

Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday, 26th January 2010, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Bruisyard.

Present: The Clerk, Peter Robinson (Chairman), Margaret West, John McKee, Shirley Smith, Sonia Richards, Eleanor Berwick and Jeremy Holland-Howes. Colin Hart, District and County Councillor, and Pc Mary Thompson

AGENDA

1) Apologies for absence:- None – Sonia Richards apologised and left the meeting early for family reasons.

2) Minutes of the last meetings:- The minutes of the last meeting have already been circulated and read. Sonia Richards proposed that the minutes for the meeting held on 17th November 2009 be accepted and Shirley Smith seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

3) Matters arising:- The clerk informed the Conservation Officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council on the decision of the Council not to adopt the telephone kiosk.

4) Village Hall Committee Report:- Since the last Parish Council meeting on 17th November, the village hall committee have met three times, 25th November 2009, 4th January and 20th January 2010.

a) Update on funding:- £ 22,189 was granted from the Big Lottery fund in December and £5391.74 from ScottishPower. A grant of £1000 was awarded from the SCC locality budget towards the cost of buying the chairs on the recommendation of Councillor Colin Hart in December. The Council Members thanked Colin Hart for his support in securing this grant. A further £455 has been received in donations.

b) Construction update:-

Building work is now substantially complete. The final surfacing to the car park was finished last week and the automatic fire shutter to the kitchen servery was fitted today. SCDC on the advice of Optua (disability advisors) require the final shingle surface of the footpath from the car park to be bedded into tarmac tracks to facilitate wheelchair access. The additional cost for this work is £350. The tables and chairs were delivered in December.

5) Resignation of Councillor Shirley Smith:- In a letter to the Chairman, Shirley Smith has tendered her resignation from the Parish Council for personal reasons with effect from the end of this meeting. The clerk will inform the democratic officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council.

6) Financial Matters:- a) Payment to Simmons Builders Ltd:-

i) A cheque of £3,524.25 was issued from the Abbey Reserve account on 20th November as a deposit for the heat exchange pump. A credit note for this amount has been received from Simmons and will offset against the total on the invoice issued for work carried out in December. Eleanor Berwick proposed that this was in order and Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed. Two cheques were issued from the Abbey Reserve account on 4th December for £20,862.28 and £10,783.48 to cover invoices No. 157 and 156 respectively. Shirley Smith proposed that this was in order and Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed.

ii) Simmons Builders Ltd has not tendered an invoice for the work carried out in December to date Jeremy Holland-Howes proposed that their invoice be paid on receipt Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed.

- b) i)** John McKee proposed that it was in order to reimburse David Smith, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, £42.49 from the Barclays Village Hall account for the sample chair from Grosvenor Fabrications Ltd. Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed.
- ii)** Jeremy Holland-Howes proposed that it was in order to reimburse David Smith, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, £524.40 from the Barclays Village Hall account for the 12 tables purchased from Special Panel Products Ltd. John McKee seconded this proposal and all agreed.
- iii)** John McKee proposed that it was in order to reimburse David Smith, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, £2,209.21 from the Barclays Village Hall account for 79 chairs from Grosvenor Fabrications Ltd (£2051.66), glassware from Alliance Disposables Ltd (£107.51) and a fire blanket and extinguisher (£50.04) from Firesafety.uk.com. Shirley Smith seconded this proposal and all agreed.
- iv)** Margaret West proposed that it was in order to reimburse David Smith, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee, £93.89 from the Barclays Village Hall account for dishwasher baskets and Stainless Steel cleaner from Nisbets (£54) and hand soap, towel and dispenser and toilet brushes from Alliance Disposables Ltd (£39.89) Jeremy Holland-Howes seconded this proposal and all agreed.
- c)** Shirley Smith proposed that it was in order to have paid Suffolk Coastal District Council £250 from the Barclays Village Hall account as the Councils contribution to the tree planting scheme. Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed.
- d)** Margaret West proposed that it was in order to have paid Suffolk Acre Services £375.79 from the Barclays Village Hall account for insurance for the Village Hall. This insures the building and its contents from 21st December 2009 to 30th September 2010. Eleanor Berwick seconded this proposal and all agreed. The premium is fixed for 3 years.
- e)** Shirley Smith proposed that Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd be paid £354.20 for the 11 grass cuts in the Park for 2009. Eleanor Berwick seconded this proposal and all agreed. A cheque from the Barclays Parish Council account was duly written and signed (written to 'Norse Commercial Services Ltd')
- f)** The Clerk has contacted Barclays Bank to change the mandate on the Parish Council current account. Peter Robinson proposed that following changes to the running of the Councils accounts be made:- The signatories on the above account will in future be Peter Robinson, Margaret West and Eleanor Berwick with the Clerk, Anne Smith as the named correspondent. Two councillors will sign all cheques and the Clerk will sign the back of the cheque stubs. The clerk will take the names of Shirley Smith and Oliver Hitchcock off the Abbey current account and reserve account. Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed.
- g)** Eleanor Berwick proposed to reimburse the Clerk, Anne Smith, £9.39 for the payment she made to Microsoft to maintain the Domain name 'bruisyard.com'. Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed. A cheque from the Barclays Parish Council account was duly written and signed. This is an annual fee which has been introduced by Microsoft.
- e)** The Clerk circulated the proposed budget for 2010/2011. The clerk included £60 in the budget to be transferred to the Village Hall account to cover the cost of heating used at Council meetings. Jeremy Holland-Howes proposed that Members accept the budget and the precept be set at £1700 for the coming financial year. Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed.

