

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH
HELD ON 11 APRIL 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

Present:

Cllr Kevin Went (Chairman of the Parish Council)
Cllr Karen Marshall
Cllr Francesca Scoones
Cllr Natalie Shewring
Cllr Martin Austin

Apologies:

None

In Attendance:

District Cllr Clive Arthey
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)
2 Members of the Public

		Action
19.01	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME The Chairman of the Parish Council took the Chair and welcomed all present to the meeting.	
19.02	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from the Churchwardens, the Chair of the Village Hall Committee and the Chair of the Trustees of the Colman's Charities, all of whom provided written reports to the Clerk.	
19.03	TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL Cllr Went reported that the Parish Council's finances are stable with a good bank balance and appropriate reserves as at 31 March 2019. The Council has earmarked a sum of money to support improvements to the Village Hall in 2019/20 and seeks suggestions for other modest projects from residents. The Council will also keep in view making a grant to the Sudbury Citizens Advice organisation, should their funding be under threat again in the future. Improving the parking facilities in Hall Road is also on the agenda; the Council will look to apply anticipated receipts under the Community Infrastructure Levy for such a purpose. Looking back over 2018/19, Cllr Went commented on the success of the <i>Beacon of Light</i> event in November 2018; both in terms of the event itself, and the support it received from across the village. Finally he recorded his thanks to the Clerk for support and advice received throughout the Council year.	
19.04	TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT No report was received.	
19.05	TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Arthey gave his report which is summarised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan – The second consultation has been delayed until the summer of 2019. The revised timetable now anticipates presentation to the Council in June, followed by public consultation. The 	

	<p>“submission version” will then be prepared and a “technical consultation” before the Examination in Public. Adoption of the Plan will now be in 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Cockfield, Lindsey and Monks Eleigh bid successfully in the 1st round; Cockfield purchasing land for allotments and recreation. In the 2nd round, approved applications included funding for electric vehicle charging points and for the new “Community Hub” in Lavenham, and the Preston St Mary village hall extension. Unspent funds will be carried forward to the next bid round in May 2019. • 2019/20 Council Tax – Band D Council Tax for 2019/20 is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suffolk County Council £1,292.13 (+4%) ○ Police £212.76 (+13%) ○ Babergh District Council £163.86 (+3.15%) ○ Brent Eleigh Parish Council £27.07 (-0.6%) <p>Band D total is £1,695.82 with 76.2% going to Suffolk County Council, 12.5% to the police, 9.7% to Babergh DC and 1.6% to Brent Eleigh PC.</p> • Babergh DC’s capital investment strategy – included in the budget for 2019/20 is another £25m of borrowing to fund commercial property through CIFCO Capital Ltd. This will bring the total investment in CIFCO to £100m split equally between Babergh and Mid-Suffolk. • Conservation Area appraisal – Cllr Arthey expressed his pleasure at the approval of Brent Eleigh’s Conservation Area appraisal in March 2019 and its immediate adoption as supplementary Planning Guidance. • 2019 Elections – District elections with the new warding arrangements will take place on 2 May. Brent Eleigh joins the new “Box Vale” ward, together with Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Mildon and Monks Eleigh. <p>Finally Cllr Arthey gave his farewell to the residents of Brent Eleigh. He will not be standing for the Box Vale ward, so will cease to be the local District Councillor after the election. He felt fortunate to have been returned to serve the community continuously for the past 28 years and thanked everyone for the support, hospitality and respect he has received. He wished the community of Brent Eleigh all the very best for the future.</p> <p>In response Cllr Went thanked Cllr Arthey for all his years of service and made a presentation on behalf of the Parish Council.</p>	
<p>19.06</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT RE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FROM THE VILLAGE CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Cllr Went gave his report as Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. There have fortunately been no serious occurrences in the past year. Although crimes have been reported nearby, in both Lavenham and Monks Eleigh, Brent Eleigh has been fortunate. However residents need to continue to be vigilant.</p>	
<p>19.07</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE ALMSHOUSES AND ASSOCIATED CHARITIES</p> <p>A report was provided and presented to the meeting on behalf of the Trustees in respect of all three charities. The latest accounts show all the charities to be in a sound financial situation.</p> <p>The income of the almshouse charity derives almost entirely from the weekly maintenance contributions paid by the residents, and these have been kept</p>	

