

Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING and AGM held on Tuesday, 15th May 2007, at 7.30 in the Vestry, St Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Present: The Clerk, Mr Peter Robinson, Mrs Shirley Smith, Mr Jeremy Holland-Howes, Mr John McKee and Mrs Margaret West.

AGENDA

1) Election of Chairman:- Peter Robinson asked the members for nominations for Chairman. Shirley Smith proposed that Peter Robinson be elected Chairman. John McKee seconded this proposal and all agreed. Peter Robinson was duly elected Chairman and took the chair. The Chairman asked the members for nominations for Deputy Chairman. Margaret West proposed that Shirley Smith be elected Deputy Chairman. Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed. Shirley Smith was duly elected Deputy Chairman.

2) Apologies for absence:- Apologies have been received from Oliver Hitchcock, District and County Councillor Colin Hart and Pc Beckwith.

3) Minutes of the last meetings:- The minutes of the last meetings had been already circulated and read. John McKee proposed that the minutes for the meeting held on 20th March 2007 be accepted and Jeremy Holland-Howes seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

4) Matters arising:- Peter Robinson, Eleanor Berwick and Shirley Smith met on 23rd March to consider the Local Development Framework consultation. Their views were compiled by the Clerk and circulated to the rest of the Members for consideration before completing the consultation document online.

The Clerk has given the Highways Department Mr and Mrs Scrivener's contact details in order to have the blocked ditch on their land cleared.

5) Allocating Members to serve on subcommittees:- Peter Robinson, Margaret West, Jeremy Holland-Howes and Shirley Smith agreed to sit on the planning sub-committee. Peter Robinson and John McKee agreed to sit on the village hall committee.

6) Co-option of 7th Councillor:- Eleanor Berwick has agreed to service as a Councillor. John McKee proposed she should be co-opted onto the Council. Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed. The Clerk will contact Eleanor Berwick and inform her of the Council's decision.

7) Planning Matters :- a) Permission has been granted to build a garage and store at The Stables, Church Road.

b) Permission has been granted for the revised scheme for conversion of barns to a function suite at Hall Farm, Hall Road.

8) Unitary Ipswich:- Ipswich Borough Council's bid to become a unitary Council has been short listed by the government. Ipswich has no Councillor sitting on the cabinet of the County Council so all decisions about Ipswich are made by Councillors living outside the town. They believe that becoming a unitary council will not increase council tax but lead to a more efficient way of delivering services for the residents of Ipswich. The County Council takes the view that creating a unitary Council for Ipswich will be too

costly and less efficient way of delivering services with the town and the rest of the County being too interdependent to split into two authorities. The Chairman expressed his sympathy for Ipswich's lack of representation on the County Council's cabinet. Information will be circulated around the members and they will send their views directly to the two authorities involved.

9) Affordable Housing Survey:- Nigel Brett of Suffolk Acre, the Housing enablement Officer, has contacted the Clerk offering to help the Council carry out a housing needs survey. Suffolk Acre provides advice, data input and analysis of the feedback free of charge but there will be a cost of £35 to £45 for the forms and stationary printing. The Parish Council will need to provide a covering letter explaining the need for the survey and organize the delivery and collection of the survey forms.

It was agreed to take up the offer of help to carry out the survey but delay the implementation until November when the pressure of the village hall application to the planning authorities and stage two of the Big Lottery Community Building Fund application has been completed. The Clerk will communicate the Councils decision to Nigel Brett.

10) Financial Matters:- a) The Clerk has received two quotes for insurance for the year 2007/2008. Allianz Cornhill came in at £306.48 and Suffolk Acre at £229.75. Neither of these quotes covered all the Councils assets but the Clerk estimated another £20 premium on top of the Suffolk Acre quote would mean all assets were covered for a very competitive price. Peter Robinson proposed that the Clerk should ask Suffolk Acre for a revised quote covering all assets and then write a cheque and arrange for signatures for the pro rata amount due to cover the Council between June 1st 2007 to September 30th 2007 with the full years premium due in September. Margaret West seconded this proposal and all agreed.

b) Shirley Smith proposed that the sum of £97 be paid to SALC for the subscription for 2007/2008. Margaret West seconded this proposal and all were in favour. A cheque was duly written and signed for payment.

c) A letter of thanks has been received from Disability Advice Service for the donation the Council granted them at their last meeting.

Ken Goddard sent a letter of thanks for the donation sent to Alde Community Council first Responders at the last meeting.

