BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minute of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 12th October 2020 via Zoom video call due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Present: *Councillors Baker, Fletcher, Locke, Mitson-Woods (Chair), Summers and Williams. Also present East Suffolk Councillor Cook, County Councillor West, two members of the public and Clerk Catherine Bacon.*

7/20-21/1 Chairman Cllr Mitson-Woods welcomed Councillors and the members of the public to the meeting.

7/20-21/2 There were no apologies of absence.

7/20-21/3 There were no declarations of interest.

7/20-21/4 It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minute of the Extraordinary Planning Meeting held on28th September 2020 as a true and accurate record.

7/20-21/5 Cllr West reported that the County Council has put forward its view on Sizewell. The CC could not support the EDF application whilst there were areas to be improved upon. He stated that though it was not for the CC to have a view, it supports the principle of nuclear energy but not the application itself whilst more mitigation is to take place.
DEFRA has assigned £770,000 towards a hardship fund in Suffolk required as a result of COVID and Suffolk leaders have created added £800,000to the hardship fund. These funds, together with other sources, have made £1.6million available for families facing hardship. Details on how to apply will soon be available on the County Council website.
The CC waits to hear confirmation from the Government regarding the £600million annual finance settlement by the end of the year. Three quarters of this is spent on adult social care and child services; there is currently huge pressure on these services due to COVID.

7/20-21/6 East Suffolk Councillor Cook stated that he had just circulated his monthly report, together with an Environment Update. The Clerk will upload this to the village website.
Cllr Cook also highlighted Sizewell, stating ESC had submitted its 'relevant representation' in respect of the Development Consent Order for Sizewell C nuclear power station to the Planning Inspectorate earlier this month.
ESC have adopted the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan – an ambitious strategy to guide and manage new development for the former Suffolk Coastal area in a sustainable and plan-led way.
It proposes the delivery of at least 6,500 jobs and 9,756 new homes over the period to 2036, supported by the delivery of appropriate infrastructure whilst also setting out an approach to protect, maintain and enhance the high quality built, historic and natural environment, and mitigate and adapt to climate change.
Cllr Cook discussed that there had been meetings to discuss services for young people resulting in exciting ideas and this was going to culminate in voting at a core body meeting to decide where the funding was to be allocated.

7/20-21/7

a) The RFO reported the PC account had been reconciled and the current balance is £4293.20 (£430 is 100+ prize money).
b) The RFO reported the 100+ account has been reconciled and the current balance is £2903.21
c) The RFO stated that the PC was £586.18 in surplus to the budget for 2020/21. She stated that the spend on the village hall hire had been used for the zoom subscription. However,

the RFO cautioned that five months remaining in the financial year and four Cllrs are yet to undergo training which will require payment.

d) The RFO and Chair requested suggestions for the budget 2021-22 and to be brought to the meeting in November.
e) Payment for SALC invoice 23585: Birketts Planning webinar 26th Aug 2020 (£25.00 + £5.00VAT) was authorised.
f) Payment for SALC invoice 23641: Birketts Planning webinar on 10th Sept 2020 (£25.00 + £5.00VAT) was authorised.
g) Payment for SALC invoice 23709: Birketts Planning webinar on 23rd Sept 2020 (£25.00 + £5.00VAT) was authorised. Councillor Summers confirmed the worth of the webinars.
h) The RFO informed the PC that the P30 payment (£73.20) in Quarter 1 (ending 5 July 2020) was refunded in Quarter 2 (ending 5 October 2020).

In addition to the agenda, the Chair proposed that the PC lobby SCC for extra funding for the Rights of Way Budget. The chair explained that the budget to care for 200 bridges on 3,500 miles of pubic ROW is a mere £125,000 p.a., a totally inadequate sum. County Councillor West stated he was happy to support this and asked to be copied in on communications. **It was resolved to submit a lobby to Suffolk County Councillor Gordon Jones, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources and copied to Councillors Andrew Reid (Highways) and Paul West. Rt Hon Dan Poulter MP and the SCC Chief Executive Nicola Beach.**

7/20-21/8 There were no oral reports.

7/20-21/9 The Chair had received an estimate to replace 3 finger signposts with new enhanced posts in Brandeston; estimate for professional services and construction: £4,121.96. This scheme estimate includes both the professional services and the construction/implementation costs. Should 50% or more of this work be funded by the Parish Council or 3rd party, 20% VAT and our 18% overheads charge for private works will need to be applied.
Cllrs agreed clarification was required that the estimate included the heritage signs and if so, the nature of the design. The funding from ESC and SCC originally agreed is still available until the end of the financial year. It was resolved to defer a decision until the next meeting when SCC's Senior design Technician, Charlie Mitson, has clarified the costs and design.

