BRANDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Minute of the meeting held at 7.30pm on Monday 9th November 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, one member of the public and Clerk Catherine Bacon.*

8/20-21/1 1 Chairman Cllr Mitson-Woods welcomed Councillors and the member of the public to the meeting. Cllr Mitson-Woods told members that since the Agenda was posted The Queen had asked for a letter of support for its application for a 'Pub is the Hub' grant. This would allow the pub to retain the shop once COVID is gone. (The Chairman highlighted that as this was not a financial issue, it could be discussed despite it not being included on the agenda.) **It was resolved that the retention of the shop benefits the entire community and the Chairman and Clerk would liaise with the pub to provide a letter of support.** East Suffolk Cllr Cook said that he would also support the initiative.

8/20-21/2 There were no apologies of absence.

8/20-21/3 There were no declarations of interest.

8/20-21/4 Public Forum

8/20-21/5 It was resolved that the Chairman should sign the Minute of the Meeting held on 12th October 2020 as a true and accurate record.

8/20-21/6 County Cllr West reported SCC is overseeing the £1.5million fund from DEFRA to help those in need during COVID. The methods for applications can be found on the SCC website. Cllr Mitson-Woods questioned whether individuals could apply for these grants from this DEFRA fund as there is hidden poverty in seemingly wealthy communities. County Cllr West said that individuals could not apply but organisations can, and he would provide the PC with the link. The Clerk will circulate this in due course.

County Cllr West also reported the SCC was funding tree planting in both rural and urban locations.

8/20-21/7 East Suffolk Cllr Cook reported upon a second round of business grants. East Suffolk Council has launched a new £100,000 'Bounce Back' Fund, which offers grants of between £250 and £5,000 to support voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations in East Suffolk. Funded through the East Suffolk Community Partnership Board, the funding is available for equipment, adaptions or staffing to enable VCSE organisations to safely continue or restart their services or to develop/launch new services. All VCSE organisations are eligible to apply, as long as the funding requested is for equipment, adaptions or staffing to continue or restart a service or develop/launch a new service. However, some groups will be given priority to help support those who have been particularly impacted by the pandemic. These include organisations supporting young people, organisations relying on volunteers and community buildings which are struggling to reopen safely. The form and full details about eligibility criteria and how to apply can be found online.

East Suffolk Cllr Cook reminded the PC that 'Home but not Alone' continues.

The Suffolk Coastal Plan came into effect on September 23rd; the main advantage of this is the prevention of unscrupulous property development on unsuitable sites.

The Community Partnership Scheme to allow East Suffolk residents to have a say on three draft planning documents (Cycling and Walking Strategy, Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Recreational Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (RAMS) Supplementary Planning Document) has begun.

Commercial opportunities are happening at ESC with the purchase of a trading estate near Lowestoft. Units have been let for 5 years providing an income. Cllr Williams asked what the return on this acquisition is; the answer being 5.8%.

Cllr Summers enquired how the public undergo submitting objections to the latest lockdown measures. She highlighted that it impacted everyone but particularly sports clubs which provide outdoor activity to some who might otherwise be unable to access it and penalises the less fortunate, she cited hockey as an example. East Suffolk Cllr Cook said that the only option is through the local MP to represent your views in Government. Local MP Dan Poulter had made enquiries whether golf and tennis could stay open but received a flat refusal.

8/20-21/8 Financial Matters

a) The RFO reported the PC account had been reconciled and the current balance is £3840.26 of which £360 is 100+ prize money).
b) The RFO reported the 100+ account has been reconciled and the current balance is £3059.31. This includes an additional anonymous donation of £150 had been transferred to this account to allow the purchase of kitchen cabinets for the village hall to go ahead.(8/20-21/8g).
c) The Clerk talked through expenditure against budget for 2020-21. She stated that where money had been saved in some areas (Hall Hire) this was compensated by expenditure on items such as the Zoom subscription. There was one area of particular overspend which is training, but, with many new Cllrs undergoing training this financial year, this should be compensated during the next. Overall the PC is within budget but highlights areas where the PC may wish to alter the budget in future.
d) It was resolved that payment to Richard Martin invoice for Village Triangle Maintenance (£100) was authorised.
e) It was resolved that payment of the 100+ Club Lottery License (£20) was authorised.
f) It was resolved that payment of SALC invoice 23816 for provision of 6 months payroll service for period ending 30th September 2020 (£45.00 + £9.00VAT) was authorised.
g) It was resolved that Payment of the Ideal Catering Solutions Ltd invoice 9128 (£2500 + £500VAT) from the 100+ account for Village Hall kitchen cupboards to complement the kitchen refurbishment was authorised. The Chairman reminded Cllrs that the PC would be able to reclaim VAT on this invoice which would be repaid to the 100+ account when reclaimed.

8/20-21/10

a) The Clerk had discussed the budget vs expenditure during item 8/20-21/8c.
b) The Chairman asked Cllrs for suggestions for items to add to the budget for 2021-22. Items suggested to be included for the budget are: an additional dog waste bin (site suggested is by the Old Chapel), a plaque for the village sign to explain Rev Lowes (7/20-21/10),

restoration of the village pump (quote to be sought from Nick Ashwell), maintenance of planting around bus shelter to allow repainting (11/1920/13).

c) No adjustments were made until next PC meeting, though an increase in the General Repairs and Maintenance budget was agreed.

