BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minute of the meeting held on Monday 14th September 2020 via Zoom video call due to Covid 19 restrictions.

Present: *Councillors Baker, Fletcher, Locke, Summers (acting chair) and Williams. Also present five members of the public Clerk Catherine Bacon.*

5/20-21/1 Chairman Cllr Summers welcomed Councillors and the members of the public to the meeting.

5/20-21/2 There were apologies of absence from Cllrs M Mitson-Woods, R Mitson-Woods, Williams, East Suffolk Councillor Cook and Suffolk County Councillor Paul West.

5/20-21/3 There were no declarations of interest

5/20-21/4 It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minute of the Meeting held on 3rd August 2020 as a true and accurate record.

5/20-21/5 No report was received.

5/20-21/6 East Suffolk Councillor Cook has not provided a report. The September monthly roundup from East Suffolk Council indicates that August is usually the month for taking a break, but, was again busy with a number of Cabinet briefings and meetings to discuss the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and the East Suffolk representation to the Sizewell C enquiry, which was passed by Council on 1st September. There were also Community Partnership Task and Finish group meetings to discuss Delivering Opportunities for Young People and Reducing Social Isolation.

5/20-21/7 Financial Matters

a) The Clerk reported that as of the 5th August 2020 the bank reconciliation for Parish Council Account showed the account had funds of £3405.35. The latest statement has just arrived indicating payment of the Clerk's salary and withdrawal of 100+ prize money leaving current funds at £3207.68
b) The Clerk reported that as of the 5th August 2020 the bank reconciliation for 100+ Account showed the account had funds of £2879.31. The latest statement has just arrived indicating recurring standing orders for tickets had increased the funds to £2891.31
c) Cllr Williams reported to the Parish Council via email that the accounts have been checked and verified.
d) **Payment of Parish Council Insurance with Royal and Sun Alliance PLC (through Community Action Services) of £246.40 (No LTA) was authorised.**
e) With COVID-19 restrictions continuing for the foreseeable future, **payment to Zoom.us of £143.88 for unlimited video calling for meetings was authorised.**

5/20-21/8 Oral Report from Councillors

a) Cllr Locke reported that there had been a poor response to the email send out about wildflowers and verges with only one reply. One flyer had been seen within the village. Cllr Locke agreed to speak to Lydia Freeman for an update on any other developments.
b) Cllr Fletcher reported that he continued to move SID with it spending two weeks at each end of the village. It has been gathering fresh data since being reset; busiest times being the morning and speeds being around 33-35mph and peaking at 42mph. However, these figures were recorded during 'lockdown' when the roads have generally been quieter. Data will be fully downloaded and analysed at a 3 month period after resetting device. Cllr Summers

enquired what the data is used for, Cllr Fletcher has recently taken over the job, he believes that it could be used as leverage to get a 'police speed trap' but stated that he was only aware of this being achieved once before.

c) Cllr Baker reported that the kitchen refurbishment was in abeyance due to obtain 3 new quotes from contractors to undertake the work. Fortunately, a grant was obtained help to pay torwards the kitchen refurbishment. The hall is still not able to make any income, though, there is now a working committee hoping to be able to open the village hall in a limited capacity later in the year.

d) Cllr Summers raised the issue of free tree whips & hedging being available from the Woodland Trust. Cllr Baker reported that the VHC had discussed planting these adjacent to the zipwire. **It was agreed that Cllr Summers would meet with Cllr M Mitson-Woods and Lord Cuncliffe to discuss tree planting further and report back to the PC.**

5/20-21/9 The Clerk reported that Cllr Mitson-Woods had received an email from Suffolk Highways providing an estimate to replace the 3 finger posts with the new Heritage Signs. The estimate for professional services and construction was £4121.96. This includes professional services and the construction/implementation costs. If 50% or more of this work is to be funded by the Parish Council or 3rd party, 20% VAT or 18% surcharge from Suffolk Highways will be applied. The Parish Council wanted to confirm the cost of the signs and therefore the overall cost of the project before making any decision. **It was agreed to discuss the item further at the next meeting and to get clarity from M M-W as to whether this sum included the actual sign posts.**

