

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 18 JULY 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

**Present:**

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

**Apologies:**

Cllr Natalie Shewring

**In Attendance:**

District Councillor Bryn Hurrell  
One member of the public  
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

		<b>Action</b>
<b>19.52</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME</b> Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
<b>19.53</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Shewring, and County Cllr Robert Lindsay.	
<b>19.54</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>19.54.01</b>	<b>To Receive Amendments to the Register</b> There were no amendments to the Register.	
<b>19.54.02</b>	<b>To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were none.	
<b>19.54.03</b>	<b>To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were none.	
<b>19.54.04</b>	<b>To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared</b> It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
<b>19.55</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b> Minutes of the Statutory Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2019 and the Special Meeting held on 20 June were approved and signed as true and accurate records.	
<b>19.56</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b> In his absence (on County Council business) Cllr Lindsay provided a report which the Clerk read out as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk County Council (SCC) recently announced that 23 subsidised bus routes (about a third of those supported) would lose their subsidy in order to save £340k. The list includes route 112 from Hadleigh to Sudbury via Bildeston and the Eleighs, run by Suffolk Norse. This contract was only renewed in May. Cllrs Lindsay and Hurrell have met the Norse manager and were advised that the subsidy will be retained until June 2020 but will then be discontinued. If parish councils along the route are prepared to contribute towards the subsidy, Norse will</li> </ul>	

	<p>surrender the takings from fares. Also voluntary contributions from passengers are a possibility – even when they have a bus pass – as happens on a route that serves Beccles. Cllr Lindsay is also prepared to contribute from his Locality budget. Meanwhile he has written to the Cabinet Member for Highways and the South Suffolk MP, stressing the lack of alternatives for our most vulnerable residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suffolk Waste Partnership has had to make a decision to no longer allow TetraPak cartons, and metal items such as pots and pans, to be placed in recycling bins. This follows the installation of new sorting equipment at the Great Blakenham facility. They will still be accepted at household recycling facilities. The changes will be publicised once the new sorting equipment is operational.</li> <li>• Following a week long inspection in April 2019, Ofsted has given Suffolk Children’s Services an “outstanding” rating, an improvement from “good” in 2015. Suffolk is one of only seven authorities in the country to achieve that rating.</li> <li>• SCC’s Cabinet has agreed to consult on a plan to close two of the County’s 38 children’s centres, convert nine to part-time, and convert 11 to nurseries. The remaining centres are to be renamed “family hubs” and cater for ages 0-19, instead of the 0-5 provision currently offered. The plans are designed to save up to £1m. Hadleigh’s children’s centre was closed in the last round of cuts.</li> <li>• The SCC Cabinet has also approved a range of new services for screening and supporting children with speech, language and communication needs. The proposals will be part funded by the programme already agreed to increase provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities, but also from the regular education grant. All mainstream schools will have new tools to screen children for problems, and there will be specially trained peripatetic teachers who will visit to give support. The existing three Speech and Language Units in Suffolk will be extended to provide places for children from 4 to 16, rather than just from 5 to 7 as is currently the case.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>19.57</b></p>	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b>  Cllr Hurren reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new Babergh draft Local Plan will be released for consultation from 22 July 2019; Brent Eleigh will be a “hamlet village” with infill allowed.</li> <li>• Babergh needs to build 422 homes a year to meet Government requirements.</li> <li>• School transport policy has now become very complex with recent changes.</li> <li>• The issues relating to the 112 bus route will be discussed in the following Item on the Agenda.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>19.58</b></p>	<p><b>TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS</b>  The 112 bus route was raised for discussion. Following on from Cllr</p>	

