

BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the meeting of Brandeston Parish Council held on Tuesday 8th September in the committee room at the Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Duffy, Elson, Kirton, Norman and Mitson-Woods and the Parish Clerk

1-1516/4 Welcome from the Chairman Councillor Elson.

There were no members of the public present. The Clerk had received an apology from SCC for Councillor Belfield's absence due to ill health and from Councillor Stephen Burroughes who is helping in his absence. (Report from Councillor Burroughes attached). A report was received from PCSO Christian Hassler; this stated that there had been no crimes in the village since July 2015.

2-1516/4 To receive any Declarations of Interest

There were none

3-1516/4 To receive and accept apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Buckingham and Churchill.

4-1516/4 To receive and sign as a true record the minutes of the meeting of 14th July 2015 (Circulated)

The minute was signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

5-1516/4 Finance

- a) To receive a financial report from the Responsible Finance Officer (Attached) This showed an available balance in the Parish Council Community account of 3432.13.
- b) PC Insurance - to authorise payment of 248.46 (including 11.59 IPT) to Community Action Suffolk for premium for 01/10/2015 – 30/09/2016. Same cost as last year under the PC long term arrangement. Councillors approved payment and Cheque number 100405 was signed by the Chairman.
An invoice from SCDC for election expenses had been received after the Agenda was posted. Councillors approved the expenditure of 100.00 for this and cheque number 100406 was signed by the Chairman
- c) Suffolk Association of Local Councils training – the Clerk reported that the training the Council had been offered to take part in with Easton Parish Council was not being delivered by SALC. She advised councillors that she would arrange for a SALC course in the area shared with neighbouring councils.
- d) Clerk will be attending a seminar on new Accounts and Audit Transparency regulations – Tuesday 22nd September. The new regulations are increasingly onerous for small councils with an income and expenditure of less than 25,000.00.

6-1516/4 Clerk's Report to update Councillors on actions from last meeting (Attached)

The Clerk alerted Councillors to the fact that SALC is lobbying SCC to change part of its Highway maintenance contract with Kier; this refers to the cost of Kier surveying road signs before any work can be done for replacement/repair. SALC's members believe this additional cost to be unreasonable.

Village of the Year Councillor Duffy agreed to be PC representative. Named representatives from the Village Hall and PCC will be sought.

Village hall gates – to decide on action to repair. The Clerk had spoken to Terry Pearce who had advised that he would not be willing to take on restoration of the gates. His advice was to simply clean and repaint as he felt major work such as sand blasting would be too damaging to the delicate features. Councillors were concerned that the gates are a critical feature of the streetscape and should be preserved as such. Councillor Norman agreed to speak to Suffolk Welding and Peggs of Aldeburgh to seek their opinion. It was acknowledged that the cost of restoration will be significant.

Update on signs including suggestion from parishioner for work on the triangle at Low Street to remove scrub and allow existing trees to flourish. Councillors reminded the Clerk that the Low Street triangle does have orchids growing – these will need to be protected. The two triangles in the Street belong to Lord and Lady Cunliffe who should be consulted before anything is done. This work will be part of the Village of the Year entry project. The result of these investigations may be a matter for a Parish Meeting to discover what expenditure the parishioners will be willing to fund.

A **survey on policing in Suffolk** had been received and passed to Councillor Duffy; in future he is prepared to take responsibility for police matters in the village.

The Clerk has tried every avenue to get the new bank signatories and change of address for the Council's statement. The Barclay's Mandate Change Team refuses to speak to her as they have no authorisation documents. It was decided that new mandates will have to be sent.

7-1516/4 Broadband speed in the village – to receive an update from Councillor Buckingham
Councillor Buckingham has reported that the only update she has on the Broadband is that it looks like a meeting with Suffolk Better Broadband is in the diary for November 2015, to chat about where Brandeston will feature in their roll-out plans. She has invited Terry Robinson to join her, as he's been helpful in this topic so far.

8-1516/4 Speed reduction through the village
Brandeston PC did not attend Easton PC on 10th August as the responsibility for the community speed monitor has been passed to a group of parishioners. Councillors expressed their disappointment that PCSO Hassler has, once again, not been able to carry out a speed check in Brandeston. Councillors felt that he believes the issue is more of perception than fact. Councillor Kirton felt that we should address the matter of obscured signs immediately as some were facing away from the road and others obscured by greenery. Councillor Norman felt that the matter has been going on for years without a successful conclusion. He said that people do take account of flashing signs such as in Ufford. Any effective method of speed reduction will involve significant costs.

He suggested that the Council explores all the options, estimate the cost and then put the matter to parishioners at a Parish Meeting and see if they are willing for the expenditure to be raised on the parish rate. This would ensure that everyone contributes as everyone would benefit from a safer environment. Councillor Mitson-Woods suggested that the speeding and signs are linked and that in the immediate future a work party be organised to clear greenery from signs, clean them and ensure they are upright and visible. (See the discussion paper on speed signs from SCC (Circulated)).

Councillor Norman told members that they must recognise that with funding cuts village signs will not be priority for SCC and responsibility needs to be taken at local level.

Councillor Mitson-Woods suggested a few councillors survey the signage as soon as possible to see exactly what needs to be done. Councillors Duffy and Kirton agreed to help with this. Councillors agreed that this was a sensible approach as a first step to addressing the issues. The Clerk will check H&S compliance with the Council's insurers for any roadside work. Councillors Mitson-Woods, Duffy and Kirton will co-ordinate the work party.

9-1516/4 Parish Council documents

To discuss and decide on options for storage. In particular documents from the Parish Plan. Clerk to discuss with Village Hall Committee.

10-1516/4 To consider registering the village pub as a Community Asset.

It was decided that the Clerk should research the implications of this action and what needs to be done to achieve it.

8-1516/3 Date of next meeting

10th November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of the village hall