

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

**Present:**

Cllr Kevin Went (Chair)  
Cllr Martin Austin  
Cllr Karen Marshall  
Cllr Francesca Scoones

**Apologies:**

Cllr Natalie Helms  
County Cllr Robert Lindsay

**In Attendance:**

District Cllr Bryn Hurren  
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Item discussed</b>
<b>22.01</b>	<b>Chair's welcome</b> Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.
<b>22.02</b>	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Helms and County Cllr Lindsay.
<b>22.03</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
<b>22.03.01</b>	<b>To receive Amendments to the Register</b> There were no amendments to the Register.
<b>22.03.02</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda.
<b>22.03.03</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were no declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda.
<b>22.03.04</b>	<b>To consider Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared</b> It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensation for Pecuniary Interests declared.
<b>22.04</b>	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> <b>It was RESOLVED</b> to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2 December 2021 and sign them as a true and accurate record. <b>Proposed by:</b> Cllr Scoones <span style="float:right"><b>Seconded by:</b> Cllr Austin</span>
<b>22.05</b>	<b>To receive the District Councillor's report</b> Cllr Hurren reported as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• He wished all present a happy new year.</li><li>• Babergh is proposing a budget rise of 2% or 3% in Council Tax for 2022/23. Only about 9% of Council Tax is retained by Babergh; the rest goes to the County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner, and via precepts to local councils.</li><li>• Charging for car parking remains an unresolved issue. Overall costs for running car parks are c£600k of which around £300k represents business rates.</li><li>• Babergh staff are still mostly working from home. Meetings continue to be virtual (in-principle decisions are made which are then ratified under delegated authority) apart from the Budget Setting Meeting for 2022/23 which will be face to face.</li><li>• The <i>Tree for Life</i> Scheme is now closed for births after 31 December 2021.</li><li>• Development of the new Joint Local Plan continues to move forward slowly.</li></ul>

- The issue of a possible breach of planning consent in relation to application DC/18/05625 (Bennetts Piece, Cock Lane) has been referred to the Enforcement Team for investigation.
- If Brent Eleigh PC wishes to request a grant from his Locality Budget in the current financial year, Cllr Hurren needs to be advised by 1 March at the latest. Following discussion Councillors decided not to seek any grant in the current year, but to leave open the possibility of a double grant in 2022/23. Cllr Hurren was happy with that arrangement.
- In relation to the Iron Bridge adjacent to the A1141, Babergh's Heritage Team has requested that the structure is identified on a map and photographs provided. Following discussion Cllr Went agreed to take some photographs and the Clerk would check to see where the current Highways land boundaries are in relation to it.

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22.06

**To receive the County Councillor's report**

Cllr Lindsay had previously distributed a report via email which was read out by the Clerk. The text of the report is appended below at **Appendix 1**.

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22.07

**To discuss any village matters**

22.07.01

**Village Litter Pick**

The date suggested for this is 26 March. Either the date will be reliant on being able to borrow equipment from Monks Eleigh or can be firmed up if Cllr Marshall is successful in obtaining equipment directly from Babergh.

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22.08

**To receive a report from the village Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

There was nothing to report.

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22.09

**To receive and consider reports on financial and governance matters**

22.09.01

**Financial update report**

The Clerk tabled copies of the updated cashbook, which showed the balance in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank, as at 31 December 2021, standing at £5,900.34. There were no unrepresented cheques. From that current balance the following sums are being held as earmarked reserves:

- £1,000 from the general reserve as a contribution towards a new heating system for the village hall.
- £380.34 CIL payment received on 11 October. This has to be expended by October 2026 and will applied to a specific CIL funded project once more CIL monies are received.

22.09.02

**Approval of payments**

There were none required prior to the meeting. However **it was RESOLVED** to purchase a consignment of 36 Jubilee mugs for distribution to children in the village and residents of Colman's Cottages at a cost to the Council of £266.02 (including VAT).

**Proposed by:** Cllr Went

**Seconded by:** Cllr Scoones

22.09.03

**To consider quotation for replacement of parish noticeboards**

The quotation received from local craftsman B D Hurren was discussed. The cost to build 4 noticeboards is £1,100, to which needs to be added £336 for laminated glass, £128 for pegboards and £112 for brass locks, giving a total of £1,676. The Clerk observed that in the context of commercially available notice boards for church / parish purposes, that was a very competitive quote, and **it was RESOLVED** to accept it, and ask Mr Hurren to go ahead with the fabrication.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Went

**Seconded by:** Cllr Marshall

22.09.04

**To agree the Budget for 2022/23**

The Clerk tabled copies of a draft budget for the remaining 3 months of 2021/22 and for the Council year 2022/23. Following discussion the draft for 2021/22 was varied by increasing the cost of the notice board budget to cover the quotation just accepted, and the cost of the purchase of the Jubilee mugs. For 2022/23, the draft was changed to budget up to £1k for the Jubilee celebrations in June and remove provision for audit charges. The revised projection for the current year end following an opening balance of £4,368, receipts of £2,784 and payments of £4,518 is a closing balance of about £2,634 as at 31 March 2022. For 2022/23, the initial projection is for an opening balance of £2,634, receipts of £2,700 (see Minute 22.09.05 below), and expenditure of £3,697, leaving £1,637 as a balance as at the end of March 2023 (all figures approximate). **It was RESOLVED** to agree the draft budget as revised.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Went

**Seconded by:** Cllr Scoones

22.09.05

**To agree the Precept for 2022/23**

The Clerk reported that the Council's precept requirement for 2022/23 has to be notified to Babergh by 31 January 2022. The tax base for Brent Eleigh has increased from 80.33 in 2021/22 to 89.62 for

2022/23 – an increase of 11.6%. That means for example, that if the Council were to increase the precept from £2,350 to £2,700 the Band D equivalent charge would only increase by 88p from £29.25 to £30.13, and show as an increase of 2.98% on the Council Tax bill. Following further discussion it **was RESOLVED** to request a precept of £2,700 for the Council year 2022/23.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Went

**Seconded by:** Cllr Scoones

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## **22.10 To receive reports from Councillors**

### **22.10.01 Dog fouling – update**

There was nothing to report.

