

Minutes of the BRUISYARD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on Tuesday, 20th January 2009, at 7.30pm in the Vestry, St Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Present: The Clerk, Peter Robinson (Chairman), Eleanor Berwick, John McKee, Margaret West, Jeremy Holland-Howes.

AGENDA

1) Apologies for absence:- Shirley Smith, Oliver Hitchcock and County and District Councillor, Colin Hart. Jeremy Holland-Howes apologised for his late arrival.

2) Minutes of the last meeting:- The minutes of the last meeting have already been circulated and read. Eleanor Berwick proposed that the minutes for the meeting held on 18th November 2008 be accepted and Margaret West seconded this proposal. All were in favour.

3) Matters arising:- The Clerk contacted Highways and Footpaths departments concerning the netting on the bridges. The netting has been replaced on the footbridge by the ford on Church Road. It is not known if the other bridge has had chicken wire put on it but this is under the jurisdiction of Rights of Way and not Highways.

4) Report from Village Hall Committee:- The committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting as efforts are now focussed on closing the funding shortfall.

a) Update on Funding:- Green Energy Trust (Scottish Power) has awarded a grant of £9825 which is 50% of the cost of the heat pump and solar panel installation.

The Chairman and David Smith had a meeting in the Park and then in the Vestry with a representative of Suffolk Environmental Trust (Mr Peter Miller) on 15th January to discuss the application to fund the electrical installation for the Village Hall. We will hear if we have been successful or not on 13th February.

b) VAT position. A letter from HM Customs and Excise was received last week stating that Bruisyard Village Hall Committee is recognised as a charity for tax purposes. This has the advantage of being able to build the hall at zero rate VAT so there will be no cash flow problem caused by having to reclaim VAT. This also means that any donations made to Bruisyard Village Hall can benefit from Gift Aid.

c) Electricity Connection:- EDF have further reduced the cost of connecting the Village Hall to the grid to £1859 excluding VAT

d) Request for Donations:- It has been agreed that the Chairman will send out a letter to every household in the village asking for donations towards equipping the hall once it is built. This will be sent out about the same time as work starts on building the hall in late March or early April. This will replace the 'Buy a Brick' scheme which was found to be impractical.

5) Financial Matters a) Peter Robinson proposed that it was in order to have paid Geoff Rogers £70.43 on 22 December for cutting the hedges in the Park. John McKee seconded this proposal and all agreed.

b) Margaret West proposed that £360 be paid to Greenacre Tree Care Services once the work on the oak tree in the Park has been carried out. Peter Robinson seconded this proposal and all agreed. A formal request has been made to County Councillor Colin Hart for money from the locality budget to cover all the cost of having this work carried out. In principle it has been agreed for this money to be granted to Bruisyard Parish Council.

c) The application to Barclays Bank to open a new community bank account named 'Bruisyard Village Hall' was sent off on 16th January. To open the account a cheque for £10 was written on the Abbey Reserve Account. John McKee proposed that this was in order and Eleanor Berwick seconded this proposal. All agreed. The application included a letter from members on the mandate confirming the name and address of the Clerk in order for her to receive all correspondence concerning this account.

6) Park:- a) It was agreed that the Clerk will negotiate a rate for grass cutting in the Park for 2009 with Suffolk Coastal Services. It will be pointed out that the area to be cut is much reduced this year due to the building of the village hall.

b) Greenacre Tree Care Services has contacted the Clerk confirming that EDF will disconnect the electricity close to the oak tree in the Park on 18th February in order for them to carry out the necessary work on the tree. They will start work at 8:00 am. Peter Robinson will organise a working party of villagers to remove the usable wood and to burn the brush wood on site

7) Fundraising and Use of Hall:- Peter Robinson has booked Cransford Village Hall for Wednesday 18th February for the wine tasting event. A meeting to make arrangements to cater for this event will follow this meeting.

The Chairman will draft a letter to the residents of the village asking for donations and its contents will be agreed at the next meeting.

8) Freedom of Information Act:- The model publication scheme accepted at the last meeting was available on the Bruisyard website from 1st January together with all the agreed documents available to download in pdf format. The acceptance of the model publication scheme will also be publicised in the next newsletter to go out later this month.

9) Bruisyard's School Catchment Area:- The school review has been completed and the final decisions on the revised school system is due shortly. With the existing catchment areas, it is proposed that the children of Bruisyard of secondary school age will go to Leiston High School. This is twice the distance from Bruisyard as Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham. The Members agreed that it would be far more sensible for the children of Bruisyard to be in the catchment area for Thomas Mills High School. In the past a large number of parents have sent their children to this school by applying for 'an out of catchment' placement for their children.

It was agreed to carry out a survey of children in the village as to where they go to school. Jeremy Holland-Howes will draft out the questionnaire and this will be delivered by hand to those households with children. The Clerk will email the Parish Plan questionnaire to Jeremy Holland Howes which had a section on where children were going to school and parents preferences for schooling for their children.

10) Planning:- a) Alterations to the approved plans for the house to be built on plot 2 on Mill Lane have been submitted.

The Planning Committee supported these alterations.

b) The Council has received the Consultation on Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework. This has placed Bruisyard in the 'Other Villages' category which means that development will not be looked on favourably. There was no map in the document pinpointing any land potentially suitable for development even though some villages in the same category were included. It was not clear how land has been selected for consideration for development but the Members felt it was worth asking if the land owned

by Suffolk Coastal District Council next to the Rendham Road estate could be included in the Local Framework to be considered for future development. Peter Robinson will make inquiries and this will be followed up with a letter.

11) Date of Next Meeting:- 17th March. The date of the Parish Meeting and AGM is moved to 12th May 2009.

12) Miscellaneous Items:- The Members agreed for the Clerk to book herself into the clerks networking day run by SALC.

Bruisyard Street has been flooded in the last few days. It appears that the pipe directing water from the ditch running through the Park into the river is blocked and water was overflowing onto the road and then finding its way into the river. The Clerk will contact Highways Department to get the pipe cleared.

The notice board opposite College Farm has broken off at ground level and fallen over. Mr David Barham of College Farm will mend it and let the Council have the invoices for any materials he has used. The Members all agreed to this.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm.