

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 23 MARCH 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Cllr Natalie Shewring

In Attendance:

William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)
County Councillor Jenny Antill

		Action
17.25	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
17.26	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from District Councillor Clive Arthey.	
17.27	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
17.27.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.	
17.27.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
17.27.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
17.27.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
17.28	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 January 2017 and of the Special Meeting held on 26 January 2017 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
17.29	TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Antill gave her report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget 2017/18 – this was passed by full Council in early February. The County Council share of the Council Tax bill will rise by 3%, which represents the Social Care levy; this is lower than the 5% increase being imposed by many councils and the 4% national average. • Annual Report of the Director of Public Health – this was released on 26 January, setting out seven recommendations to improve mental health in Suffolk and reduce demand on services over the next 5 to 10 years. An estimated 1 in 100 people are affected by severe mental ill health in Suffolk. The report is divided into sections that correspond to the different stages in life, and 	

	<p>recognises the importance of good mental health for good physical health, and <i>vice versa</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School funding – under new arrangements recently announced by the Government, Suffolk schools will receive 2% more than before, but less than schools in other parts of the country, and in real terms the situation is still considered unacceptable. The Cabinet Member for Education has complained to the Secretary of State, as have Suffolk head teachers. <p>Cllr Antill reminded Parish Councillors that this would be the last meeting which she would attend as their County Councillor. She has very much enjoyed representing Brent Eleigh over the past four years, and thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their kindness and courtesy throughout that period. If the Clerk will advise her of the date of the Annual Meeting, she will be happy to provide a summary report for the year.</p> <p>Cllr Antill had been pleased to be able to assist Brent Eleigh by applying some of her Locality funding. However she acknowledged the difficulties with highways budgets; in a time of austerity funding has to be focused on priorities.</p> <p>Cllr Went referred to his letter to the MP on safety issues concerning the A1141, which was still unacknowledged and unanswered. Cllr Antill suggested that if Cllr Went supplies her with a fresh copy, she will do her best to elicit a response.</p> <p>Cllr Warner referred to the questionnaire issued by health organisations in Suffolk in relation to the threat to local pharmacies. The level of support that pharmacies receive from central government is under review, and that may threaten the survival of some outlets. There is a link to the questionnaire on Cllr Antill’s website.</p> <p>In relation to a query about broadband speeds, Cllr Antill reminded the meeting that where very low speeds were inhibiting effective use, a consumer might be entitled to satellite assistance.</p> <p>Finally the Chairman thanked Cllr Antill for all her assistance over the last few years.</p>	
<p>17.30</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Arthey’s written report was read out by the Clerk. The main points are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Babergh Chief Executive – there is a message from Arthur Chavonia in the Babergh January Newsletter. • Accommodation review – the move from the Corks Lane, Hadleigh site to Endeavour House in Ipswich will take place in August. There will only be two “public access points” for joint Babergh / Mid Suffolk Council services within the Districts – Stowmarket and Sudbury. There are as yet no firm proposals for the future of the Corks Lane offices. • Waste and recycling – Despite an increase nationally in fly-tipping, this does not appear to have been reflected in Suffolk. However there are some problem locations, and in February, a fly-tipper was successfully prosecuted and received fines and costs of over £2k. Details on this are in the Babergh March Newsletter. • Devolution – a deal for Suffolk alone has been put on hold. • District Electoral Review – Babergh has asked for a reduction 	

	<p>overall from 43 councillors to 31. Following the boundary Commission's confirmation of Council size, the second stage, looking at ward boundaries, will start in May. One of the factors taken into consideration when asking for a reduction was the change in governance arrangements from a committee system, to a Cabinet chosen by the Leader.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017/18 Council Tax – There will be an increase of 3.4% in respect of Babergh's element, 2% increase for Suffolk police, and 3% for Suffolk County Council. In Brent Eleigh parish there has been a reduction of 4.3% in the tax base, and a 5% increase in precept, increasing the parish element overall by around 9.5%. 	
17.31	<p>TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON VILLAGE MATTERS No comments were received.</p>	
17.32	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR Nothing to report.</p>	
17.33	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS</p>	
17.33.01	<p>Financial update The Clerk reported that, taking account of the payments being notified to the meeting, there would be a balance of £2,090.68 in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank.</p>	
17.33.02	<p>To consider and approve payments Approval was given to year end payments of the Clerk's remuneration and to HMRC in the total sum of £221.06.</p>	Clerk
17.33.03	<p>NJC Salary Scale increase for 2017/18 The Clerk advised the meeting of the increase in the hourly rate of the Clerk's remuneration under the National Joint Council arrangements with effect from 1 April 2017. If adopted, the new annual rate of remuneration would be £443.38. This was AGREED with effect from 1 April 2017. The Clerk to advise SALC as payroll administrator accordingly.</p>	Clerk
17.33.04	<p>Precept 2017/18 The Clerk reported confirmation by Babergh Financial Services of Brent Eleigh's precept for 2017/18. The Parish will have a Council Tax Band D amount of £26.62. This is an overall increase of 9.65% on 2016/17.</p>	
17.33.05	<p>Section 137 Local Government Act 1972 expenditure limit for 2017/18 The Clerk advised that the appropriate sum for parish councils for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) Local Government Act 1972 for 2017/18 is £7.57.</p>	
17.33.06	<p>Year end timetable 2017 The Annual Return and accounts for 2016/17 must be approved by the Council before 30 June. The Annual Return must be submitted to BDO LLP, the external auditors, before 24 July 2017.</p>	Clerk
17.34	<p>TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Cllr Went had nothing specific to report that was not being dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda.</p>	
17.35	<p>TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS Cllr Marshall reported continuing poor surface conditions on both Clay Lane (due to construction work on a new eco-home towards the</p>	