### **22.10.02 Defibrillator - update**

There was nothing substantive to report. Cllr Marshall is chasing up a contact at Community Heartbeat.

### **22.10.03 Footpaths**

Cllr Went reported that he has now received the QR codes to be fixed to the fingerposts and he will arrange to carry out the work.

### **22.10.04 Creation of 20mph zone in The Street**

No further discussion on the 20mph zone could take place in the absence of Cllr Lindsay and this Item was deferred.

### **22.10.05 Protection for the grass triangle around the Village Sign**

Cllr Marshall reported receipt of a price to fit 3 posts (including labour) of £470. Whether the price includes 3 individual posts or 3 groups of 3 (one at each corner) is not clear; this will need to be clarified.

### **22.10.06 Parking in Hall Road**

Please see Cllr Lindsay's report at Appendix 1; a response from Highways is awaited.

### **22.10.07 Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

A discussion took place on this. The intention is that the £1k budget established for this (see Minute 22.09.04 above) should cover the cost of a commemorative bench and a suitable event at the Jubilee. There will be a meeting between representatives of the Parish Council, the Village Hall and the Parish Church to agree a programme. Cllrs Marshall and Scoones to represent the Parish Council.

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## **22.11 To receive the Clerk's report**

### **22.11.01 Iron bridge adjacent to A1141**

See Minute 22.05 above.

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## **22.12 Planning issues**

### **22.12.01 To consider planning applications received**

1. **DC/21/06949 – Barns at Abbots Hall – application for prior approval for a change of use of agricultural buildings to dwellinghouses and for building operations reasonably necessary for conversion.**

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to recommend approval.

2. **DC/21/06898 – Wroughton Lodge, Lavenham Road – proposed erection of a single storey rear extension, alterations to dormer windows including pitched roof and conversion of annexe to additional living accommodation.**

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to recommend approval.

3. **DC/22/00138 – Street Farm, The Street – Application for approval of details reserved under application DC/21/04298**

This was **NOTED**.

### **22.12.02 To receive notifications on Planning Applications determined by Babergh DC**

1. **DC/21/05597 – The Old Rectory, Hall Road – conversion of existing outbuilding to form annexe.**

Planning consent was granted on 7 December 2021.

### **22.12.03 Possible breach of planning conditions at Bennetts Piece, Cock Lane**

See Minute 22.05 above.

### **22.12.04 Change of name of Corner Farm**

Cllr Hurren is raising the acceptance of the change of name of this historic Grade II\* dwelling with Babergh's senior management.

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## **22.13 Date of next meeting**

24 March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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22.14

### **Chair's closing remarks**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

## **APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR ROBERT LINDSAY**

### **Car park on Hall Road**

This is the responsibility of Highways and I have asked that they clean and resurface it. I'll let you know the response.

### **Platinum Jubilee Road Closures**

I have asked whether the County Council are waiving road closure fees for jubilee events this year. They tell me they are and I have asked them to update the website with details of the procedure.

### **Cabinet Meeting**

The Cabinet met on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and voted unanimously to approve additional investment in highway drainage and footway infrastructure. £10m has been approved to replace broken pipes, as well as new installations, and £10m has been approved to increase the maintenance of selected footways. The Cabinet also voted to approve Suffolk County Council's new Housing Joint Venture. The Council wish to enter a contractual agreement with a private developer, aiming to deliver up to 3,000 new homes across Suffolk, using former County farm land near Mildenhall and Lowestoft.

### **Scrutiny Meeting on SEND Report**

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee met to discuss the damning SEND report, which outlined the various failings of the local service in dealing with children with special needs and disabilities. A new report from the SEND services was presented, which included the progress of improving the service. This included extended training, newly appointed managerial posts, and new accountability structures to help deal with the issues outlined in the previous report.

### **Significant Investment in Firefighting Equipment**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has recently added to its lifesaving kit. A significant investment has enabled improved digital radios, smoke hoods and smoke curtains to be provided to every crew in the County. This equipment can be used in a range of incidents, with it already proving invaluable in Lowestoft, when two occupants were rescued after a kitchen fire. Although crews are ready to attend emergencies with this new kit, it's important that every home has its own lifesaving equipment – smoke alarms, which should be fitted and tested regularly.

For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/show/significant-investment-in-firefighting-equipment-secures-safer-future-for-suffolk>

### **Free Bus and Taxi Services for All Travelling for a Vaccination**

Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council, expanded the 'Vaxi Taxi' service to all members of the public. The original campaign was for those who were strictly eligible for free public transport, but the Council has opened up the offer to anyone who needs it, in order to get to their appointment for a first, second or booster vaccination. Following request from GoStart, operator of the 112 bus, I have asked that community bus operators be included on the list of services that can be awarded these contracts. GoStart has been taking people for vaccinations for some time, without receiving anything from the County.