

**Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2010, at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Rendham Road, Bruisyard Street.**

**Present:** The Clerk, Peter Robinson (Chairman), Eleanor Berwick, John McKee, Sonia Richards, John Marten and Jeremy Holland-Howes.

AGENDA

The Chairman welcomed John Marten as a Member of the Parish Council

**1) Apologies for absence:-** James Ingmire.

**2) Minutes of the last meetings:-** The minutes of the last meeting have already been circulated and read. John McKee proposed that the minutes for the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2010 be accepted and Sonia Richards seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

**3) Matters arising:-** The Clerk contacted Nightingales of Beccles who run the 121 bus service to the village and asked for the bus stop to be changed from the Old Forge to Rendham Road. She was informed that the drivers will be happy to stop anywhere if they are hailed to stop. It was agreed with Nightingales that stopping at the Rendham Road spur when going east and the village hall car park when going west would be the safest option.

Clerk contacted Gary Lowe of NPS, managers of Suffolk Coastal owned land concerning the land next to Vicarage Cottages. They have had difficulty contacting the tenant of 4 Vicarage Cottages who claims tenancy of the land although no agreement has ever been signed with her. The area has a large number of discarded items including cars, a trailer, washing machines and bikes although these are not visible from the road. The land also is covered in weeds including nettles and ragwort. At present the land has insufficient value for the District Council to pursue the tenant with the law. The Chairman will write a letter to Garry Lowe with the above details asking him to take up the matter with Suffolk Coastal District Council and press them to take action to get the land cleaned up.

There has been no response to the appeal for a new editor for the newsletter and the clerk continues to carry out this duty. Anji Hart of Rendham is looking into the cost of producing a joint Sweffling, Rendham, Bruisyard newsletter to be published every other month and replace the Bridge magazine for all secular activities in the villages. The estimated cost to Bruisyard would be in the region of £130 a year. The Council will consider the proposal when more definite plans have been drawn up for a new magazine.

**4) Village Hall Committee Report:-** Since the last Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July, the village hall committee have met three times, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2<sup>nd</sup> August and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**a) Construction update and update on funding:-** A grant of £4423 from the Big Lottery 'Awards for All' scheme was received on 20 August. This grant is for the construction of a storage shed measuring 4.8m by 2.5m on the north side of the village hall. The contract for building the shed has been awarded to Simmons Builders Ltd and work started in late August. The shed is scheduled for completion by the end of September.

A grant application of £1630 was submitted to the SCDC Playspace scheme on 10 August. This grant is for the construction of a concrete path from the hall entrance to the storage shed. The grant requested is below the amount in the Playspace budget attributable to Bruisyard development payments (ie. £2314) and hence should not be an issue for Rendham or Sweffling PCs. A decision is still awaited from SCDC but hopefully will be received within the next week.

The 6 month maintenance period agreed under the contract to build the hall is now over and the final payment certificate has been received from the architect (Robert Smith). The final invoice should be received from Simmons in the next few days. This invoice will be for £6123 (2.5% retention of the contract value) plus £71.49 plus VAT for fitting the coir mat in the hall lobby. This invoice is covered by the final grant payment received from the Big Lottery Fund in June.

**5) Financial Matters:-** John Marten declared his prejudicial interest in item 5 a) and signed the register of interests book and withdrew from the meeting.

a) Payment to John Marten:- John McKee proposed that it was in order to have paid on 9th August from Barclays Parish Council current account £60 for two cuts of grass in July and on 9th September £60 for two cuts in August. Eleanor Berwick seconded this proposal all agreed. John Marten returned to the meeting.

b) Payment to Children's Hospice and the Treehouse Appeal:- Paid from Barclays Parish Council current account £72.50 to the Children's Hospice and £75 to the Treehouse Appeal on 5th August – proceeds of £147.25 from fund raising afternoon tea held on 25th July.

c) Payment to BDO LLP:- Paid from Barclays Parish Council current account on 19th August £1,028.13 including VAT for the external audit.

d) David Smith repayment:- Paid from Barclays Village Hall account £148.81 on 17 July, £425.65 on 26 July and £277.08 on 2 August for bar stocks purchased from Makro.

e) David Smith repayment for Alliance Online invoice:- Paid from Barclays Village Hall account £137.20 on 29 July for cups and saucers, electric insect controller and dishwasher detergent.

f) John Gibb repayment:- Paid £60.45 from Barclays Village Hall account on 3 August for East Anglian Times photos of Hall opening (£17.45) and a silver commemorative spoon presented to Charlie Wheelan for opening the Hall (£43).

g) Payment to EDF Energy:- Paid from Barclays Village Hall account £117.04 on 21 August for electricity supply for the hall.

h) To pay Suffolk Acre Services £302.31 from Barclays Parish Council current account for the Parish Council insurance and £497.27 from Barclays Village Hall account for the Village Hall insurance cover to start 1st October

i) To pay Robert Rous for Car Park Rent:- Pay £10 from Barclays Village Hall account

j) To pay Simmons Builder Ltd:- To pay on presentation of an invoice £6,123.08 plus £71.49 for coir mat at entrance of hall from Santander Reserve account as final payment on the completion of the maintenance period.