8/20-21/10 The Chair confirmed that Harriet Aitchison had come forward to fill the casual vacancy. She was unable to attend the meeting due to prior commitments. **It was resolved that Harriet Aitcheson was co-opted to Brandeston PC.** The Clerk confirmed she would be in contact with Harriet to arrange the appropriate paperwork.

8/20-21/11 Oral Reports

Cllr Locke has reported the fallen footpath signs which have been added to the list of works at the ROW team, but there may be delay due to COVID. Cllr Locke has been reading up on Quiet Lanes (8/20-21/13) and said a second email address was required to register. It was agreed the Clerk email should be used.

Cllr Fletcher reported that residents in Low Street felt that SID was no longer effective at calming speeding traffic because drivers are too familiar with the SID devices. Cllr Summers stated that speed humps are contentious due to increased pollution and noise. Suffolk County Cllr West suggested contacting the new County Cllr in May 2021 as she/he may be able to fund a new project having discussed the problem with the PC. East Suffolk Cllr Cook has some budget left that he is willing to use. He also stated that the speed gun and visors used by some villages cost £1500 plus the commitment of the volunteers; he has found that maintaining enthusiasm for running these schemes can dwindle. Cllr Williams asked if there was any comparison between the two SID sites in the village; Cllr Fletcher reported there was not. Cllr Mitson-Woods asked if the smiley face could be added to SID, but Cllr Fletcher said that this was a different device. **The Chairman asked Cllr Fletcher to contact SID manufacturer for a quote for an up to date SID with a smiley face and suggested this could be added to the 2021-22 budget.** Cllr Summers suggested entrance picket gates to the village on the verges with added signs saying 'respect our village' but worried the verges may not be wide enough.

Cllr Mitson-Woods investigated the footpath by Jeptha's and Mutton Lane. It is a footpath but there is an agreement between the landowner and horse riders to keep riders on the side nearest to the field whilst walkers use the footpath that runs alongside the hedge. Cllr Mitson-Woods had spoken to two people who have livery stables and they both agreed that signs would reinforce the message that they portray to riders. Cllr Locke said she could create guidance signs to follow. Cllr Summers suggested "Signs for You" in Ipswich wouldn't be expensive to create 2 signs for this footpath and 2 signs for the footpath between Mill Lane and Riggle Street to guide pedestrians and riders. **It was resolved to get quotes for 4 signs.**

Cllr Mitson-Woods suggested that the entrance to the Old Chapel on Mill Lane would be a good site to install an additional dog waste bin and asked for this to be added to the budget for 2021-22.

Cllr Baker recently attended a Brandeston Village Hall committee meeting. Time was limited on the zoom meeting which was dominated by the forthcoming kitchen refurbishment which will hopefully be completed by the end of January. The proposed tree planting was briefly discussed and preference for planting would be in the location between the tennis courts and the zipwire rather than along the footpath. It was to be discussed more fully at the next BVH committee meeting. They also discussed the reopening of BVH as there are inconsistencies between reopening of the village halls in the local area. The issue of dogs and problems of fouling in the playing field wasn't discussed due to the time restriction.

8/20-21/12 Heritage Signs

a) Cllr Mitson-Woods had received confirmation from Charlie Mitson at SCC that the quote (£4121.96) included the cost of the 3 signs and their installation. The signs at Easton were bespoke and Charlie Mitson confirmed these would be more expensive but did not say how much. The equivalent signs in Earl Soham differ from Easton in that they have round posts not square – as quoted for re Brandeston Signs. The Clerk had not received any useful information thus far from Earl Soham re pricing of their heritage signs but has since been provided with another contact that may be able to help. The Chairman encouraged Cllrs to make a decision at the December meeting.

b) The Chairman asked the Cllrs on their thoughts regarding approving the quote received.
Cllr Locke preferred to have what the PC could afford and not what was out of budget.
Cllr Fletcher wanted to hold out for the signs originally wanted. Cllr Mitson-Woods stated that the original request by a villager was to get smarter signs, suggesting a heritage design but not a specific model.
Cllr Williams and Cllr Baker requested to defer until pricing of the alternative styles was available.
Cllr Summers does prefer the signs at Easton but questioned whether the extra cost could be justified under the present financial climate and questioned whether the extra cost could be better spent.
East Suffolk Cllr Cook said there could be some wriggle room on the ESC grant but unlikely – it was worth putting in a request with a quote. County Cllr West reminded the PC that if the grant offered by SCC wasn't used in this financial year, it would be lost.

c) It was agreed to wait until the next meeting authorise the order once costs have been sought for equivalent signs in Easton and Earl Soham for comparison.

8/20-21/13 Cllr Locke agreed to be the Quiet Lane Champion and will register in order to start gathering the information on the process.

8/20-21/14 MRT was not in a position to report further at this point.

