

**Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday, 15th
November 2010, at 7.30pm in Bruisyard Village Hall.**

Present: The Clerk, Peter Robinson (Chairman), Eleanor Berwick, James Ingmire, John Marten and Jeremy Holland-Howes.

AGENDA

1) Apologies for absence:- from John McKee, Sonia Richards, and District and County Councillor Colin Hart.

2) Minutes of the last meetings:- The minutes of the last meeting had already been circulated and read. John Marten proposed that the minutes for the meeting held on 13th September 2010 be accepted and Eleanor Berwick seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

3) Matters arising:- John Marten decided in late September that it was too late in the year to carry out the spraying with the selective weed killer and it would be more beneficial in the spring. The Clerk returned the Parish's road map with street names to Suffolk Coastal District Council. No amendments were necessary

4) Village Hall Committee Report:- Since the last Parish Council meeting on 13th September, the village hall committee have met twice, 27th September and 20th October 2010.

a) Construction update and update on funding:- The shed has been completed and is now in use. The grant application of £1630 has been awarded from the SCDC Playspace scheme and 50% of it was received on 21st September, the balance will be awarded on inspection of the completed project.

The pathway to the shed has to be completed as yet and a quotation for the lighting associated with the shed has come in at £395 and this will be considered at the next meeting.

The Parish Council were reported to the Planning authorities for building the shed without planning permission and the Planning Department had contacted the Council concerning this matter. The Secretary of the Village Hall Committee had consulted the Planning Department before the contract to build the shed was awarded and was informed that permission was not necessary for the size of external shed being built. On examining their records Suffolk Coastal retracted their objection, confirmed that planning permission was not and never had been needed and apologised for any inconvenience caused. The Council noted that it was regrettable that this objection has been raised to the Planning Department without contacting the Parish Council in the first instance thereby avoiding the unnecessary expense incurred by SCDC.

Blackout blinds for the windows are being considered to enable film shows in the hall at any time of the year. Quotes for blinds will be obtained from at least 3 companies in the New Year.

5) Park:- a) Ground maintenance for 2011

The clerk has had a complaint about the first damson tree by the double gates into the park; it has broken branches and the three trunks are falling away from each other. The tree warden has been consulted and his recommendation is that the tree be taken down and the adjacent trees pruned back to a good shape and out of the way of the contractor cutting the grass. This recommendation will be acted on by the Council and a working party arranged to carry out the work before the spring. The other tree causing problems for the contractor is the small oak tree

by the fencing as the lower branches also interfere with grass cutting. This will be pruned at the same time.

John Marten has drawn up a plan of action and quote for the maintenance of the Park and the car park for the coming year. This was used as a basis for discussion on the necessary maintenance of these areas and the associated finances.

The members thanked John McKee for the grass cutting he has carried out at the front of the hall this year. He has expressed a wish to continue to cut this area of the park in 2011 and the Members will take him up on his generous offer. If he is unable, for some reason to cut the grass at appropriate times the contractor will be asked to carry out a cut in this area for an agreed price. Peter Robinson will liaise between John McKee and the Contractor for the cutting of this area.

The maintenance of the area of grass from the beginning of the slope by the hall to the river will remain the responsibility of the Parish Council, together with the grass cutting of the Pound. It will require 10 – 13 cuts a year by the contractor at an estimated cost of £30. The grass around the hall, which requires extra attention and the car park area will be the responsibility of the Village Hall. A program of weed killing will also be carried out when necessary by the contractor and a complete herbicide used around the walls of the hall as the use of a strimmer against the building may damage the brick work.

As it will be more convenient and cost effective to combine the two responsibilities into one invoice for the ground maintenance it was agreed that one third will be paid for by the Village Hall and the Parish Council will pay the other 2/3. This arrangement will mean the cost of grass cutting to the Parish Council will remain about the same as in previous years.

6) 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:- James Ingmire proposed that £150 be paid for grass cutting for September, October and November from Barclays Parish Council current account and Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed. A cheque was duly written and signed.

b) Refund of deposit for hiring of the Village Hall to Emma Kearey of £50 and refund of deposit of £29 to Sheila Laine. Paid from Barclays Village Hall account

c) David Smith repayment:- Paid from Barclays Village Hall account £148.85 on 23 September and £165.87 on 2 November for bar stocks purchased from Makro

d) Transfer of £815 from the Parish Council Barclays current account to Barclays Village Hall account on 23 September. A grant from SCDC paid into wrong account.

e) David Smith repayment for Bridges and Garrards invoice:- Paid from Barclays Village Hall account £96 on 20 September for roasting dishes.

f) Paid to Suffolk Coastal District Council £70 from Barclays Village Hall account to cover the licence fee on the Village Hall on 4 November.

g) To pay Suffolk Coastal District Council £40.54 from Barclays Parish Council account for the Licence for use of land at Rendham road

h) Paid Simmons Builders Ltd from the Santander Reserve account on 23 September £6,123.08 as final payment and £71.49 + VAT (£84) for the coir entrance mat. On 29 October paid them from the same account £4,423 for building the shed plus £141 for the replacement of the broken entrance door window.

