

Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday 14th March 2006, at 7.30pm in the Vestry, St Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Present: The Clerk, Mr Peter Robinson (Chair), Mrs Eleanor Berwick, Mrs Margaret West, Mr John McKee and Mrs Shirley Smith.

AGENDA.

1) Apologies for absence:- Mr Jeremy Holland-Howes, Oliver Hitchcock, District and County Councillor Colin Hart and Sergeant Metherell.

2) Minutes of the last meetings:- The minutes of the last meeting had already been circulated and read. Mrs Shirley Smith proposed that the minutes be accepted and Mr John McKee seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

3) Matters arising:- None.

4) Social Amenities Committee Progress Report:- There can be no progress until funds are obtained to carry out the flood risk assessment. A meeting of the committee will be called soon.

5) Planning Matters:- The Council have been sent three information documents on planning matters:-

- 1) Suffolk Coastal District Council Sustainability Appraisal Summary
- 2) Town and Parish Councils role in local planning decisions
- 3) Submission of the Statement of Community Involvement, draft form

All these documents will be circulated round the members to read.

6) Parish Park:- a) Mrs Shirley Smith proposed that £15 from petty cash be donated to Mrs Sue Williams towards the cost of compost, plants and compost pouches for the floral display in the Park. Mrs Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed.

b) Suffolk Coastal has offered Bruisyard two black poplar trees for planting in the Park. Mr John McKee volunteered to plant the trees. The Clerk will contact Crown Nursery to arrange to pick them up.

c) It was agreed by the members to contract Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd to cut the grass in the park again this year if the price per cut can be maintained or with a small increase in cost. The Clerk will contact the company and arrange for the first cut to be carried out.

7) Financial Matters:-a) Charity giving :- A letter of thanks has been received from the Disability Advice Services.

The Citizens Advice Bureau has asked for a grant. Mrs Margaret West proposed a donation of £15 be sent to them. Mrs Eleanor Berwick seconded this proposal and all agreed. A cheque was duly written and signed.

The Suffolk Accident Rescue Service has asked for a grant. Mr Peter Robinson proposed a donation of £15 be sent to them. Mrs Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed. A cheque was duly written and signed.

b) Suffolk Coastal District Council is asking for a financial contribution of £6 per tree for the black Poplars. Mr Peter Robinson proposed that the trees be accepted and Mr John McKee seconded this proposal and all agreed. Payment will be made after delivery.

Suffolk Coastal District Council has confirmed the precept will be £1000 of the year 2006/2007.

8) Replacement of the Grit Bin :- The grit bin at the corner of Bruisyard Street and Rendham Road has been badly damaged by a lorry. The members agreed that this will be replaced in the autumn. Quotes from companies in the area will be obtained before the September meeting.

9) Mobil Library Service:- Mobil Library Service questionnaire, reviewing its services to rural communities was filled in, with the members agreeing that more online services, now available in the rest of the library services should be available in the mobile one. It was hoped that the number of stops would not be cut down even if this meant less frequent visits.

10) Spring Clean Suffolk Week :- This will take place between 20th and 26th March. The Clerk will put up posters to advertise this event. The members present agreed to clean up their own areas of Bruisyard.

11) Date of the Next Meeting and AGM:- 16th March at 7 pm

12) Any Other Business :- Mr Jeremy Holland-Howes Reported his findings to the Education Department and has received a reply from Maria Chapman (Senior Education Officer) in which she says that a review of the school structure in Suffolk is due to commence shortly and until the result of this review is known it would not be appropriate to look at changing catchment areas.

However, she did note that the primary school closest to Bruisyard was Peasenhall, and that no children attend this school from the village. In his letter he pointed out that Framlingham and Dennington Primary Schools were closer to Bruisyard than Saxmundham Primary School, but didn't mention Peasenhall as the school feeds into Saxmundham middle school not Framlingham. She also acknowledged his concerns that the distance children travel to their catchment High School is over 10 miles and would be less than half this if they were to travel to Framlingham rather than Leiston.

The Village doesn't have a Tree Warden at present and all information is posted to the Clerk. The Chairman asked Mr John McKee if he would be willing to act as Bruisyard's Tree Warden and he agreed to take up the position.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15 pm and thanked the PCC for the use of the Vestry.

Report from District and County Councillor Hart

Mr Colin Hart reported that he still had some money in his locality budget for 2005/2006 and was willing to assign it towards the flood assessment for the village hall. He would also be willing to add to that from the 2006/2007 budget.

County Council report:-

The government's settlement to Suffolk means there has to be some harsh cuts in spending as £24 million has to be saved to prevent council tax rises of 12 – 14 %. Most of the savings will come from social care and child care plus some on road maintenance.

District Council Report:-

Two areas to report on 1) the government has set targets for councils to process planning applications. 90% of applications will now be processed by planning officers as opposed to 80% and applications will only go to committee if there have been 3 or more people objecting to the plans.

2) There will be a change to alternate week collections of waste and recyclables with a 3 bin system in place, in order to meet the government targets on recycling. Perishable waste will be acceptable in both waste and the composting bins eventually so that perishables will be collected every week.

Both at County and District level the cuts in the funding of Primary Care has been deemed unacceptable and pressure has been exerted at all levels has to counter this. Also Mr Colin Hart was concerned that care at home would not be phased in before closing hospital facilities. Strategic Health Authorities are to be replaced by regional authorities, with the best solution being 2 PCT's for Suffolk – Waverney has no debts and wishes to remain in its present form.

The councillor is opposing the amalgamation of the police forces. If it has to go ahead the combination of Norfolk Suffolk and Essex is the preferred combination.

The government is looking at changing local government, abolishing county councils and replacing them with a unitary system but it is unclear at present how the councils will be broken up.

The chairman thanked Mr Colin Hart for attending the meeting and giving his report.

Police Report by Sergeant Metherell

She has been the Community Police Sergeant since February 2003 and covers 59 parishes in the sector. She returned to work in November after maternity leave.

Pc Miller's post has not been filled after his move to a non-operational post for medical reasons but there is always a member of the response team on duty in the area and non-urgent matters will be referred to other community officers or to herself.

Leiston is the highest performing sector in the district with an overall detection rate of 33.7% for the period April to December. Bruisyard has only one crime recorded since 12th July and that was domestic related. Some adjacent parishes have suffered thefts from motor vehicles and thefts of power tools from sheds.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Metherell for coming to talk to the members