8/20-21/15 Under the current COVID restrictions only two individuals can meet from separate households outside, so, the Clerk agreed to meet with Cllr Mitson-Woods to undertake cleaning of the village sign. Remaining Cllrs all agreed to clean the 30mph signs closest to their residences. Kathy Churchill had kindly offered to clean the signs near her home.

8/20-21/16 East Suffolk Council Planning Consultations

a) The Clerk had circulated these questions to Cllrs and villagers, they were simple to answer and can easily be completed.

b)-d) The Clerk had not investigated these questions as some questionnaires cannot be re-entered online once they are begun. Cllr Summers had investigated these questions and stated that everyone could enter answers. The Clerk confirmed this and stated that posters had been put on the noticeboards and emails circulated to the village regarding the questionnaires. Cllr Summers said that there were some features that appeared to be useful, such as being able to pinpoint on a map good and bad features for walking/cycling etc including reasoning. She recommended that everyone complete these surveys and requested them to be recirculated on the email individually with a note about each. **The Clerk will contact the village emailer.**

8/20-21/17 A villager attended the meeting and provided the following (personal) insight into the Sizewell C plans:

"The recent Sizewell C Consultation has, quite reasonably, revolved around the impact the programme will have on the surrounding area in Suffolk, with regard to people and the environment but vital decisions about technology have been overshadowed by Brexit.
"I have, however, some additional views to add based on a background of working with the Electricity Industry for a decade in the 90's. It is quite evident that the technology proposed for Sizewell – and similarly Hinkley Point – is hugely risky, costly and subject to endless delays. This technology is unproven at both Flamanville in France and in Finland where similar projects are years late and millions over budget; one specific issue, for example, has been the quality of welding in the pressure vessels where certification is said to be suspect. How can this be suspect on such a critical component? Operationally there would then exist the challenges of managing twin and enormous reactors, both in controlling the output and subsequently maintaining them. There is not a reliable timetable for the future of these programmes on the continent and the French Government has considered removing its financial backing of EDF, but the political fallout from this was considered unacceptable. Tragically the review of Hinkley Point's viability early in Mrs May's tenure allowed the programme to continue for, I imagine, political imperatives rather than rational ones.
"So, what should now be done? Given that there is a proven need for electricity supply security by having a mix of generation – nuclear, renewables, gas, etc – it does make sense to provide additional nuclear generation at Sizewell where the infrastructure exists for distribution. However, a **proven** reactor architecture should be used for generation, and we already have it; for decades now we have installed relatively small, British, nuclear reactors in submarines without incurring dramatic issues and this approach should be used at Sizewell C on a modular basis to synchronise an appropriate number of units to provide the required output. This offers major benefits; eg: the ability to add incrementally to the generation capacity to meet demand increase, the ability to take individual units out of service on a rolling basis for planned maintenance, simpler **proven** technology, higher accuracy and control of costs and, not least, the limitation of risk of nuclear incident.
"Separately, the Sizewell site is indisputably vulnerable to sea level change with time, and a major landslip on the coast of Norway threatens a Fukushima-level disaster.
Many of these arguments apply equally to Hinkley Point, but this note is aimed directly at Sizewell C where less investment in the wrong technology has so far been made; there is yet time to redirect the programme towards a safer, manageable, solution."

County Cllr West stated that SCC agreed with nuclear energy in principle but didn't think the application mitigated the issues sufficiently. The Council submitted its Relevant Representation to the Planning Inspectorate on 28 September 2020, following a debate and decision at a meeting of the Council's Cabinet on 22 September 2020. The Relevant Representation provides a summary of the Council's views on the proposals put forward in the Development Consent Order (DCO) application and identifies the key topics and issues that the Council wishes to see addressed during the examination stage. (Read Suffolk Council Council's Relevant Representation).

Cllr Williams asked whether the issues highlighted this evening had been raised and East Suffolk Cllr Cook stated that yes they had and ESC can only make representations, but the Government were ultimately responsible for the decisions on the application. Local MP Dan Poulter has had meetings with EDF energy.

8/20-21/18 East Suffolk Cllr Cook had spoken to the cabinet member (James Mander) responsible for verge cutting on the morning of this PC meeting. He reported that in early spring ESC will contact the parish councils to continue the current conservation areas and to start new ones. There has been an agreement to reduce cutting from 2 metres to 1.5 metres except in areas where greater cutting is required for safety.

8/20-21/19 Low Street village triangle

a) The Chairman reported that the village triangle by Old Maid's Lane was becoming covered in scrub and needed maintaining – there are snowdrops and orchids that are being swamped. **Resolved that the Clerk will get a quote from Richard Martin to clear the triangle if he is willing to do so.** Kathy Churchill requested oak saplings be saved to plant around the farm.

b) The Chairman reported that parking on the edge of the triangle and opposite verge has increased again and caused a lot of damage. Earl Soham has installed posts on the village green this summer and it was questioned whether we could do the same. Cllr Fletcher reminded the PC that this was discussed previously and it was dismissed due to the fact that Highways own the first 1m of verges.

8/20-21/20 Date of next meeting Monday 14th December 2020.

09:11:20