

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2018 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Apologies were received from District Councillor Clive Arthey

In Attendance:

Two members of the public
 William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

		Action
18.83	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
18.84	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from District Councillor Clive Arthey.	
18.85	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
18.85.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.	
18.85.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
18.85.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda Cllr Scoones declared an interest as a neighbouring landowner in respect of planning applications DC/18/04906 and DC/18/04907 – conversion and extension of barn to form 1no. dwelling and erection of studio outbuilding (Item 18.96.03).	
18.85.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
18.86	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 20 September 2018 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
18.87	TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY The Clerk confirmed that the period for claiming a parish poll to elect a successor to Cllr Warner had expired, and it was open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option. Only one expression of interest was received. The Chairman invited Mr Martin Austin to introduce himself and state his reasons for wanting to join the Council. After he had done so and following discussion, it was RESOLVED that he should be co-opted onto the Council. <i>Proposed by:</i> Cllr Went <i>Seconded by:</i> Cllr Scoones Mr Austin completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office accordingly.	

<p>18.88</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Lindsay reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £11m worth of cuts are proposed from the County Council's 2019/20 budget, including a reduction in Trading Standards training, removing the entire core budget for Citizens Advice, the cessation of printing roadside bus timetables and reduction in rural bus subsidy, ending roadside sign cleaning, cutting winter support fleet for highways, and reviewing arrangements for both grass cutting and streetlighting. In terms of the current year a predicted overspend of £8.6m has dropped to £7.5m due to savings, but there is still likely to be a funding gap which will need to be bridged by the use of reserves. • County will be seeking views on potential future changes to the oversubscription criteria in terms of the removal of catchment area priority, such as in favour of using a straight line distance measurement. If this idea progresses, there will be consultation in late 2019, and any changes implemented will apply from 2021/22. The justifications for such changes are that free schools and academies don't use catchment areas and that from 2019, free school transport will be based on nearest school not catchment area. • A new approach to fixing potholes is being piloted in West Suffolk. Instead of fixing the most unsafe potholes first and returning to deal with the less severe ones later, the pilot will see more defects repaired in a single visit. If this approach proves successful, it will be rolled out to the rest of the County. • Attempts will be made to improve co-ordination of road closures to stop over-runs and improve signage. Cllr Lindsay has specifically requested that signage state the location of the roadworks so that traffic is not diverted needlessly. • Abandoned / unremoved temporary signage should be reported via networkassurance@suffolk.gov.uk • A motion by Labour Members to ask the Council to spend £15m to provide free tampons and towels in all maintained schools was rejected. However the Council did agree to write to the Chancellor to seek removal of VAT from sanitary products. • Similarly a motion proposed by the Liberal Democrats, Greens and Independents, asking the Council to draw up a report into running a "smart grid" in Suffolk, which would allow energy from renewables to be stored in batteries, and to ensure that at least 50% of all Suffolk County Council's energy use will come from renewables by 2025, was also watered down, with the target removed. • Highways are willing to work with the Parish Councils to improve Clay Lane, and would like to identify the driver currently using the bridleway. Cllr Marshall advised that his identity is still not known. 	
<p>18.89</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>The Clerk read out the key points from Cllr Arthey's written report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on the Local Plan is delayed and will now start 	

