

Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday, 17th March 2009, at 7.30pm in the Vestry, St Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Present: The Clerk, Peter Robinson (Chairman), John McKee, Shirley Smith, Margaret West, Jeremy Holland-Howes Oliver Hitchcock and Pc Mary Thompson

AGENDA

1) Apologies for absence:- Eleanor Berwick and County Councillor Colin Hart. Shirley Smith apologised for arriving late.

2) Minutes of the last meetings:- The minutes of the last meeting have already been circulated and read. Margaret West proposed that the minutes for the meeting held on 20th January 2009 be accepted and John McKee seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

3) Matters arising: – The Clerk was unable to attend the clerk's network day arranged by SALC

4) Village Hall Committee Report:- The village hall committee met once since the last Parish Council meeting on 25th February.

a) Update on funding:- Suffolk Environmental Trust informed us in February that the grant application has been successful and that an award of £27,325 has been approved. This grant will be used to pay for all of the electrical installation work in the village hall and to cover the EDF Energy Networks costs in moving the overhead power cables which cross the Parish Park where the village hall will be. Before this grant can be taken up a third party who will not benefit from the project has to pay Viridor, the waste disposal company 10% of the grant money.

At the end of February, we receive a cheque for £5000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation for the village hall. It was agreed that part of this money, £2,732.50 would be used as the 10% contribution from a third party to Viridor. The rest of this money will be put towards the costs of buying the fixtures and fittings for the hall. The application to the Garfield Weston Foundation was made through the Alde Community Council.

b) Signing of building contractor:- Sufficient funding had now been secured for the building work to start subject to the Big Lottery Fund approving the 'Starting your grant form' which was submitted to them at the end of February and it has been agreed with them the signing of the contract with the main contractors to build the hall can go ahead. This will be carried out on our behalf by Peter Robinson, the Chairman of Bruisyard Parish Council. John McKee proposed this was in order, Jeremy Holland-Howes seconded this proposal and all agreed.

c) Building start date:- The agreed date with the contractor for building work to start is 1st April but work on the car park may commence before that date to enable them to bring machinery onto the site before work starts. A leaflet is being prepared by John Gibb to distribute to all households in the village informing them of what to expect in the way of noise and disruption caused by the building work.

d) Letter requesting donations:- The draft of the letter, from the Chairman, to be sent to every household in the village has been circulated to the members. The draft was accepted by the Members and it will be printed out and distributed to every household in the village once construction starts.

Committee

e) Ground breaking event:- A ground-breaking ceremony has been arranged to take place on Saturday 21st March at 12 noon, in the park on the site of the village hall to mark the start of construction. Peter Robinson has been asked to cut the first sod in preparations for the

foundations. A drink will be provided to celebrate the occasion and it is hoped the press will be present at the ceremony.

5) Financial Matters:- a) The 10% third party contribution to Viridor to release the Suffolk Environmental Trust grant is to be met by the grant received from the Garfield Weston Trust. The cheque received from Garfield Weston was paid to the Alde Community Council as the local registered charity acting on behalf of Bruisyard Village Hall who then issued a cheque payable to the village hall. Unfortunately, the Alde Community Council failed to bank the cheque from Garfield Weston before their cheque was deposited into the village hall account resulting in the Alde Community Council cheque being rejected. Due to the urgency in getting the payment to Viridor to draw on the grant to pay EDF Energy Networks Ltd to move the power cables in the hall, David Smith made a loan of £2732.50 to the village hall account by immediate electronic transfer. Cheque No 001 from this account was then written out to Viridor and sent to Suffolk Environmental Trust but this was returned as the payment cannot be channelled through the benefiting party (Bruisyard Village Hall/Bruisyard Parish Council). A cheque, No 002 from the Village Hall account was written out to David Smith in repayment of the loan. Both of these cheques have been returned and cancelled.

