitson-Woods raised concerns that it would remove a current smaller property out of the affordability of a small family. Cllr Fletcher questioned whether this was a material objection which it was agreed was not. Cllr Summers has no objection to the footprint of the proposed extension but would like consideration to be given to the type of roof material to ensure it is sensitive and in-keeping with the construction of this listed building.

It was resolved that the Parish Council recommend DC/21/0746/LBC, Listed Building Consent - Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing, 34 The Street Brandeston Suffolk IP13 7AE and DC/21/0745/FUL, Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing, 34 The Street Brandeston Suffolk IP13 7AE prior to granting the planning permission consideration be given to the type of roof covering; though whilst the Parish Council has no objection to the scale and size of the proposed 'replacement' extension, they request that prior to the application being approved detailed consideration is given to the roofing materials. A green/living roof would be more sensitive to the construct of the listed building within the conservation area. (Lead would be preferable over felt.)

12/20-21/12 The clerk reported all the information for the application of the Heritage signs had been provided to both the Highways department and the LHB team at Suffolk County Council in December 2020 and had followed up the application in January, February and March. In February, the designated officer was still clarifying information which had already been provided. County Councillor West has stepped in and the Highways department are now just waiting for the LHB team to confirm the quote of the sign. He pointed out that the quote should not be raised as the delay had not been due to the Parish Council. On confirmation of the quote remaining as it originally was, a chain of events should be triggered to progress the order and the new signs installed.

12/20-21/13 A resident in Mill Lane raised an issue regarding the state of the hedge-cutting and destruction of the verges during recent weeks in the lane. The verges were damaged during the recent very wet winter and snow. He believed there was increased snow drifting along Mill Lane since the introduction of the new gateway. The resident has written to Chris Clarke regarding the damage who returned a courteous response. The resident says that the debris from the hedge-cutting has since cleared due to road use and has volunteered to try and restore the worst area of verge damage with his rotavator. Cllr Mitson-Woods stated that most verges are owned by SCC and the parish council has no power to intervene on private land re the hedge cutting.. Cllrs were supportive of the resident trying to mend the damage and the Chairman offered help if required. Cllr Fletcher did raise the issue of Bee Orchids along the lane but hasn't seen them for 2-3 years. Other Cllrs noted that they can be irregular in their appearance over the years. Cllr Summer suggested that the hedge may recover with a flourish though the resident was frustrated that the damage was done initially. Cllr Locked suggested that Mill Lane could be incorporated into the wildflower initiative along the verges. Cllrs agreed and that it could be encouraged along all of the lanes within the village.

12/20-21/14 Cllr Mitson-Woods suggested that some snowdrops adjacent to the village triangle (Old Maid's Lane) originally planted by Sue Thurlow as a child could be divided once they have finished flowering and some planted within the triangle to join the orchids already present. Cllrs agreed with this proposal.

12/20-21/15 The clerk reported that the old Parish Council laptop had been backed up onto a USB stick, reset and donated to Wickham Market Primary school as part of the initiative to provide all



children with computer facilities. Cllrs were positive about this. Cllr Fletcher was concerned that a USB stick could be lost/damaged but the clerk reassured the PC that the data was also backed up on Onedrive.

12/20-21/16 Date of next Meeting Monday April 12th 2021

Mr. Mr. Mr.

12:04:21