Sonia Richard proposed that the financial transactions 5 b) to 5 j) were in order and Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed. Cheques from the Barclays Village Hall account were duly written to Robert Rous for rental and Suffolk Acre Services for village hall insurance and a cheque from the Barclays Parish Council current account to Suffolk Acre Services for Council insurance.

Eleanor Berwick proposed the external audit be accepted by the Council, Jeremy Holland-Howes seconded the proposal and all agreed. The completion of audit has been advertised on the notice board.

**6) Park a)** The grass was cut twice in August and is due to be cut again. There is a heavy weed problem in the grass in the car park area and around the edges of the Park. John Marten withdrew for the vote. Eleanor Berwick proposed that selective weed killer be applied to all necessary areas at a cost of £25 and Peter Robinson seconded this proposal, all agreed. John Marten will be asked to carry out the appropriate spraying.

**b) Children's play area:** John Marten assisted by Jeremy Holland-Howes will form a sub committee, co-opting interested members of the village from outside the Council to draw up the

plans for the play area and source funding to complete the project. The sub committee will report back to the Members of the Council at full meetings. Work has already started on sourcing play equipment to cater for all age groups.

**7) Coming events:-** It was agreed to hold a 'Wines for Christmas' wine tasting event on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November. Planning and details will be organised closer to the time, Eleanor Berwick will take the lead on this.

**8) Road Names in Bruisyard:-** The map of Bruisyard has been studied by the Members and no alternative names for the roads in Bruisyard are known. The Clerk will return the map to Suffolk Coastal District Council as requested.

**9) SALC public service survey:-** A survey compiled by SALC on public services – Police, Suffolk NHS, Suffolk County Council, District Council, External Auditor, Media and own Council was completed by Members and will be returned by the Clerk.

**10) Village Physical Limit Boundaries:-** It was agreed that it was logical to remove the Church and churchyard from the village envelope. The Members also approved the extension of the boundary to include all the gardens of properties in Church Road and Mill Lane. It was agreed to request the boundary on Mill Lane be extended to include the land at the side of The Lodge that abutted the highway and Foxhill.

Bruisyard has been classed as a 'Local Service Centre' in the latest Local Development Framework – Interim Planning Policy dated June 2010. This allows for infill development within the envelope.

The Members agreed that there should be an envelope for the Bruisyard Street area of the village as this is where all the services for the village are sited. The Clerk will contact Rachel Knights, Planning policy officer at Suffolk Coastal District Council to raise the above points with her and press for an envelope for Bruisyard Street.

**11) Saxmundham Free School:-** A group called the Fromus Valley Educational Trust has been formed with the intention of applying to open an 11-16 years Community High School in Saxmundham in September 2012 occupying the Seaman Avenue site, currently used by Saxmundham Middle School. John Fisher the chair of the trust would have liked to come and talk to the Council but unfortunately had a previous engagement for the evening. The Members of the Council support this initiative and the Clerk will email the chairman to this effect and ask to be kept informed of the projects progress.

**12) Council Tax Referendums:-** The Government is consulting on the possibility of making local government more responsive to the people they serve, they would be able to demand a local referendum to veto excessive Council Tax increases, including precepts. SALC has raised concerns about this proposed policy as it will restrict parish councils from raising funds for specific projects through the precept. The proposed policy will protect small parishes such as Bruisyard from being caught by the referendum trap, when they raise the precept by a small monetary amount which would result in a large percentage rise in precept. The government has not given any indication as to what the de minimus level would be. SALC's view is that there should be consultation with the electorate at the budget setting stage of the process and not the disruptive and costly referendum route which would take place after the precept has been set and the first instalment of precept paid by the District Councils.

**13) Date of next meeting:-** The next meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November

**14) Miscellaneous Items:-**

Jeremy Holland-Howes received on 24<sup>th</sup> August an email from the Education Department apologising for the delay in replying but they are now gathering information to assess the request from Bruisyard to move its schools catchment area to Framlingham. They promised further information in 2 weeks but there has been no more communication from them as yet.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10:00pm.