	<p>early in 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of the precept setting for 2019/20, the tax base for Brent Eleigh has increased by 5.3%. If the same Band D equivalent amount is sought for 2019/20 as in 2018/19, then the precept take can be increased by 5.3% without raising householder contributions. Cllr Arthey wishes to be updated in respect of the Hall Road parking area. 	
18.90	<p>TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS</p> <p>Cllr Went raised the matter of the pothole on the bridge. He will use the Suffolk CC web reporting tool to let Highways know it needs to be dealt with.</p>	Cllr Went
18.91	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Cllr Went reported a break-in to an outbuilding at Chelsworth, and people walking around Brent Eleigh seemingly looking at properties. Cllr Scoones also reported suspicious activity in Cock Lane. Cllr Went also referred to a recent Police Connect alert, following two incidents where rogues who claimed to be police officers made cold calls on homes in the east of the County as part of a scam to defraud vulnerable people of their savings.</p>	
18.92	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS</p>	
18.92.01	<p>Financial update</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 1 November 2018, stood at £4,336.27, after allowing for unpresented cheques of £23.94 and £21.60 (see Item 18.92.02 below).</p>	
18.92.02	<p>To consider and approve payments</p> <p>It was AGREED to make the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £23.94 to the Clerk as reimbursement for payment for a Land Registry search £21.60 to SALC for cost of payroll services to 30 September 2018 £57.86 and £99.67 as reimbursement to Cllr Went for materials for constructing the Village Beacon and refreshments for the Beacon lighting ceremony respectively on 11 November. 	Clerk
18.92.03	<p>Community Infrastructure Levy</p> <p>This was discussed under Item 18.95.01 below (matters relating to Hall Road parking).</p>	
18.92.04	<p>Budget and Precept 2019/20</p> <p>The Clerk tabled a draft budget for 2019/20 indicating potential core expenditure of up to £2,302.00. The precept for 2018/19 is £2,150.00 and given the change in the tax base, could be increased for 2019/20 by 5.3% (£113.95) without increasing taxpayer's contributions (see Item 18.89 above). The budget will need to be finalised and the precept set at the next meeting of the Council on 24 January 2019.</p>	Clerk
18.92.05	<p>Review of the Council's Standing Orders</p> <p>The Draft Revised Standing Orders previously distributed to Councillors electronically were received and fully discussed, particularly the highlighted passages requiring options to be agreed, and changes were made.</p>	

	<p>It was RESOLVED that the revised Standing Orders would be adopted with immediate effect.</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Went Seconded by: Cllr Shewring</p>	Clerk
18.92.06	<p>New Bank Mandate signatory</p> <p>The Clerk reported receipt of a letter from Lloyds Bank requiring amendments to the Mandate Change Form and these were made at the meeting. The Clerk to return the papers to Lloyds Bank accordingly.</p>	Clerk
18.92.07	<p>Grant requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the light of cessation of funding by Suffolk County Council a further grant request was received from Citizens Advice Sudbury & District. It was AGREED to keep open this request and revisit, and meanwhile ask Cllr Lindsay to make representations to County on Brent Eleigh PC's behalf. • A grant request from Headway Suffolk was NOTED. 	Clerk
18.93	<p>TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Went had nothing to say which was not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.</p>	
18.94	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the plot of land adjacent to 8 Hall Road. Three oak trees were felled illegally some years ago and there was a requirement to replace them. The land is now owned by the people at the Old Rectory. Cllr Scoones to check on the position.</p>	Cllr Scoones
18.95	<p>TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</p>	
18.95.01	<p>Hall Road parking</p> <p>The plans showing the boundary of the Brent Eleigh Hall estate and the County Highways land in the location of the car parking previously distributed were discussed. The Clerk advised that the boundaries are clearly shown as adjacent, and there is little scope for demonstrating that the ownership of the parking area lies with the community. He had a long conversation with the relevant manager at Babergh DC over the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 funds. Because highways mitigation costs are funded from s106 monies, CIL funding via Regulation 123 cannot be applied to highways works. However parish CIL contributions, because they are only required to be used in support of growth generally, can be utilised for such purposes.</p>	
18.95.02	<p>Beacons of Light 11 November 2018 – review of event</p> <p>The Council moved a Vote of Thanks to Cllrs Went and Marshall for organising such a successful Beacon lighting ceremony and the refreshments afterwards at the Village Hall. Over 60 people attended, and a charity donation of nearly £100.00 was made. The potential to spend money on Town Hill was discussed, and will be taken to the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>Proposed by: Cllr Shewring Seconded by: Cllr Scoones</p>	Cllr Marshall
18.95.03	<p>SALC Babergh Area Meeting</p> <p>This will take place on Monday 26 November at Hadleigh Leisure Centre, starting at 7pm.</p>	
18.95.04	<p>Merger of Small Councils</p> <p>The Clerk reported a survey about whether small councils should be forced to cluster or merge. This was NOTED.</p>	

