

**Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Monday 17 March 2014, at 7.30pm in the Bruisyard Village Hall.**

Present: John Marten, Anne Smith, Stephen Stow, John McKee, Peter Robinson, Thelma Barham, The Clerk

AGENDA

- 1. Public Participation:** Maria Langlois has addressed the Council with the questions: Who sets the agenda? Who does the weed killing? Can grass cutting be done by pay community? Why was her name mentioned on the minutes and other names were not mentioned?
- 2. Apologies for absence:** James Ingmire. Absent: None.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting:** Nothing to report.
- 4. Matter arising:** Potholes at the bottom of Hill Top Farm have been filled. Hedge cutting quote for 2013 has been a bit high so it has been decided to approach other contractors for the quote for hedge cutting.
- 5. Village Hall Committee Report:**

John McKee reported that Village Hall is doing nicely. Fire shutter on the hatch has been replaced. CCTV camera has been burnt out by the power surge. Peter Robinson has put a claim in with the insurance company and currently waiting to hear back from them. We should get a couple of quotes for heat pumps. Stephen Stow suggested the company he used.
- 6. Financial Matters:**

John McKee proposed that financial transactions a) to g) are in order and Stephen Stow seconded the proposal.

 - a) To have paid E-on £195.06
 - b) To have paid T Mckee £20.00 for cleaning
 - c) To have paid T Mckee £30.00 for cleaning
 - d) To have paid J Marten £35.49 for film
 - e) To have paid E-ON £102.70
 - f) To have paid A O'Keefe £90.00
 - g) To have paid Anglian Security & Fire £204.00
- 7. Park and dog bins:**

Dog bin situation is being reviewed at every meeting. Perhaps we don't need them at the moment. We should put up signs instead that read 'No Dogs in the Park'. We should also make the parents and the children aware of the river in the Village hall park. 'Beware of the River' and 'Children should be supervised at all times'. We should do the signs when the new play area has been installed. If we

do go for the bins we should have one on the corner of Mill Lane and another one by telegraph pole and notice board.

8. Flooding at Low Road:

It has been mentioned to Councillor Burroughes who is going to see if he can do something about it.

9. Grass cutting:

John Marten has been left the room and has been asked to fill in the declaration of interest book in relation to his quote for grass cutting. The Council reviewed quotes from Johan Marten and .../ John Marten's quote is cheaper. Peter Robinson proposed to accept John's quote and award him the contract for 2014-2015. All voted unanimously in favour. John Marten has been asked to return to the room.

10. Parish park:

The Clerk will apply for funding for the play area as soon as possible. The Clerk will fill in the necessary forms and ask Anne Smith for assistance if necessary.

11. Play area:

We are going ahead with putting up some play equipment. No planning permission is required. The Council has £5000.00 we can out up for the project: £3000 from Play scheme and £2000.00 from Social Amenities Club. Clerk to apply to Awards for All for some funding. Flagship Housing might also have some money.

12. Date of the next meeting: Annual parish meeting - Monday 12 May at 7.00pm.
AGM at 7.30pm

13. Any other business:

Hedge at Flagship Housing houses is too overgrown, you cannot see the road from the right and you have to break rather heavily if there is an oncoming car. Flagship Housing are supposed to keep it trimmed.

Anne Smith to put a note in the newsletter that Parish Council did not ask for precept increase in 2014-2015.

Councilor Stephen Burroughes has attended the meeting and delivered the following reports:

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT March 2014

- **EXTRA BROADBAND FUNDING CONFIRMED FOR SUFFOLK**

Suffolk is being given an extra £5million from the government to help make high-speed fibre broadband available to the hardest-to-reach communities.

Last month's announcement means that the Better Broadband for Suffolk programme, currently working to make superfast speeds (24 megabits per second (mbps) or more) available to 85% of the county, can start working towards a higher coverage target of up to 95%. At present, all properties in Suffolk have been promised speeds of at least 2 mbps by the end of 2015. In January 2014, SCC announced that it was inviting potential suppliers to discuss how they could deliver the additional work. A 'mini-competition' - separate to the current Better Broadband for Suffolk contract with BT - is now underway to identify a suitable supplier. The aim will be to complete the tendering process by the summer of 2014, and for works to start by the end of 2014 - in parallel with the on-going Better Broadband for Suffolk programme.

We have already promised at least 2mbps across all of Suffolk by the end of 2015. This extra funding will ensure that genuine super-fast speeds are available to more of Suffolk's hardest-to-reach communities.

- **SCC DELIVERS ON COUNCIL TAX FREEZE PLEDGE**

Suffolk's portion of council tax will be frozen at its 2010/11 level for the fourth year in a row, after the council voted through its budget proposals for 2014/15.