7/20-21/10 The Clerk reported that since the request for the image of Rev John Lowes to be changed on the village sign, there had been several villagers who had been in contact requesting the sign remain unchanged. Comments included the sign being designed and created by residents, with the final design being chosen by the village as a whole. Many acknowledge it reflected history of the village. The clerk also said that it was discussed at the meeting on 14th September and there was a consensus not to change the sign, but a plan to acknowledge the image had yet to be decided.
All Cllrs reiterated their agreement to leave the sign unchanged. Cllr Summers stated there was a plaque in the church exonerating Rev John Lowes. It was resolved to implement a plaque on the sign stating who Rev John Lowes was and pointing visitors to the village website where an article would be added with the history of the event. The Chair asked the resident highlighting the issue if they would be willing to write the article. The resident agreed and **it was resolved that the village sign reflected the history of Brandeston, had been democratically chosen from three designs which were handed to every household in the village and should remain as it is.**

7/20-21/11
The proposal to apply for Mutton Lane and Mill Lane to be submitted as 'Quiet Lanes' was originally discussed at the PC meeting in January 2020 (11/1920/4). The Clerk informed the PC that she had subsequently registered an initial interest in the Quiet Lanes opportunity with 'Quiet Lanes Suffolk'.

The group has been successful in its bid for grant funding from SCC and the PC have until 30 November to register its further expression of interest.
To qualify for help through the SCC grant, the PC must have a 'champion' to lead/coordinate the process.
It was agreed to wait until the next meeting when the councillor filling the vacancy may be willing to take on this responsibility.

The funding was originally sought for 2 Quiet Lane applications, Mutton Lane and Mill Lane but it was decided that Riggle Street and Friday Street also be added to the application with the additional funding being sought. Prioritisation would be stipulated within the application. Cllr Cook suggested there may be some funds still available from ESC grants

7/20-21/12 The Mary Revett Trustees are still working to move forward. All Cllrs agreed regular reporting was useful. Cllr Summers raised the point that quarterly reports might not be appropriate because there would be different periods of activity throughout the year resulting in irregularity in reporting required. **It was agreed the Cllr MMW would speak to trustee Mary Ketley regarding the matter.**

7/20-21/13 Cllr Mitson-Woods reported a high number of dog poos on footpaths around the village, particularly noting the path between the Old Chapel Cemetery and Mutton Lane. Cllr Summers questioned what powers the PC have; legally anyone who fails to clear up after their dog can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of up to £100 if reported by a witness prepared to testify. If the case goes to court this could cost the owner or person in charge of the animal up to £1,000. If somebody sees a dog owner who allows his or her dog to foul inappropriately it can be reported to ESC Environmental Protection Team.
Cllr Baker reported that he had come across dog poo on the playing field when mowing. Cllrs Baker and Locke suggested that dogs could be requested to be kept on leads when walking past the recreation ground and signs to be implemented accordingly. **Cllr Baker agreed to take this to the VH committee.**
Cllr Mitson-Woods proposed signs around the village requesting dog owners to clear up accordingly. Cllrs Fletcher and Summers both put forward that there were dog owners who either did or did not clear up after their dogs. Cllr Fletcher also proposed signs were temporary because people become 'sign blind' and erecting signs in hotspots occasionally might be more effective. **Cllr MMW agreed to makes some signs to be temporarily implemented at hotspots.**
Cllr Mitson-Woods proposed a letter be circulated around the village reminding dog owners of their responsibility to clear up after their dogs.
Cllr Williams proposed an additional bin be implemented at the pub where people may begin and end their dog walk. **It was resolved to add this proposal to the budget for next year.**
Cllr Locke informed Councillors that compostable poo bags require high heat to decompose and so providing free compostable poo bags might not resolve issue of bags left around village. She also wondered whether some of the bags left behind were sometimes unintentionally forgotten.

7/20-21/14 The Chair reported that there had been two objections from villagers regarding the planting of an avenue of trees in the recreation ground on the basis that the land was donated as an open space and concerns regarding maintenance of existing features. After discussion, Cllrs agreed their interpretation of an avenue in this situation be one line of trees and therefore creating an avenue with the hedge – and not two rows of trees as interpreted/proposed by others.
Cllr Fletcher raised concerns that the canopy of the trees would take up open space of the field. The Chair and Cllr Summers suggested trees such as ornamental cherries with a narrow canopy with spring and autumn interest may be suitable.
Cllr Summers proposed trees rather than the whips would be more viable.

Cllr Locke agreed larger trees would be better and only three or four to create the avenue.
Cllr Fletcher proposed that a map of the field would be required and the PC and VH committee could agree on location of tree planning.
Cllr Williams questioned who would be responsible for the future maintenance of the trees. The Chair proposed it be equal responsibility of the PC and VH.
It was resolved that Cllr Baker should take this to the forthcoming VH committee meeting.

7/20-21/15 Cllr Mitson-Woods has checked the Definitive Footpath maps and noted that the path between Jeptha's and Mutton Lane is a footpath and not a bridleway. However, riders have traditionally used this route. Cllr Fletcher stated it was down to rider's good manners regarding the use of the route. Cllr Williams stated that using the track to drive vehicles was more of an issue. Cllr Fletcher proposed that a temporary sign could be implemented to remind people that it was not a bridleway.

7/20-21/16 There has been a small amount of interest in the Casual Vacancy and the Clerk will circulate information to the interested party prior to the next meeting.

7/20-21/17 Date of next meeting 9th November 2020.

12:10:20