	<p>at the same level for a number of years. Over the past year building works have continued as recommended in the surveyor's report of 2017, and these are now nearing completion. Currently, all six almshouses are occupied with the same residents as twelve months ago. Occasionally vacancies do arise, and anyone interested in living in one of the almshouses, or who knows someone else who might be interested, should get in touch with one of the charity's trustees. A connection with Brent Eleigh, or one of the surrounding villages, is the main qualifying criteria.</p> <p>In addition to the Colman Almshouse Charity, the Edward Colman Charity supports local young people with educational costs / learning a trade, and Gilbert's Charity, the smallest of the three, helps local people suffering from financial hardship.</p> <p>There are usually seven trustees of the charities. Currently there are two vacancies. The Benefice Priest in Charge / Rector is an <i>ex officio</i> trustee, and that vacancy will hopefully be filled in due course when a new appointment to the Parish is made. Any enquiries about the almshouses, becoming a trustee, or concerning grants available from the two associated charities, can be directed to the Chairman of the trustees.</p>	
<p>19.08</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC) FOR ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BRENT ELEIGH</p> <p>A report was provided and presented to the meeting on behalf of the Churchwardens, who have now been in post for a year. During that time one marriage service has been conducted (May 2018) and one funeral (February 2019). The incumbent left in mid-February to take up a post in Ipswich, and a new priest is being sought, who will serve a wider group of parishes. The parish has the services of a Treasurer to keep its finances in good order (and it has been able to pay its full Quota). Membership of the PCC and Flower Rota has changed.</p> <p>The recent Lent Lunch was well supported by the Benefice; due to diners' generosity £70 has gone to the Kagera Diocese and £130 to the Mozambique Appeal. A series of cream tea events last summer were well supported, and events for 2019 are planned, including a Flower and Craft Festival in early May, a concert by <i>Shantyfolk</i> on 23 June, and joint events with the village.</p> <p>The church fabric is in fair order. Quinquennial inspections are due. Meanwhile the rainwater gutters have been cleared and the moss on the roof sprayed to kill it. Most plain windows have been professionally cleaned (thanks to a bequest). Improvements to the lighting are being considered and costed.</p> <p>Two churchyard tidying up sessions have resulted in improvements, and volunteers now cut the grass. It is hoped to have everything looking good for the Easter Sunday service at 10.15am. A "Friends of St Mary's" group is being planned, to harness support from a wider group of residents and others for the upkeep of this beautiful medieval building.</p>	
<p>19.09</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE</p> <p>A report was provided and presented to the meeting by Cllr Scoones. The Village Hall Management Committee has continued to maintain the village hall, its surrounding garden and look after the community land at Town Hill. For most of last year the hall had a table tennis club activity once a week which both generated income and ensured regular use. However this activity has now moved to Monks Eleigh and any fresh ideas for regular hire are welcomed at the Village Hall Committee's AGM on 16 May at 7pm. Other</p>	

	<p>income was raised from two quiz nights, and another one of these is being held on 18 May. A successful talk on “The Colmans and Brent Eleigh Hall” and a late summer garden party which was very well attended, also boosted funds. The Hall was used for refreshments following the successful “Beacon of Light” event in November 2018, and was used to host a Christmas drinks party for all Brent Eleigh residents. A coffee morning takes place regularly for all residents in the parish on the first Tuesday of the month.</p> <p>Membership of the Management Committee has changed, but previous members continue to be active in support of village activities. In addition to the quiz night planned for 18 May, another late summer garden party is being planned for 2019.</p> <p>The committee is looking to renovate the flooring in the entrance hall, kitchen and toilets, and also to replace the antiquated and inefficient heating system. Further information about the village hall can be found on the village website: http://brenteleigh.onesuffolk.net and an email address for enquiries: brenteleighvillagehall@gmail.com</p>	
19.10	<p>COMMENTS ON VILLAGE MATTERS</p> <p>Cllr Austin queried where the responsibility lies for the maintenance of a footbridge on a path running through the Brent Eleigh Hall estate. Is it a County responsibility or that of the owner? Cllr Scoones said that the estate had borne the cost of repairs when they were last required.</p> <p>The Clerk updated all present in respect of developments on the day of the meeting on two recent planning applications which are of public interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC/18/05625 Erection of stable block to include tack and feed rooms; construction of menage with post and rail fencing – Bennetts Piece, Cock Lane. The application has been revised – the proposed location of the stable block has been moved from the north west side of the dwelling to the south west side – thus moving it further away from “<i>The Cock</i>” public house. • DC/19/00898 Erection of a two storey dwelling and detached garage / annex building – Land to rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive. This application, on which concerns have been expressed in relation to its contemporary design, has been approved. 	
19.11	<p>CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8:15pm. The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting.</p>	