BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th February 2022 at 7.30pm, in Brandeston Village Hall.

Present: *Councillors Bange, P Baker, Locke, Summers (in the Chair), Williams, Clerk Catherine Bacon, and 4 members of the public.*

11/21-22/1 The Chair welcomed Councillors and the member of the public to the meeting.

11/21-22/2 Apologies for absence was received from Cllrs B Baker (personal), Fletcher (personal), District Councillor Freeman and County Councillor Bryce. **It was resolved that these were accepted.**

11/21-22/3 There were no declarations of interest.

11/21-22/4 A parishioner contacted the Clerk regarding the Artisan North proposal. The parishioner wished to raise an objection to the potential proposal on the following grounds:

- There is a discrepancy between the number of potential applicants for affordable homes from the HNSs undertaken by the PC and Artisan, questioning Artisan's manipulation of figures to justify the application.
- Mill Lane is a single carriageway country track designated as a Quiet Lane.
- The proposal is outside of the village envelope.
- Any affordable housing is unsustainable – the village offering minimal services and employment prospects, no schools, medical facilities ad only rudimentary public transport.
- Previous supply of affordable housing in Mutton Lane was never taken up and 'ported' elsewhere.
- The Market Town of Framlingham, a major hub (3 miles distant) where some 500 new houses were built in the last 10 years with 200 affordable units is a logical alternative locally. Families, the likely occupiers of 'affordable' units will require all the facilities offered in Framlingham.
- Concerns that the 'retained land' within the application could be used for a subsequent planning application for market value housing having previously provided a number of affordable homes.

As a result, the parishioner considers that the PC should not support or endorse the Artisan North proposal.

A parishioner asked whether the proposed Artisan North development discussions were going to be circulated to the parishioners. The Chair responded that a Working Group (WG) was created at the last meeting to discuss the proposal in more detail. A meeting was held on 19th January and the findings of the WG are to be presented at this meeting. The minutes from the WG meeting will be circulated together with the minutes of the PC meeting 14th February.

A parishioner asked the PC if it would consider supporting a proposal for a driveway to Red House Barn (similar to an application previously made, and subsequently withdrawn) in exchange for gifting approximately ½ acre of land to the PC for tree planting for the Platinum Jubilee. Extra hedging would be added to existing hedging to thicken it up. The parishioner said that this would also be a contribution towards climate change and enhance the entrance to the village. The area in question would be the corner of their plot on the west boundary alongside the road. By gifting the land, the parishioner hoped that it would stop fears that they were trying to do any further development on the land. The parishioner's intention is to turn the old cattle shed into a home for themselves, making it as green and eco-friendly as possible.

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The parishioner also stated that he had support from a neighbouring landowner, reference email sent to the PC.

The Chair thanked the parishioners for their contributions and stated that each item would be discussed in full in line with the schedule on the agenda.

11/21-22/5 It was resolved that the Chair should sign the Minutes of the Meeting 10th January 2021 as a true and accurate record. *(Circulated and on website)*

11/21-22/6 In the absence of Suffolk County Councillor Bryce there is no report available.

11/21-22/7 In the absence of District Councillor Freeman a summary of her report is as follows:

All Town and Parish Councils have been invited to participate in a Consultation to consider the most suitable way of representing local communities, to ensure that local governance arrangements within East Suffolk continue to be reflective of the identity and interest of local communities and that they are as efficient and effective as they can be. This consultation provides councils with an opportunity to review and make changes to community governance arrangements and can consider commenting on the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
- The electoral arrangements of parishes such as number of councillors and parish warding
- The grouping of parishes under a common parish council or the de-grouping of parishes

ESC believes this offers an opportunity to explore how Parish Councils can engage more fully with the local Community Partnerships, how local residents can be encouraged to see the value and reward of serving their local communities and fill the many vacancies on Councils and how engagement between Town and Parish Councils can be digitalised to improve the level of communication and effectiveness.

The district-wide pay & display parking arrangements will be introduced to the Market Hill Car Park, Framlingham from MONDAY 14th FEBRUARY from 8am to 6pm. From this date, parking in Market Hill will cost £1 for up to 2 hours with no return for the following 2 hours. These arrangements are to prevent space blocking and to provide more parking opportunities for the support of our local businesses. Motorists can obtain 30 minutes free parking through the parking meter or by using the RingGo app, downloadable onto a smart phone.

The first nine areas to be invited to agree new county deals have been announced as part of the Government's Levelling Up White Paper; this includes Suffolk. It is really pleasing that Suffolk is one of the nine areas to be chosen for a county deal. It offers significant possibilities in terms of addressing regional inequalities, maximising resources and ensuring greater accountability, here in Suffolk, for powers previously held in Westminster. Naturally, we are committed to ensuring that any deal benefits East Suffolk and its residents, and we're now looking forward to further discussions with our partners and the Government to consider how a county deal can work for our communities. It's important that any deal contains a policy and funding mix which can make a real difference, and we eagerly await the full details of the White Paper.

ESC welcomed the announcement that a loophole which allowed some second home owners to avoid paying either council tax or business rates is to be closed. Under tough new measures, effective from April 2023, those second home-owners will have to prove that their holiday lets are being rented out for a minimum of 70 days each year in order to access small business rates relief,

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where they meet the criteria. Holiday let owners will have to provide evidence such as the website or brochure used to advertise the property, letting details and receipts. Properties will also have to be available to be rented out for 140 days per year to qualify for the relief.