7) Coffee morning, wine tasting and other events:- a) Coffee morning to be held on 13th February from 10:00 to 12:00 noon. Tea/coffee plus biscuits to cost £1 and 30p for orange juice. Eleanor Berwick offered to make a fruit cake and Anne Smith offered to make a carrot cake to sell for 50p a slice. There will be a raffle and a cake stall. All to arrive at the hall at 9:00 to set up the kitchen and tables.

The Clerk will design a poster and email it to all for distribution. She will arrange 3 floats and purchase raffle tickets.

b) Wine tasting to be held on 19th March starting 7:00pm. The number attending to be limited to a maximum of 50. It will be a white wine tasting followed by a cheese and pate platter supper. Eleanor Berwick will work out a budget for the wine to be used. Ian and Eleanor Berwick will choose and present the wines. Cost of tickets will be £12.50.

The clerk will print tickets ready to sell at the coffee morning.

8) Park:- a) The clerk has 3 quotes for the cutting of the hedge around the Park:- Suffolk Coastal Services, £325 +VAT, John Martin £100 and Geoff Rogers £50 - £60. Although Geoff Rogers is the cheapest quote it was felt that he would be unable to get round the back of the hall and behind the damson trees by the big gates with his tractor mounted cutter. John Martin proposes to cut the hedge with a handheld hedge cutter and will be able to access it all. It was for this reason the member agreed to award the hedge cutting contract to John Martin. The clerk will get in touch with all those who tendered for the job and inform them of the Council's decision. John McKee has planted half the new hedging and will complete the job when the weather permits.

9) Planning:- a) an application has been put in to renew the planning permission for the conversion and extension of existing barns to form function suite and holiday accommodation at Hall Farm The Planning Committee supported the application last time and the Members voted to support the renewal of permission.

b) Alpha Bungalow has been granted permission for the rear and side extensions.

10) School catchment area:- Jeremy Holland-Howes wrote a letter to the Department of Education of the County Council in December but he has not had a response from them as yet. He will get in touch with them again if he does hear from them soon.

11) Date of next meeting:- 23rd March.

12) Miscellaneous Items:- Ann Osborn of The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project has written and emailed the Council asking if we would be interested in them using the hall to hold a launch event for their 18 month project to expand their work. The Members supported this initiative and the Clerk will contact Anne Osborn with details for hiring the hall.

A timetable for the Mobile Library has been posted on one of the notice boards and John McKee asked the Clerk to advertise the dates and times of the visits of the Library to Bruisyard in the newsletter

Eleanor Berwick asked for the date of the PCC's AGM to be advertised in the March issue of the newsletter, the clerk agreed to this.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:50

Report from Colin Hart, the District and County Councillor

The County Council have announced an increase in the Council Tax of 2.45% for the coming year. This is the lowest for a long time but this leaves a budget gap in both District and County Council's finances. There was a slight increase in the Central Government grant this year but there will be no further increase for the next 2-3 years.

Adult care is under pressure because of the increasing numbers of people in the area with dementia and an increasing number of them can no longer fund themselves. The Council is in discussions with the NHS as to the possibility of sharing with them the responsibility for funding these patients.

Local Government Review:- The Secretary of State, John Denham, took evidence from all parties up until 19th January and it was hoped he would give a quick decision. He hasn't and it is felt he is under no pressure to do so.

The District Council is committed to reducing cost by 20% without, it is hoped, reducing services. There are increasing costs from the recycling project, both capital and revenue based but the Council is continuing to roll out its three bin collection scheme.

They continue to expand sharing of services with Waveney District Council. Future areas for sharing services are IT and Tourism.

Eleanor Berwick brought up the alarming problem with the ambulance service in the area. There has been a reduction in the number of ambulances based in Saxmundham from 4 to 1 and as a consequence on asking for an ambulance to attend her husband at 1:00am for a heart attack there was no local vehicle and crew available and they had to come from Ipswich which took half an hour. The first responder did not attend either – it is known that the ambulance crews do not always call them out. Colin Hart said that this was an NHS matter and there was very little pressure he could put on them to improve the service. He suggested getting in touch with the new local Conservative candidate for MP as he is a medical doctor and briefing him on the problems she had.

Eleanor Berwick asked if collection points for batteries could be set up as they can no longer be disposed off in the none recycling bin and residents in the area are asked to take them to the recycling depot in Leiston. It was agreed that nobody will make a special journey to dispose of batteries as it is too far to go and some people do not make regular journeys in this direction. This will be looked into but there may be a health and safety issue with unsupervised battery collection points.

He was thanked for all his help in getting the village hall built – especially at the planning stage and for attending the meeting.

Pc Mary Thompson report:-

There has been no crime reported in Bruisyard in the last two months. There have been thefts of oil from tanks in Saxtead and Benhall Green. The pipe from the tank was cut to drain off the oil.

There are changes in the Police, the IT department is merging with Norfolk Police and collection centres for prisoners will be set up around the County. In the last year the Safer Neighbourhood teams have been set up and this structure will stay. The response officers for this area will be based in Halesworth instead of Leiston which should be an improvement and make them more central to the area.

Pc Thompson hopes to attend the Coffee Morning to give her a chance to meet local people. She left leaflets to leave in the village hall plus a holder for them. She was thanked for attending the meeting