Victim Support has asked the Council for Financial support but it was agreed the Council's finances could not support this request.

d) The financial report for 2005/2006 had already been circulated and studied. The value of the items listed in the supporting statement had been increased to the replacement and insurance values. Jeremy Holland-Howes proposed that the financial report be accepted and Shirley Smith seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

e) Margaret West proposed that paying Essex and Suffolk Water £16.92 on 14th May 2007 was in order. John McKee seconded this proposal and all agreed.

f) Enquires to the Big Lottery revealed that the Council did not require a dedicated village hall account as invoices will be forwarded to the Lottery and the required amount will be forwarded to the Council. This system can be executed with the present account. John McKee proposed that the cheque to open the account at the last meeting be cancelled. Shirley Smith seconded this proposal and all agreed.

The Clerk will collect signatures and documents from the Members to open an Abbey Business account with John McKee, Peter Robinson, Shirley Smith, Margaret West, Jeremy Holland Howes and Eleanor Berwick as signatories.

g) Shirley Smith proposed the Council reimburse Peter Robinson £8.85 for the three padlocks he purchased to secure the picnic tables in the Park. Jeremy Holland-Howes seconded this proposal and all agreed. A cheque was duly written and signed.

11) Report from the Village Hall Committee:- There have been two meetings of the committee since the last Council Meeting

Robert Smith, the appointed architect, has drawn up plans for inspection at the consultation barbeque to be held in the Parish Park in June in order to gather the views of Bruisyard residents on the design or comments can be made on the website if they cannot attend.

The hall will be designed to be environmentally sustainable with low running costs to make it an economically usable facility. Plans will be submitted to the planning department at Suffolk Coastal by August and the stage two application to the Big Lottery by the end of November.

Sharon McMullan has offered to make a stained glass window for the hall and this will be incorporated into the design. Ideas for the subject of the window are requested by the artist. The committee is also looking for user groups for the hall and ideas for its use.

The final design of the hall will be drawn up by Robert Smith taking into account the comments submitted at the consultation barbeque with further meetings of the committee to confirm that the design brief has been met.

12) Parish Park:- John McKee reported that a willow tree in the Park has split and collapsed. He volunteered to trim it up.

13) Model Code of Conduct:- A new Code of Conduct comes into force on 3rd of May 2007 and the Council has 6 months from that date to adopt it. The code will be studied in the next two months by the Members and then adopted at the next meeting. The Clerk will prepare forms for the Register of Member Interests and distribute them ready to be signed at the next meeting. Until the new code is adopted the Members will be working under the existing Code of Conduct. As there are no new members of the Council the Clerk will inform the monitoring officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council the register of members' interest remains unchanged.

14) Dates of Parish Council Meetings:- Parish Council meetings will be held on the following dates:- 17th July, 18th September, 13th November, 22nd January 2007, 18th March and the AGM and Parish Meeting on 13th May.

13) Any Other Business:- Sue Williams has requested help with the rota to water the flowers in the Park. A notice will be put in the next newsletter.

Colin Hart sent a report as he was unable to attend in person. He was delighted to be returned as District Council member for the Hacheston Ward.

For both District and County Councils the dominant issue is finance with inadequate government funding to rural authorities in the south of England.

The increase in District council tax is just 3% and the County Council tax rise is 4.5%. Savings and efficiencies have been made in both Councils without the cuts in services through better ways of working. The County Council are likely to move to a model where they commission services rather than deliver them themselves. Discussions have begun with staff and unions as there is likely to be a substantial reduction in the number of people directly employed by the County. He wishes to be satisfied that the changes will deliver worthwhile savings but still deliver acceptable levels of service,

At March's County Council meeting the members voted to move to an all two-tier system of schooling in Suffolk. The policy development panel that examined the issue was unanimous in recommending a change to two-tier education system. The teachers, parents and children affected by the changes have real concerns and changes must be carried out with the minimum disruption to the children's education.

He finished by saying how much he has enjoyed working with Bruisyard PC and has seen the hard work put in by the members on behalf of the village. He looks forward to working with the PC in the future.

Pc Trudie Beckwith was unable to attend the meeting so sent a brief report. Although there was not a lot to report for Bruisyard she wanted to stimulate attention to security by asking people to lock doors, windows, sheds, cars, etc and to report anyone suspicious hanging around or knocking on doors.

The safer neighbourhood team was launched on Saturday 21st April in Framlingham with Sgt 802 Tony Watts in charge. She looks after 15 parishes and will visit each one as regularly as possible. She gave an invitation to contact her with any problems.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:15 and thanked the PCC for the use of Vestry.