A scheme dedicated to involving young people in local issues which affect them is back and we want as many youngsters as possible to get involved and help make a real difference. Any information which is provided is then shared with organisations and key decision makers who can help address the issues raised and help make a real difference, such as local councillors, East Suffolk Community Partnerships, Suffolk Police and other key partners. Anyone aged between 11 and 24, can share their thoughts online quickly and easily by filling out a short form at https://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/service/Youth_voice
Youth Voice is also on Instagram now so young people can see how their feedback is helping to make real changes in local communities by following 'eastsuffolkyouthvoice'.

An interactive online feature has been launched for the public to track progress on the implementation of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans. It includes a range of monitoring data covering housing, economy, retails, natural environments and many more topics and can be accessed at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/dfbbb431cf6c44c88bc58975e59ce191

Voluntary and community groups in Framlingham, Wickham Market and the surrounding villages can now apply for funding through the latest round of the Framlingham, Wickham Market and Villages Community Partnership Small Grant Scheme. Applications are now open for the funding scheme, which is aimed at developing opportunities for young people and reducing social isolation and loneliness, which are two of the key priorities identified by the Partnership. Applications are open until 7 March 2022 - grants of between £250 and £3,000 are available: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/community-partnerships/communitypartnership-small-grant-schemes/

11/21-22/8 Finance – RFO
The RFO reported that Cllr P Baker (as signatory) confirmed the charges are applicable on the accounts with HSBC.

a) The RFO reported that the PC account had a balance of £3729.87, but, reminded Cllrs that this still contained £140 of 100+ prize money and £527.87 of MRT funds.
b) The RFO reported that the 100+ account has a balance of £1187.31.

Discussion was had regarding the bank charges; it was agreed that Cllr P Baker would inform the Village Hall / 100 Club Committee that these charges would be offset against the 100 Club and reimbursed to the PC.

11/21-22/9 Oral Reports:
Cllr Baker reported that Mary Ketley has been elected the new Chair of the Brandeston Village Hall Committee.
Cllr Bange reported that the GDPR is ongoing – a meeting has been set for 9th March at 6pm to start compiling a working document.
Cllr Locke reported that a footpath through Rose Farm has been moved by 1 metre. Cllr Summers asked Cllr Locke to take some measurements and photographs and to submit them with a report on the ESC Rights of Way portal.

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a) **It was resolved to support DC/21/5421/FUL, Erection of a one and a half storey three bay garage and carport with a log store to the rear and games room above. Park Cottage, Park Lane, Monewden, Suffolk, IP13 7AL with the condition that the roof light windows are removed as per the Principal Design and Conservation Officer's comments.**
b) **It was resolved to support DC/22/0417/TC, Oak Tree (T1) Crown reduction by 1-2 metres to suitable growth points. The tree has been stub cut the last time it was reduce to similar dimensions. There are growth points it can be taken to this time from the regrowth. 3 Larcoms Lawne, Brandeston, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 7DU**

11/21-22/11 Cllr Bange reported that the GDPR is ongoing – a **meeting has been set for 9th March** at 6pm to start compiling a working document.

11/21-22/12 The Chair read the minutes (attached) of the Working Group meeting from 19th January to the PC. **Cllr Bange proposed that the minutes of the WG be accepted, that the PC will not be further exploring the Artisan North proposal. This was seconded by Cllrs Locke and Baker.**

11/21-22/13 The Clerk spoke to Stephanie Baxter (ESC), the officer responsible for Affordable Housing. The Clerk enquired as to how to log the results of the Brandeston PC HNS with ESC, so that they can be referred to in the future when considering planning applications. The Clerk was informed that ESC does not keep the results on record and that in the future to attach the report from the HNS as a supplementary PDF document when responding to any application. Stephanie Baxter specialises in housing needs and guides the planners in decision making. In her opinion, as Brandeston has no public transport access to local primary schools and very limited provision of public transport services, her advice to ESC planners when considering applications for affordable housing in Brandeston, would be to refuse an application as the village does not have the connectivity and services to support a family requiring affordable housing.

11/21-22/14 In advance of the PC meeting a parishioner submitted a proposal to the PC and provided a statement in the public forum. The Chair responded that whilst the possible merit of the proposal was a nice idea, the PC must use the 'toolkit' available to them and follow a procedure when considering planning proposals, and that the PC does not the power to amend and develop planning policy and guidelines. The 'toolkit' for this procedure is to look at the Planning Policy and Guidelines, firstly to identify any relevant Planning Policy, then to look at any related Guidelines, if relevant Planning Policy and Guidelines can be identified to cover a proposal, material considerations are next on the list, then consideration of the possible significant long-term merit of the proposed gift to the parish.
The PC have not been able to identify any Planning Policy and Guidelines to support a new dwelling in the countryside. ESC's delegated officer has submitted detailed comments on the refusal of the previous application relating to the proposed conversion of the building to a residential dwelling, these are available for public access on the ESC Planning Portal.
The comments of support made by the previous owner/adjacent landowner are not material comments in terms of planning, these non-material comments have since been withdrawn. Cllr Bange asked the parishioner if he could identify any Planning Policy and Guidance to support the proposal, he could not do so.
The PC agreed not to support the proposal.
The parishioner stated that a formal application would be made.

11/21-22/15 Cllr Locke agreed to refresh herself of the information and bring back to the PC at a future date.

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11/21-22/16 The Chair agreed to make enquiries about a suitable site, to contact the local contact farmer.

The Clerk used the opportunity to inform the PC that she would be collecting the Platinum Jubilee tree this week. Size and species of the tree are still unknown. Cllr P Baker suggested he ask the PCC about a location for the tree in the graveyard. Suggestions about appropriate time to plant the tree including over the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations. Choosing an appropriate person or persons to have the honour to plant the tree we discussed with the suggest of having the eldest and youngest villagers.

11/21-22/17 Date of next PC Meeting, Monday March 14th 2022 at 7,30pm, Brandeston Village Hall.

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