

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 12 JANUARY 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

Present:

Cllr Kevin Went (Chairman)
Cllr Karen Marshall
Cllr Francesca Scoones
Cllr Natalie Shewring
Cllr Michael Warner

In Attendance:

William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)
District Cllr Clive Arthey

		Action
17.01	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
17.02	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from County Councillor Jenny Antill.	
17.03	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
17.03.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.	
17.03.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
17.03.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
17.03.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
17.04	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 24 November 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
17.05	TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Arthey began by giving updates to his written report submitted to the previous meeting. The new Babergh / Mid-Suffolk Chief Executive, Arthur Chavonia, had started work, and the two interims were leaving. The accommodation review had started to be implemented and the Planning staff had moved to Needham Market. In terms of performance on waste and recycling, in 1999 Babergh was sending 70 to 80% of waste to landfill; now it is only 1%. Over 3 million tons of waste has been diverted from landfill in the intervening period. However bin analysis shows that discarded food waste includes a significant number of unopened food items. In response to a question from Cllr Went about recycling batteries via an attachment to the blue bins (as is done in Bury St Edmunds), Cllr Arthey said he would make enquiries. On devolution a decision is awaited from Government as to whether Suffolk can have its own devolution settlement.	

	<p>In respect of 2017/18, Cllr Arthey anticipated that Babergh would be seeking a rate increase of 3.4% whilst Suffolk County Council would be seeking 2-3%.</p> <p>In response to a question from the Clerk about the most suitable contact at Babergh to deal with a planning infringement matter on Lavenham Road, Cllr Arthey suggested getting in touch with Ben Elvin – ben.elvin@babergh.gov.uk</p>	Clerk
17.06	<p>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Antill's written report was read out by the Clerk. The main points are summarised as follows:</p> <p>Broadband speeds – Brent Eleigh is not currently earmarked for upgrading prior to September 2017 and no further precise information is currently available. The Suffolk Better Broadband website declares an intention to bring faster broadband to as many homes and businesses as possible by the end of 2017. Those properties that are not included after that date will be those where geography presents engineering challenges.</p> <p>Brent Eleigh – Hall Road parking - Cllr Antill reported that her Locality Budget is almost used up for the current year and suggests that an approach is made to her successor after the May 2017 election.</p>	
17.07	<p>TO DISCUSS VILLAGE MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of repair of the Village Sign was raised. It was AGREED that it needs refurbishment and the Parish Council will need to consider the appointment of someone appropriately skilled to undertake the work. This will need to be discussed further. • The problem of dog fouling was discussed. In terms of considering the provision of dog bins the issues here are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The capital cost of new bins ○ The cost of paying Babergh to empty them ○ The constraints of locating them within close walking distance of where the operative can safely park a vehicle. 	Clerk
17.08	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Cllr Went reminded all present of the Bridge Cottage incident reported to the previous meeting. Additionally since then there had been a burglary at Alder Carr in The Street. Also of concern was the recent serious robbery at Kersey.</p> <p>Residents were reminded to email Cllr Went kevinwent@btinternet.com if they became aware of any suspicious incidents.</p> <p>Cllr Went commented on both the inadequacy of the current police liaison arrangements and also that the information currently available on local crime was so non-specific as to be relatively worthless.</p>	
17.09	TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS	
17.09.01	<p>Financial update</p> <p>The Clerk reported that currently there was a balance of £2,341.74 in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank.</p>	
17.09.02	<p>To consider and approve payments</p> <p>There were no new payments to be made.</p>	

