

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present:

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

Apologies:

None

In Attendance:

County Cllr Robert Lindsay
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

		Action
21.63	CHAIR'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting. Tributes were paid to Brian Symes, who died on 10 October. Brian was active in village life over many years and a former Chair of the Parish Council.	
21.64	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from District Councillor Hurren.	
21.65	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
21.65.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.	
21.65.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
21.65.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
21.65.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
21.66	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 29 July 2021 and sign them as a true and accurate record. Proposed by: Cllr Went Seconded by: Cllr Marshall	
21.67	TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT No report was received from Cllr Hurren.	
21.68	TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT As this meeting was the first that Cllr Lindsay had attended since the County elections, Cllr Went congratulated him on his re-election as a County Councillor. Cllr Lindsay had previously distributed a report via email which he went through at the meeting. The text of the report is appended below at Appendix 1 . The suggestion put forward some time ago that there should be a 20mph speed limit in both The Street and part of Hall Road was raised. Access to the	Cllr Marshall

	Laxfield House nursing home from the A1141 was also discussed. Cllr Marshall undertook to follow up with further information.	
21.69	TO APPOINT CLLR MARSHALL TO REPRESENT THE COUNCIL ON THE ALMSHOUSES AND ASSOCIATED CHARITABLE TRUSTS It was RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Marshall to this role. Proposed by: Cllr Went Secoded by: Cllr Helms	
21.70	TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS It was proposed to put a memorial plaque on the Wellingtonia tree in the grounds of Brent Eleigh Hall, adjacent to Hall Road, near to the BT boxes. This was planted by Brian Symes in the 1990s. Also to place a plaque on Brian's favourite seat on Town Hill. In principle both these proposals were AGREED, costs to be investigated and the Town Hill seat checked to ensure that it does not need replacing before a plaque is affixed. Also a message of condolence to be sent to Dr Clare Symes.	All
21.71	TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR Nothing to report.	
21.72	TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS	
21.72.01	Financial update report The clerk tabled a copy of the updated cashbook, which showed the balance in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank, as at 30 September 2021, standing at £6,360.40.	
21.72.02	Community infrastructure Levy (CIL) The Clerk reported receipt on 8 October of the 1 st tranche of CIL monies amounting to £380.34 out of a potential £13,440.11 – nearly all attributable to the various barn conversions that have received approval in the last few years. CIL monies have to be accounted for separately and expended on improvements that support development within 5 years of receipt.	
21.72.03	To consider and approve payments It was AGREED to make the following payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £122.80 to HMRC • £184.40 for Clerk's salary • £22.80 to SALC for payroll costs • £42.00 for website hosting costs. 	Clerk
21.72.04	Making Tax Digital (MTD) The Clerk advised Members that from 1 April next year, it will not be possible to make VAT returns online by inputting the details manually. MTD will apply even to small VAT registered organisations like the Council. Hence the Council will need to adopt proprietary accounting software which is compatible with HMRC's systems. He has looked at the two systems most commonly used by local councils – Alpha and Scribe. Scribe (run by Starboard Systems Ltd) is the cheapest, costing £144.00 a year, with a set-up fee of £47.00. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to purchase the Scribe system, at an initial cost (12 months subscription and set up fee) of £191.00 plus VAT. Proposed by: Cllr Went Secoded by: Cllr Scoones	Clerk

21.72.05	Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme The Clerk introduced this document which had been previously distributed. The Council is obliged to set out and publish a commitment to make information available to the public as part of its normal business activities. This Publication Scheme should be adopted by the Council and published as part of its suite of policies. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to adopt and publish the scheme on the Village website. <i>Proposed by:</i> Cllr Went <i>Seconded by:</i> Cllr Austin	Clerk
21.72.06	Welcome Back funding – update The Clerk reported that he had applied for the litter picking equipment available under this funding on 19 September, but had heard nothing.	
21.73	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS	
21.73.01	Dog fouling – update There is a spare dog fouling prohibition sign. Councillors to suggest to Cllr Helms where it could most usefully be displayed.	All
21.73.02	Defibrillator - update Cllr Marshall reported that Milden applied to the National Lottery and received a full grant, even covering consumables like the pads. She will seek support from the Community Heartbeat organisation.	Cllr Marshall
21.73.03	Footpaths Cllr Went reported that he has been contacted regarding participation in the fingerpost plaques project, and is completing the paperwork! It was reported that the permissive path on Brook Farm land will not be cut again this year.	Cllr Went
21.74	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
21.74.01	Creation of 20mph zone in The Street and Hall Road See discussion under Minute 21.68 above.	
21.74.02	Festival of Suffolk 2022 The email from the Lord Lieutenant was discussed. It was AGREED to take no action on this.	
21.74.03	Babergh licensing consultations The Clerk reported that the Babergh Licensing Team was consulting on (1) a revised Hackney Carriage, Private Hire Operator, Vehicle & Driver Policy and on (2) a revised Gambling Act Statement of Principles. Both consultations were now closed.	
21.74.04	Babergh parking strategy consultation This took place between 31 August and 28 September, conducted via an online questionnaire.	
21.74.05	Queen's Platinum Jubilee As well as lighting the beacon on Town Hill at 9.15pm on 2 June 2022, it was AGREED to host drinks and nibbles at the Village Hall. Cllr Marshall to book the Village Hall accordingly.	Cllr Marshall
21.74.06	Parish Noticeboards In the light of difficulties in opening them the Clerk is investigating possible improvements. Cllr Hurren has offered to have a look at them and advise what improvements might be made.	Clerk