	Lavenham end of the path) and also on the public footpath leading northwards from Snapes Lane.	
17.36	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
17.36.01	Battle's Over – A Nation's Tribute & WWI Beacons of Light – 11 November 2018 - update The Clerk reported that, following the decision at the last Ordinary Council meeting to participate in the above event, and Cllr Shewring volunteering to co-ordinate, he had advised Pageantmaster Bruno Peek accordingly. Both the Clerk and Cllr Shewring had received an acknowledgement from Mr Peek.	
17.36.02	Schedule of Police & Crime Commissioner / Chief Constable meetings 2017 The Clerk advised Councillors of the proposed 2017 dates for the local public meetings with the PCC / Chief Constable. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 8 November – Sudbury • Wednesday 15 November – Hadleigh. Meetings will commence at 6.30pm and venues will be advised in due course. PCSO Laura Mansell of Sudbury Safer Neighbourhood Team has asked for the date / time of the Annual Parish Meeting so that, if possible, someone from the police can attend. Cllr Went volunteered to liaise with PCSO Mansell. The date to be set later in the Agenda.	Cllr Went
17.36.03	Pensions Regulator Declaration The Clerk confirmed that the statutory declaration of compliance has now been completed and submitted. Brent Leigh PC will need to re-declare compliance again in about 3 years' time.	
17.36.04	Village sign refurbishment Cllr Marshall to identify a suitable and willing craftsperson to undertake the refurbishment of the village sign.	Cllr Marshall
17.36.05	Parking in Hall Road This will be on hold until after the County Council elections and Brent Leigh has a new County Councillor.	
17.36.06	Babergh Open Spaces Survey This was discussed. It was AGREED that Cllr Warner will complete the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.	Cllr Warner
17.37	PLANNING ISSUES	
17.37.01	To Consider Planning Applications Received (1) B/17/00254/FUL - Brook Farm, Cock Lane – Erection of portal framed building for storage of hay and agricultural machinery Following discussion it was AGREED to advise Babergh that the Parish Council recommends approval.	Clerk
17.37.02	To Consider Updates on Planning Applications (2) 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 The Parish Council's comments were sent to Babergh on 13 December 2016. No decision on the application has yet been advised.	

	<p>(3) 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>	
	<p>(4) B/16/01723/FUL – Brent Eleigh Hall, Hall Road, Brent Eleigh – 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>The Parish Council’s comments were sent to Babergh on 2 February 2017. No decision on the application has yet been advised.</p>	
	<p>(5) B/16/01724/LBC – Brent Eleigh Hall, Hall Road, Brent Eleigh – 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>The Parish Council’s comments were sent to Babergh on 2 February 2017. No decision on the application has yet been advised.</p>	
17.37.03	<p>To Receive Notification of Decisions of Planning Applications as Determined by Babergh DC</p> <p>(6) B/16/01568/ROC 4 The Glebe – application to vary terms of planning consent</p> <p>The application was approved by decision letter dated 18 January 2017.</p>	
17.37.04	<p>Planning enforcement matter: Grove House, Lavenham Road, Brent Eleigh – Creation of entrances onto A1141 without planning consent</p> <p>The Clerk reported that he had contacted the named planning officer at Babergh recommended by Cllr Arthey, and had received an acknowledgement, saying that the Enforcement Team will be in touch. He will keep the matter in view.</p>	Clerk
17.38	<p>CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	
17.39	<p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <p>25 May 2017 Annual Parish Meeting 7pm Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council 8pm.</p> <p>22 June 2017 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm 20 July 2017 Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:15pm.</p>	