b) To overcome the problem and avoid further delays, the 10% third party contribution to Viridor has been paid by SLA Partners Ltd which will not benefit from the project, a company owned by David Smith secretary of the Village Hall Committee, as a loan. David Smith is now owed the electronic payment of £2,732.50 and the £2,732.50 paid by his company as a cheque to Viridor making a total of £5465. Peter Robinson proposed he is paid £5465 in repayment of his loans and Margaret West seconded this proposal. All agreed and a cheque from the Barclays Village Hall account was duly written and signed for this amount.

c) Oliver Hitchcock proposed it was in order to have paid Greenacre Tree Care Services, on 25th February, £360 from the Barclays Parish Council account for the tree surgery carried out on the oak tree in the Park and Shirley Smith seconded this proposal. All agreed. A request from County Councillor Hart has been put forward for this amount to be granted to the Council from the locality budget and it should be issued in a few weeks.

d) The new village hall bank account with Barclays became active on 4th February. Proceeds from the wine tasting event and the grant from Garfield Weston Foundation, via Alde Community have been deposited in this account.

e) Charity donations:- Shirley Smith proposed that grants of £15 be paid to the following charities, Citizens Advice Bureau, the Disability Advice Service and Suffolk Accident and Rescue Service.

f) Annual audit review Richard Pawle carried out the internal audit for 2007/2008. This was carried out in good time to be sent to the external auditors. The Members were confident in the internal audit procedures and agreed that they arrangements should continue for the coming financial year. The external audit was signed off by BDO Stoy Hayward without comment.

Review of internal financial control:- The only change to the internal financial control in the last year is the opening of the Village Hall account with Barclays. This account will be used for any donations made to the village hall project and any fund raising carried out in aid of the project. The account will be used for the running of the hall once construction is completed. The members were satisfied the financial controls they have in place are fit for purpose. The clerk keeps the Members updated with the Councils finances at the bimonthly meetings and the budget for 2009/2010 was drawn up and agreed at the November meeting.

6) Park:- a) The clerk has contacted Suffolk Services Ltd asking for a quote to cut the grass for the coming year. They have not as yet responded. She will contact them again. It was agreed that the first cut should be carried out mid April.

b) The crown reduction of the oak tree in the Park was carried out on 18th February. This will have made it safe and prolonged its life

7) Fund raising and Use of Hall:- £180.10 was raised at the wine tasting event held in Cransford village hall on 18th February. There have been requests for other wine tastings to be held. The Clerk will approach the owners of The Clock House about the possibility of an event being held there in the summer, probably featuring sparkling wine.

8) Highways The Clerk contacted highways about damage caused to the roads by the recent floods. Two large pot holes developed by Bruisyard Hall Gates and Church Road was covered with silt and large flints deposited by the flood waters between the ford and the Church. Both these problems have been rectified. John McKee reported that the ditch by Kissingate Cottages is blocked and water runs down the road which freezes in cold weather causing hazardous conditions for road users.

9) Litter Pick 2009:- The annual litter pick has been fixed for 6th – 12th April and advertised in the Newsletter. Members agreed to pick litter in the area close to where they live. Rubbish has been dumped on the land at back of Rendham Road by tenants of Suffolk Heritage. John McKee will talk to the Council officer who comes to inspect the swings on Saturdays about the problem.

10) Bruisyard's School Catchment survey:- When the Education department was last approached about changing Bruisyard catchment area the Council was informed our children from the village should go to Peasenhall Primary School which means the children would then go to Saxmundham Middle School at the age of 9 under the existing 3 tier arrangement. At present only 17 children attend this primary school although it has the capacity for 50. Under the proposed 2 tier system this would increase to 70 available places taking the children through to 11 years old. They would then go to a new secondary school at Leiston. Thomas Mills High School is half the distance for children to travel to as Leiston High. The Members proposed that a questionnaire be sent to all households in the village with school age children using the first 3 questions from the education section of the parish plan plus a 4th question as to whether the Council should ask for the catchment area for Bruisyard should be changed to Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham. The Clerk will draw up list of household with children in village and Jeremy Holland-Howes will draft out the questionnaire ready for the next meeting.