The council will be saving £38.6million over the next year to meet a budget gap caused by on-going reductions in government grant and increased demand for services. This is the first part of plans to save £156million over four years. Despite the tough financial climate, the council will be pushing ahead with important projects, such as 'Raising the Bar (driving up attainment levels in education), the roll-out of super-fast broadband across the whole of Suffolk, investing in apprenticeships, and supporting the development of 10 new, state-of-the-art care homes for older people. At the same time, the road maintenance budget - used for fixing potholes - has been protected from cuts. With plans to freeze council tax each year up to 2017, this will mean seven years with no increase. Keeping council tax down is the best way we can help people across Suffolk struggling to balance their budgets. We will continue to balance our books, manage money effectively and put Suffolk's tax payers first.

- **EMPLOYERS IN SUFFOLK URGED TO USE APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING**

Suffolk County Council, in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service, is offering £1,500 to employers who employ 16-24 year-olds through the Apprenticeship programme.

While the number of apprenticeships on offer in Suffolk is rising, demand still outstrips supply, with an average ratio of eight applicants to every vacancy. Apprenticeships are becoming the route of choice for talented young people and there has never been a better

time for employers to take advantage of this talent to help grow their business. Any business that has fewer than 1,000 employees and hasn't had an apprentice within the last 12 months could be eligible for the grant. Young people aged 16 - 24 are eligible under the scheme. To find out how to take advantage of these opportunities please contact the Apprenticeships Team on 01473 260922 or email at apprenticeships@suffolk.gov.uk

Improving the training opportunities for young people in Suffolk is vital for our long-term future. Apprenticeships are good for young people, good for the businesses and good for Suffolk and we are delighted to support this scheme.

- **SUFFOLK AWARDED FOR NATIONAL CARE2WORK PROGRAMME**

Suffolk has been recognised for its work on a national scheme which aims to improve the employability for young people leaving care.

Care2Work is a national programme funded by the government and carried out in partnership involving local authorities. Its aim is to ensure that the issue of employability is firmly on the corporate-parenting agenda, and so improve chances for all care leavers in making a success of their lives. The county council, in partnership with the Leaving Care service, was awarded the Care2Work Quality Mark, which recognises best practice and is awarded to local authorities and employers who demonstrate their commitment to building the employability skills of children in care and care leavers. Alongside work experience placements, young people are encouraged to complete the Route to Employment accredited learning which is internally assessed and verified and gives the young person a nationally recognised qualification.

We have a duty to support vulnerable people young and old. When young people leave care it is important we do all we can to help them secure a secure, long-term future in work, and this award is vindication of our efforts to achieve this.

- **RESIDENTS SET TO RECEIVE NEW TRAVEL BUS PASSES**

The deadline is approaching for the renewal of travel passes, and SCC Passenger Transport is urging residents to take time to note the renewal process for free-travel bus passes or travel vouchers that expire on 31 March 2014.

Residents with an age-related pass will automatically receive a new one without the need to complete any forms. Pass holders will this receive before 31 March 2014. Disabled-persons pass holders who qualify as a result of a disability which means they are unable to obtain a driving licence or have a long term effect on their ability to walk will have received a renewal form to complete. All other Disabled-persons pass holders will receive their new pass automatically before 31 March 2014. Residents who do not receive their new pass are urged to call the information line on 0845 6000659 after 31 March 2014. As an alternative to free travel passes, the council offers a benefit to those living in remote areas or with severe disability in the form of travel vouchers that can be

used towards the cost of community transport, taxis or private hire vehicles. Travel voucher-holders will have received a renewal form, also for completion before 31st March 2014. Alternatively residents can opt to renew their vouchers online at: <http://www.suffolkonboard.com/concessionary-travel>

We are determined to help people stay connected and remain independent. We know that travel passes are a key part of this and we urge those who are entitled to them to fill in their renewal form as soon as possible.

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL March 2014

- **DISTRICT MOVING FORWARD WITH BOUNDARY CHANGES**

Suffolk Coastal has submitted its proposals for the new warding arrangements and the reduction of Councillors from 55 to 42 to the Boundary Commission for its approval. A review had to take place in order to equalise the amount of 'electors' per District Council 'Ward' and Suffolk Coastal have put in their suggestions for the Boundary Commission to study. Reducing the number of councillors will save money and more fully engage councillors in the day to day running of the council.

- **SUFFOLK COASTAL MAY MOVE TO NEW HQ**

A move to new offices is being considered by Suffolk Coastal Councillors. The current HQ in Melton are becoming costly to run, are not particularly accessible and not 'fit for purpose'.

Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet are looking at options to see if a move to new premises is possible and how to make it happen without putting any cost onto the council tax payer.

- **NEW LOCAL ENABLING BUDGET FOR COASTAL AREA**

A new community enabling budget is being introduced across Suffolk Coastal District to help promote the core aims of the council, i.e., protecting the environment, promoting healthier lives, and increasing physical involvement of young people. It is seen as a way to significantly help promote active community involvement and applications for funding can be made to your District Councillor setting out the nature of the scheme, how it will be of benefit to your community, and how it will be delivered sustainably.

The County Council already operates a successful 'Locality' Scheme, which is vital in the Council's objective of supporting communities financially.

For further information please visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or email me at stephen.burroughes@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45.