17.09.03	Grant request – Fresh Start New beginnings This was NOTED .	
17.09.04	Community Action Suffolk (CAS) The Clerk reported renewal of membership of CAS on a free basis. Membership includes access to the CAS Members Area, which is available to as many users within Brent Eleigh PC as are required. On receipt of a request from the Clerk with a new email address, log in details will be mailed directly to the additional user.	
17.10	TO RECEIVE CONSIDER AND AGREE THE BUDGET FOR 2017/18 The Clerk tabled a spreadsheet setting out the Council's projected final income and expenditure for 2016/17 and the anticipated income and expenditure for 2017/18 based on a 2% increase in the precept (£40.00) and including only predicted basic, essential expenditure items. On that basis, allowing for carry forward, the Council would have resources of approximately £4.2k for next year and essential payments likely to amount to £1.5k. However purely in relation to annual income and expenditure, if the Council had to pay the full rate for the Clerk and maintenance of the website (now required by law under the Transparency Code) the annual surplus would be minimal or negative. Therefore in order to strengthen the Council's position for the future, it was AGREED after discussion to increase the precept by £100.00.	
17.11	TO AGREE THE COUNCIL'S PRECEPT FOR 2017/18 Following the discussion referred to above, it was AGREED to increase the precept to £2,100.00. Clerk to advise Babergh accordingly.	Clerk
17.12	TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Cllr Went reported in respect of the Milden Road grit bin, that the bin has grit in it and there have been no further issues regarding its location. However a new supply of grit has been left in a pile on the verge and not in the bin.	
17.13	TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS No reports were received.	
17.14	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
17.14.01	Update on Matters Arising from the previous meeting Nothing not covered in the separate minutes below.	
17.14.02	Nomination for Buckingham Palace Garden Party The Clerk reported that he had been advised by SALC that it had been allocated 3 invitations (each including a guest) for a Royal Garden party on 16 May 2017. Invitations are in recognition of past service as a chairman of a parish council. Parishes were invited to make nominations to be put into a draw. Following discussion it was AGREED to nominate Mr Brian Symes. Clerk to contact him and if interested and eligible, to arrange to put forward the nomination.	Clerk
17.14.03	Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons of Light – 11 November 2018 The Clerk reported a request from Pageantmaster Bruno Peek for the Council to consider whether it wants to participate in the above event. Following discussion it was AGREED to participate. Cllr Shewring has undertaken to organise and the Clerk to communicate that decision to Mr Peek accordingly.	Cllr Shewring Clerk

17.15	PLANNING ISSUES	
17.15.01	<p>To Consider Planning Applications Received</p> <p>(1) B/16/01568/ROC 4 The Glebe – application to vary terms of planning consent</p> <p>This was an application to primarily reduce the size of the extension to below the threshold for attracting Community Infrastructure Levy. Following discussion it was AGREED to advise Babergh that the Parish Council has no comment.</p>	Clerk
17.15.02	<p>To Consider Updates on Planning Applications</p> <p>(1) B/16/01537/FUL – Farm Buildings, Hill Farm, Lavenham Road – Change of use of 2 no. existing barns to 2 no. dwellings and associated building works; erection of single-storey front / side extension and fenestration alterations to existing dwelling (the Coach house) and provision of access and amenity space</p> <p>The Parish Council’s comments were sent to Babergh on 13 December 2016. No decision on the application has yet been advised.</p> <p>(2) B/16/01538/LBC – Farm Buildings, Hill Farm, Lavenham Road – Application for listed building consent; repairs and alterations to 2 no. Barns in order to convert to 2 no. dwellings and demolition of existing “shed” element of Barn 1. Alterations and extensions to the Coach House</p> <p>The Parish Council’s comments were sent to Babergh on 13 December 2016. No decision on the application has yet been advised.</p>	
17.15.03	<p>To Receive Notification of Decisions of Planning Applications as Determined by Babergh DC</p> <p>(1) B/16/00755/FUL – Hill Farmhouse, Lavenham Road – Change of use of dwellinghouse to composite use of residential and yoga training</p> <p>The application was approved by decision letter dated 28 November 2016.</p>	
17.15.04	<p>Planning enforcement matter: Grove House, Lavenham Road, Brent Leigh – Creation of entrances onto A1141 without planning consent</p> <p>Please refer to Minute 17.05 above.</p>	Clerk
17.16	<p>CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	
17.17	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>23 March 2017 at 7.30pm</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:00pm.</p>	