James Ingmire proposed that financial transaction b) to h) where in order and Jeremy Holland-Howes seconded this proposal and all agreed Cheque for SCDC was duly written and signed

i) The proposed budget for 2011/2012 was prepared and circulated by the Clerk before the meeting. The Members accepted the budget and Peter Robinson proposed that the precept be

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raised by £100 to £1800 in order to maintain the Councils finances in light of there being election expenses in the coming financial year. John Marten seconded the proposal and all agreed.

j) Paid Essex and Suffolk Water £95.18 from Barclays Village Hall account on 15th November. Eleanor Berwick proposed that it was in order to have paid this invoice and Jeremy Holland-Howes seconded the proposal; all agreed.

7) Coming events:- ‘Wines for Christmas’ wine tasting event on Friday 26th November. Eleanor Berwick has all the arrangements for the event in hand and all 42 tickets are sold.

8) Children’s play area committee report

The committee have consulted with 4 companies who have submitted quotes and designs. The sub-committee members agreed that the best value for money and most efficient company is Creative Play. Their design includes a 4 tower linked climbing frame with a slide from one tower, a tractor, also with a slide, for younger children, two spring riders, a see-saw and a spinning bowl. Concerns were expressed by Jeremy Holland-Howes about the inclusion of the telegraph pole in the play area and suggested that it should be an L shape play area in order to exclude the pole. All agreed and if necessary the young children’s items could be installed at the other side of the basket ball court. Eleanor Berwick proposed that the Council use the quote of £32,147 plus VAT from Creative Play to apply for funding to build a play area. Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed. Conrad Wheelan will liaise with David Smith concerning putting in applications into appropriate bodies to raise funds.

9) School catchment area :- Jeremy Holland Howes has received a reply from Jan Scott [Senior Education Officer] regarding the catchment area schools for pupils living in Bruisyard. She informed him that a review was undertaken in 2008 and there are no plans to change the catchment area in the Leiston and Saxmundham areas.

However, she does acknowledge that Bruisyard is the furthest extremity of Saxmundham Primary School catchment area, and that a number of schools are nearer to Bruisyard. This means there are likely to be families in the parish who are entitled to free school transport to an out of catchment school, that is to say when it is the nearest school to their home address. These schools are likely to include Peasenhall Primary, Dennington Primary and Thomas Mills High [from age 13 years at present, from age 11years in 2012 when Saxmundham Middle closes].

It is also implied that children living in Bruisyard shouldn't have too much difficulty getting into Thomas Mills High living 3.999 miles away and would have been offered places at this school in the last 2years, as in 2009-2010 the last out of catchment applicant to be accepted lived 7.273 miles away [6.512 miles in 2008-2009].

10) Village Physical Limit Boundaries:- The Clerk had a meeting with Rachel Knights, Planning officer for SCDC and she agreed to include all the garden of the last property on Mill Lane but not the small field next to it or Foxearth. A boundary was also drawn up round the houses at Bruisyard Street so that area can be considered for inclusion in the Local Development Framework.

11) Update on Land between 4 Vicarage Cottages and Home Farm:- The Clerk contacted Gary Lowe of NPS Property Consultants Ltd who act for Suffolk Coastal District Council on matters of land they own. The Council have re-fenced the land but this was removed by the tenant of No 4 Vicarage Cottages. Gary Lowe informed the Clerk that the District Council will take no further action as the cost of litigation was too high in relation to the value of the land. The Members expressed their concern that nothing has been done has by Heritage Housing

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Association about the tenants misuse of the 4 Vicarage Cottages in that her residing in the cottage is very infrequent. James Ingmire will contact the Housing Association voicing the concerns of the Parish Council.

12) Date of next meeting:- The next meeting will be held on 24th January

13) Miscellaneous Items:- The Clerk attended a town and parish planning forum on Wed 27 October at the Riverside Centre. There is a move to keep Parish Councils better informed about the reasons for the decisions taken on applications that are referred to the Planning Committee. They will also improve the speed of decisions on non contentious applications.

The Clerk asked Colin Hart prior to the meeting what the implications of the proposed changes at the County Council will have and he referred her to the document New Strategic Direction Explained – now received and it will be circulated to Members. He indicated that nothing would be done in any hurry or without consultation to relevant bodies and ensuring that adequate provision for providing the services have been made. Unison has also contacted the Council with their objections to the County Councils proposals; these have also been circulated to the Members.

The Clerk on request from the Highways department has sent details of the grit bins in the village that require filling with salt for the coming winter.

John Marten asked if the metal goal post could be reinstated in the Park as Bruisyard Young People are finding the plastic ones too small for the older children. They would be cemented into the ground, at the expense of BYP, in the position the plastic ones occupied at the Bruisyard Open Weekend for the football matches. The Members agreed to this request.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:45