11) Planning:- The alterations to the original plans approved for Plots 2 on Mill Lane has been granted permission. The owners of Plot 1 on Mill Lane have submitted plans for alterations to the approved plans which the planning subcommittee have examined and supported. The Clerk and Chairman had a meeting with a planning officer of Suffolk Coastal District Council to discuss the status of Bruisyard in the Settlement Hierarchy in the Local Development Framework (LDF). At present Bruisyard is listed as 'Other Villages' and any development in these villages will not be looked on favourably. This means Bruisyard will not be allowed any growth in the next 12 years until the next review of planning needs. The Officer suggested in the Councils response to the LDF we put forward arguments why Bruisyard should not be restricted and make a case for the village having aspirations to become a more active place with local services being developed within the village. This will be enabled by building of the village hall.

The Clerk drew up a response to the consultation LDF which was approved by the Chairman before being submitted to Suffolk Coastal District Council.

12) Occupancy of rented housing in the village:- It has been brought to the notice of Members of the Council that the tenant of 4 Vicarages Cottages is rarely in residence there. This cottage is owned by the housing association Flagship, formally Suffolk Heritage and it has been suggested that a housing association house should not be occupied on such a part time basis. This situation was discussed by the Members but it was agreed that there was not enough information for any action to be taken.

13) Date of next meeting:- The AGM will be held on 12th May following the Parish Meeting which will start at 7:00 pm

14) Miscellaneous Items

Two dates have been suggested for the Coffee Caravan to visit Bruisyard, 9th June and 11th August. The members agreed these dates were convenient. John McKee reported that there have been two deaths recently in the village, Kenny Warne in February and Eric Peck who was born in the village this last week aged 78.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20 and thanked the PCC for the use of Vestry.

Pc Mary Thompson report

The Chairman welcomed the Community Support Officer, Pc Mary Thompson and invited her to speak to the members.

Pc Thompson thanked the members for the invitation to attend the PC meeting as she found it a valuable opportunity to meet members of the village. She will attend the 'Ground-breaking Ceremony' on Saturday 21st March and try and attend other functions held in the village in future.

There have been no crimes in Bruisyard since January but there was a spate of crime in November last year. On the first occasion a wheel jack was stolen from one premises and then using this, a wheel was stolen from a vehicle at Bridge works. This was then dumped just up the road and later retrieved. Later in November a spare wheel was stole from another vehicle but this has not been recovered. These thefts have not been solved and it is hoped that there are no more incidents similar in nature.

Pc Thompson is in touch with the villages Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, David Barham. She is happy for anybody to contact her concerning any worries the members of the public may have about crime prevention and she has contacts with agencies which would be able to help elderly residents with problems such as securing a door.

County and District Councillor Colin Hart sent a report to the Members:-

He was delighted to hear that the village hall plans are about to be put into action and offered his congratulations to all who have been involved and contributed so much time and effort.

He has applied for funding of the oak tree works from the locality budget. This should be approved in the next few weeks.

Council Tax

The County Council's tax rate will be increased by 2.45% and the District Council by 2.9%. With the increase in the tax for the police of about 4%, it will mean about 3% all-round. Both councils have made significant cost savings. The increase in tax is mainly due to pay increases which are negotiated nationally and to increasing demand for council services as a result of the recession.

Local Government Review

The Secretary of State has now instructed the Boundary Committee to carry out further consultation. As a result it is unlikely there will be a final decision before the autumn, which leaves very little time to implement any form of unitary local government in Suffolk before the general election.

This muddled situation is causing some paralysis in decision-making in both councils. For example, in his own areas of responsibility on the district council they cannot take any sensible decisions on future investment in IT systems until they know their fate. On the other hand the District Council is pressing ahead with economic regeneration plans (using money received from central government).

Elections

It has now been confirmed that County Council elections will take place this year on June 4th, the same date as the European elections.