	<p>Lindsay's report, it was mentioned that the average cost of each run is around £70.00, and the annual cost of a twice-weekly service is £6.5k. It appears the service will now run to 25 July 2020. A decision on the future after that will need to be made by March 2020. Options for support include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary fare payments (triggering a contribution from Norse)</li> <li>• Support from the County Councillor's Locality budget</li> <li>• Support from Parish Councils (including use of Community infrastructure Levy).</li> </ul> <p>However <b>it was AGREED</b> that initially pressure should be maintained on the County Council to retain the service. Also it might be possible to recruit an unpaid volunteer driver. The Clerk reported that he has received a letter from the Clerk at Monks Eleigh, suggesting that a Community Group be set up, with representatives from all the parishes served by the route. Cllr Marshall offered to serve on such a Group, and that was <b>AGREED</b>. The Clerk to advise the Monks Eleigh Clerk accordingly.</p>	<p>Cllr Marshall</p> <p>Clerk</p>
19.59	<p><b>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
19.60	<p><b>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS</b></p>	
19.60.01	<p><b>To receive the financial update report</b></p> <p>The Clerk distributed copies of the updated cashbook and reported that the balance in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank, as at 30 June 2019, and allowing for an unrepresented cheque, stood at £4584.11.</p>	
19.60.02	<p><b>To consider and approve payments</b></p> <p><b>It was AGREED</b> to make the following payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £40.00 to the Information Commissioner (annual payment as required by Data Protection legislation).</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p>
19.60.03	<p><b>To consider grant for improvements to the Village Hall</b></p> <p>Estimates are being sought from four potential suppliers for new flooring for the corridor, toilets and kitchen. The Chairman stated that Councillors will need to see all the estimates before a decision can be made on grant aiding this work.</p>	<p>Cllr Marshall</p>
19.60.04	<p><b>To consider grant request from Brent Eleigh PCC for grant aid for upkeep of St Mary's churchyard</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported a request from the Churchwardens of St Marys for assistance from the Parish Council towards the cost of maintaining (i.e. mowing) the churchyard. Annual cost is £1,000 and a contribution of £500 is sought. Following discussion <b>it was AGREED</b> to offer £250 for this year only, with any request in a subsequent year being considered afresh. The Chairman also suggested that the PCC might like to investigate the possibility of getting the work done by Community Payback Teams in the longer term.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
19.60.05	<p><b>To consider grant request from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service</b></p> <p>This request was <b>NOTED</b>.</p>	

19.61	<p><b>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Marshall reported that the Village Hall Committee is looking at locating the defibrillator outside the Village Hall, and funding it via a Lottery grant.</li> <li>• All residents in Milden Road have now agreed to have a new grit bin located there, and the Clerk will now seek a quote to bring back to the September meeting of the Parish Council.</li> <li>• On the matter of the purchase of safety equipment / litter pickers for future use, Councillors decided to continue to borrow equipment from Monks Eleigh for the time being.</li> </ul>	Clerk
19.62	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b></p>	
19.62.01	<p><b>Suffolk Highways self-help scheme</b>  The Clerk summarised this new initiative from Suffolk Highways, in respect of which information has already been distributed to Councillors. Basically the way the scheme works is that parish councils, either by the use of volunteers, their own staff or contractors, carry out tasks which the Highway Authority can no longer undertake for financial reasons. Following discussion it was felt that these proposals can have very limited application to a very small community like Brent Eleigh, with neither the money to pay people nor people able to volunteer. <b>It was AGREED to NOTE</b> the initiative,</p>	
19.62.02	<p><b>Suffolk County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan</b>  Each Highway Authority in England is required to publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan to provide a clear direction as to how the rights of way and access network is managed, maintained and improved. However the strategy document does not provide any details, budgets or dates relating to maintenance / improvement works so is really no more than a Statement of Intent. <b>It was AGREED to NOTE</b> the report.</p>	
19.62.03	<p><b>Former BT Telephone Kiosk</b>  Cllr Marshall reported receipt of two quotes so far for the cost of refurbishing. A third quote is awaited. <b>It was AGREED</b> to make a decision on this at the September meeting.</p>	Cllr Marshall
19.63	<p><b>PLANNING ISSUES</b></p>	
19.63.01	<p><b>Babergh / Mid-Suffolk Local Plan</b>  As reported by District Cllr Hurren at Minute 19.57 above, public consultation on the draft new Local Plan will now take place from 22 July.</p>	
19.63.02	<p><b>To Consider Planning Applications Received</b>  <b>(1) DC/19/03095 – 2 The Glebe – Notification of works to trees in a conservation area.</b>  Following discussion <b>it was AGREED</b> to make no comments on this application.</p>	
19.63.03	<p><b>To receive notifications on Planning Applications as determined by Babergh DC</b>  <b>(2) DC/19/01934 – Alder Carr, The Street – Erection of single storey extension to double garage.</b>  Planning consent was granted by letter dated 5 June.  <b>(3) DC/19/02512 – Wells Hall, Milden Road – Notification of works to trees in a conservation area.</b>  Planning consent was granted by letter 21 June.  <b>(4) DC/19/02499 – Laxfield House Residential Care Home -</b></p>	

	<p><b>Notification of works to trees in a conservation area.</b>          Planning consent was granted by letter dated 21 June.  <b>(5) DC/19/02310 – Barns A, B and C, Bridge Farm, Lavenham Road – Prior approval notification for proposed Change of Use of Agricultural buildings to 5No dwellings.</b>          The Parish Council’s comments were sent to Babergh on 3 December 2018 and 21 June 2019. Planning consent was granted by letter dated 11 July.</p>	
<b>19.43</b>	<p><b>DATES OF FUTURE ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 September 2019</li> <li>• 21 November 2019</li> </ul> <p><i>All meetings are held at Brent Eleigh Village Hall and start at 7.30pm.</i></p>	
<b>19.44</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS</b></p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.</p>	