18.96	PLANNING ISSUES	
18.96.01	Babergh / Mid-Suffolk Joint Local Plan As reported at Item 18.89 above, public consultation on the draft new Local Plan will commence in the Spring of 2019.	
18.96.02	Brent Eleigh Conservation Area – draft appraisal There have been no developments to report.	
18.96.03	<p>To Consider Planning Applications Received</p> <p>(1) DC/18/04906/7 [Planning & Listed Building applications] – Abbotts Hall Farm Barn, off Cock Lane – Conversion and extension to barn to form 1no. dwelling following the demolition of 2no. adjacent agricultural stores. Erection of studio outbuilding.</p> <p>This application was discussed and the following comments AGREED to be sent to Babergh DC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst the Parish Council welcomes the proposed restoration of this Grade II listed 16th century barn as a 4 bedroom residential dwelling, the opening up of the roof to include roof lights is an aspect of the proposal which should be resisted. They would be out of place in this historic, timber framed building. • The east end of the current structure is better preserved than the west end; consequently any partitioning of the conversion to provide 21st century rooms and facilities would be better undertaken at the west end if at all possible. <p>(2) DC/18/04958 – Barns A, B and C, Bridge Farm, Lavenham Road – Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed Change of Use of agricultural buildings to 5no. dwellinghouses.</p> <p>This application was discussed and the following comments AGREED to be sent to Babergh DC:</p> <p>Whilst the Parish Council is pleased to see these redundant agricultural buildings brought back into use as dwellings, councillors are concerned about safe access onto the A1141. The road at that location is subject only to the national 60mph national speed limit and visibility at the proposed access point is considered inadequate for traffic from the new development joining a road with fast moving traffic. If the development is going to proceed then appropriate splays will need to be provided to ensure safety in both joining and exiting the highway.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
18.96.04	<p>To Consider Updates on Planning Applications</p> <p>(3) DC/18/01987 – Second Meadow Stables, Brent Eleigh Road (Lavenham Parish) – Proposed erection of detached dwelling in association with the use of Second Meadow Stables.</p> <p>The Parish Council's comments were sent to Babergh on 13 June 2018. No decision on the application has yet been advised.</p>	
18.96.05	<p>To Receive Notification of Decisions of Planning Applications as Determined by Babergh DC</p> <p>(4) B/16/01723/FUL – Brent Eleigh Hall, Hall Road – Application for external and internal alterations to house and stable including partial demolition and conversion of part of stable from 1 to 2 no. flats.</p> <p>Planning consent was granted by letter dated 3 October 2018.</p>	

	<p>(5) B/16/01724/LBC – Brent Eleigh Hall, Hall Road – Application for external and internal alterations to house and stable including partial demolition and conversion of part of stable from 1 to 2 no. flats. Planning consent was granted by letter dated 3 October 2018.</p> <p>(6) DC/18/03450 - Second Meadow Stables, Brent Eleigh Road (Lavenham Parish) – Change of use of land for commercial livery and retention of buildings and structures. Planning consent was granted by letter dated 10 October 2018.</p> <p>(7) DC/18/03984 – Corner Farm, The Street –Change of use from Holiday Let to Antiques and Collectables sales and storage. Planning consent was granted by letter dated 31 October 2018.</p> <p>(8) DC/18/04295 – The Old Cottage, The Street – Proposed erection of carport. Planning consent was granted by letter dated 6 November 2018.</p> <p>(9) DC/18/04767 – Walnut Tree cottage, Cundys Lane – Notification of works to Trees in a Conservation Area – reduce crown by 2/3m on 1no. Black Walnut Tree. Comments were requested on this TCA application on 6 November to be received by 27 November. However the decision letter notifying that Babergh DC did not wish to object was issued on 22 <i>November</i>. Whilst Parish Councillors decided they would have made no comments, the Clerk will write to point out that the decision letter should not have been issued prematurely.</p>	Clerk
18.97	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 January 2019 – 7.30pm Brent Eleigh Village Hall • 21 March 2019 -7.30pm Brent Eleigh Village Hall 	
18.98	<p>CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05pm.</p>	