5/20-21/10 To report update from Mary Revett Trust

Cllr Summers provided a synopsis of the Mary Revett Trust for the benefit of the villagers attending the meeting. Following enquiries regarding the current status of the Mary Revett Trust, investigations were made and advice sought from Birketts Solicitors. An initial priority of recommended tasks listed are:

- PC to appoint three trustees.
- Trustees to regularise tenancy.
- Trustees to register the title, first registration with the Land Registry.
- Trustees to re-register the Charity.
- Trustees to up-date objective of the Charitable trust.

The first objective has been met; the new Trustees are Mary Ketley, Alaistair Chapman and Helen Fletcher. The Trustees have since have an initial meeting via Zoom and are in the process of working through the remaining objectives. On speaking with Cllr Summers prior to the PC meeting, Mary Ketley requested on behalf of the Trustees funds to undertake the remaining tasks listed. **Payment for Land Registry Map and Title search (£6) and first registration charge with the Land Registry (£40-100) was authorised.** Legal fees of £100/hour plus VAT for a trainee would be considered if, and when, required for the remaining matters.

5/20-21/11 A villager approached the Parish Council to discuss the image of Rev. John Lowes hanging from a noose on the village sign to be discussed with the request that he could be 'cut down' in order to be standing by the church having been cleared of being a witch. Though the villager doesn't wish to rewrite history and is aware the village chose the design, but wonders whether a more idyllic design can be chosen in keeping with other Suffolk village signs.
The Clerk has received requests from villagers in support of the sign to remain as it is. The Wednesday Club raised funds to pay for the sign with its construction being undertaken by Hector and Mary Moore. It is believed by several villagers that it is part of village history and not removed. Cllr M Mitson-Woods personal view is that that the sign showed that ordinary people can succumb to prejudice, we should be reminded of this. Cllr Locke believed it was part of history. With the

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creators and implementors of the sign still living in the village it is also respecting their work to retain it. Cllr Fletcher queried whether it was a PC matter. He believes that the sign shows the history of the village. Cllr Summers proposed that a plaque was installed to a link – perhaps to a new history section on the website – discussing the story of the sign plus the wider history of the village. It was proposed that information about the sign should be more widely available. A proposal included a history section being created on the village website. Due to time restrictions, **it was agreed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting when more time would be available.**

5/20-21/12 The Clerk confirmed that the work on the bridge on the '5-bridges' footpath was now complete and the bridge open.

5/20-21/13 Planning

Update on DC/20/2543/DRC Red House Barn, The Street, Brandeston, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 7AB Discharge of Condition 5 of DC/20/0295/FUL (Part retention of former agricultural building, involving alterations, - to provide for storage, stables and swimming pool facilities, - with inclusion of building and land as residential curtilage)

Previous concerns regarding the implementation of the owl box at Red House Barn were raised with the planning department at East Suffolk Council. The response received indicated that the barn owl box is proposed to be internally located on the western end of the barn. This was previously proposed on the eastern elevation, but was changed following comments from the Council's ecologist who is happy for the proposed location and specification of the owl box. East Suffolk Council would not return to site to check that this has been implemented unless there had been reports that the condition had not been complied with. Condition 5 requested details of the owl box to be submitted, which will then be included as the development is carried out. Officers were satisfied that sufficient details were submitted in respect of this condition and recommended it was discharged (approved) on the 14/08/2020, of which a signing officer agreed on the 18/08/2020. Condition 5 of DC/20/0295/FUL has therefore been discharged.

Cllr Fletcher queried why this planning application was being raised again unlike the other planning applications at the previous meeting. The Clerk stated that this was because this item was not signed off at the previous meeting and with the feedback received from ESC, it now could be.

5/20-21/14 Date of next meeting Monday 12th October 2020.

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