21.75	PLANNING ISSUES	
21.75.01	To consider Planning Applications received (1) DC/21/05597 – The Old Rectory, Hall Road – Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding to form ancillary accommodation; erection of detached cartlodge and store Following discussion it was AGREED to recommend approval.	Clerk
21.75.02	To receive notifications on Planning Applications as determined by Babergh DC (2) DC/21/03309 – Brett Lodge – Increase in roof pitch to rear extension / erection of porch / erection of one and a half storey outbuilding / removal of 8 trees Planning consent was granted on 19 August 2021. (3) DC/21/04475 – The Old Rectory, Hall Road – TPO application for removal of approx. 10 trees Planning consent was granted on 10 September 2021. (4) DC/21/04297 – Street Farm, The Street – Erection of single storey and link extension to north elevation following partial demolition of existing lean to Planning consent was granted on 28 September 2021.	
21.76	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS 2 December 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.	
21.77	CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm.	

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR ROBERT LINDSAY

Council apologises after SEND report finds big failings

The county council's leadership has apologised to families after an independent report into the county's care of special needs children (SEND) has come up with a lengthy list of serious failings.

The report found that the education service had been poor at communicating with parents, was slow to respond to calls and emails, had placed some pupils in inappropriate schools, had failed to identify caseworkers for children, failed to record requests from parents, failed to routinely track the Care Plans for children and had faced high numbers of appeals when they had refused to provide assessments.

The authors – a team from Lincolnshire County Council made a series of recommendations which the council has agreed. These include hiring specialist consultants (Impower) to help review all their case work and ensure that better health and care plans for children are drawn up. Also to ensure that they share information with health service colleagues.

Climate Emergency

The county council agreed a little noticed plan to achieve zero carbon for Suffolk (not just the councils but the whole of Suffolk), in June.

It sets out broad goals for change in behaviours and technology to achieve zero carbon by 2030 by means of measures of: 'transitioning to a fully decarbonised heat supply for homes; improving energy efficiency; behavioural change to use less energy; low carbon travel; reducing car use; more efficient freight transport; reductions in commercial and industrial carbon use; improvements in renewable energy production and a flexible grid' among others.

No timetable for spending £20m on cycling and walking

The Conservative administration said in its election literature this spring that it had identified £20m of cycle path upgrades. In line with this I, with the backing of my political group, proposed a motion at the September Council Meeting that the Council set specific benchmarks and targets each year to spend the £20m up to 2030 in order to double cycling and walking by then. Unfortunately the administration voted this motion down and admitted that what they meant was that they had identified cycle routes for prioritising and calculated the cost as £20m but there was no commitment to spend any of it over any timescale.

Suffolk Biodiversity policy development panel

I am on this panel and have attended the first 3 of 8 meetings. I will try to ensure that goals and a strict timeframe are set so that progress can be checked. So far summary of recommendations seem a little vague.

We have discussed so far a different regime for verge management as well as moving towards a phase out of the use of glyphosate on pavements in Suffolk towns. Also working with landowners and our own county farms to “rewild” significant proportions.

Road closures and signage

Following inquiries from your own parish council chair At full council earlier in September one of my group colleagues asked what the council was doing about “sloppy signage” when roads are closed with a report to council showing there were 20% of closures where the signage had not been up to standard. Cabinet member Paul West stressed that it was the sloppy behaviour of the utility companies (rather than Highways Network Assurance) and said he was making efforts to improve this behaviour. Though he gave no details about how. He said that last year there 65,000 applications for closure – over 200 a day – and that because of the volume highways can only do a “sample” of them to check that signage was being done correctly.

£50m bus back better bid

County council cabinet is next week being asked to approve a bid for £50 million funding for buses from the Government’s “Bus Back Better” scheme. Suffolk’s bid makes 16 different proposals, including extending the 25% Endeavour Card discount for young people to all bus services, increasing frequency on the top ten “corridor” routes that are most profitable for private operators, having more bus lanes and/or bus gateways on these 10 routes, expanding its unscrutinised “Katch” electric minibus service to three other rural areas, checking the feasibility of “bus mass transit” (special segregated pathways for buses), making bus tickets integrated with trains and with different operators.

My initial concern is that there is little here for rural areas, even in regard to on demand “dial a ride” services. But the Govt criteria do not appear to allow for that.

Lorry route consultation

You will shortly (October 22) be sent by Suffolk County Council a link to an online survey about lorry impact in your village. They are undertaking a review of the current lorry routes to update it to take account of new housing developments etc. since it was last produced. They say changes are unlikely to be significant.