

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 29 JULY 2021 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Cllr Francesca Scoones

In Attendance:

William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

		Action
21.49	CHAIR'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
21.50	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Scoones. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Lindsay and District Councillor Hurren due to a clash of meetings.	
21.51	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
21.51.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.	
21.51.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
21.51.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
21.51.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
21.52	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS It was RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Statutory Annual Meeting held on 27 May 2021 and of the Special Meeting held on 24 June 2021 and sign them as a true and accurate record. Proposed by: Cllr Helms Seconded by: Cllr Austin	
21.53	TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT No report was received from Cllr Hurren prior to the meeting, because he had expected to be able to attend. However he subsequently provided a report. The text of the report is appended below at Appendix 1 .	
21.54	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 2 .	
21.55	TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A query was raised in respect of the conditions of the 	

	<p>planning consent given in 2019 for the erection of a stable block, tack and feed rooms, and a menage, at Bennetts Piece, Cock Lane. The Clerk promised to investigate and advise Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An offer was made from a resident that if materials were supplied, he would undertake to treat the Milden road noticeboard with preservative. Councillors felt that although the offer was appreciated, this was not the most appropriate way of conserving the wood in the case of the noticeboard. A discussion about the condition of the noticeboards then followed. Concern was expressed about both the catches and the difficulty of keeping them open to post notices. Cllr Helms offered to photograph the existing noticeboards and the Clerk will find out costs of new noticeboards. A resident reported that overhanging branches were resting on the roof of the bus shelter and needed to be removed. Cllr Austin promised to attend to this. 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Helms</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Austin</p>
21.56	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Cllr Went reported that the dog fouling sign at the top of Town Hill was snapped off. It has been repaired.</p>	
21.57	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS</p>	
21.57.01	<p>Financial update report</p> <p>The clerk tabled a copy of the updated cashbook, which showed the balance in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank, as at 1 July 2021, standing at £5,285.40.</p>	
21.57.02	<p>To consider and approve payments</p> <p>It was AGREED to make the following payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £100.00 to the Internal Auditor in respect of fee. 	<p>Clerk</p>
21.58	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS</p>	
21.58.01	<p>Dog fouling - update</p> <p>Cllr Went reported problems in Cock Lane. A dog fouling prohibition sign will be displayed there.</p>	<p>Cllr Went</p>
21.58.02	<p>Defibrillator - update</p> <p>Cllr Marshall reported back on correspondence with The Community Heartbeat Trust, who have provided information on feasibility for installing in the BT kiosk, as well as prices. If there is no power available then a battery operated one would cost £2,145. Maintenance costs are estimated at around £135 - £165pa. Cllr Marshall will liaise with Milden to find out what their running costs are, including pads and batteries.</p>	<p>Cllr Marshall</p>
21.58.03	<p>Footpaths</p> <p>Footpaths in the parish are very overgrown in view of the recent weather conditions. The Manager of Brook Farm has agreed to cut the paths on Brook Farm land and Cllr Austin will check with him. A resident has offered to cut the path at Town Hill and around the lake off Cock Lane, whilst Cllr Went said he will cut the permissive path near the vineyard.</p>	<p>Cllr Austin</p> <p>Cllr Went</p>

21.59	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
21.59.01	Creation of 20mph zone in The Street and Hall Road It was AGREED to defer discussion of this item until Cllr Lindsay is able to be present.	
21.59.02	Festival of Suffolk 2022 The email from the Lord Lieutenant was discussed. It was AGREED to take no action on this.	
21.59.03	Discovering Suffolk – Fingerpost Plaques The proposal to fit new plaques onto existing signs was discussed. Cllr Went offered to volunteer to do that, and the Clerk will inform SCC Rights of Way Team accordingly.	Cllr Went Clerk
21.60	PLANNING ISSUES	
21.60.01	To consider Planning Applications received (1) DC/21/03745 – Hill Farm – Proposed conversion of 3 redundant poultry sheds into new Class E business units, demolition of 2 poultry sheds and retention of the 2 existing Class B2 use vehicle repair workshops Following discussion it was AGREED to recommend approval.	Clerk
21.60.02	To receive notifications on Planning Applications as determined by Babergh DC (2) DC/21/00449 – Barn A Bridge Farm – Conversion into residential dwelling Planning consent was granted on 12 July 2021.	
21.61	DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS 30 September 2021 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.	
21.62	CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.53pm.	

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM DISTRICT CLLR BRYN HURREN

1st August 2021.

First of all, profuse apologies for not being able to get to your meeting due to circumstances beyond my control.

Since I last saw you, Babergh have now officially opened the newly refurbished swimming pool and leisure facilities at Hadleigh; this site has been updated and improved at a cost of two and a half million pounds which along with improvements at the Kingfisher leisure centre at Sudbury, have brought our investment in the district leisure facilities to over 5 million pounds, a brave decision indeed and a sound statement as to our commitment to sport, swimming and general health and wellbeing amongst our residents throughout the district.

We can only hope now that these facilities are well used to bring an income back to BDC to help balance our investment and commitment.

Although the examination of our Joint Local Plan by the inspector has been stalled a little due to difficulty with virtual presentations, we remain hopeful that this time will be caught up and the rest of the task will be completed promptly and the plan can be adopted very early in the new year. This will at last bring the council up to date and able to defend what it has proposed and also stop acres of our green land being swallowed up for yet more unaffordable unwanted large mansions on the edge of our villages and across valuable farmland.

Although our high streets have taken a hammering due to lack of footfall during the pandemic and some businesses not being able to trade at all, we are seeing an increase in trading now and we are trying to encourage it with the added

option of virtual high streets. This is an idea to get as many shops as are able trading on a virtual platform with an option of click and collect or having purchases delivered later in the day. A good initiative which we have supported financially and is being used in our market towns of Hadleigh and Sudbury. This idea could be used either on an individual basis or anywhere that has a group of shops and delivery costs can be shared. Also, more people are coming to realise it makes sense to support local shops to cut down food miles and support local trades who will put money back into the local community.

Locally I would be pleased to have feedback re Hill Farm development and can report that I have made strong representations to the planning inspector as to the unsuitability of the little site in Highlands Rd being used for a permanent housing site.

I can also report that the 5 local needs houses on the old school site at Monks Eleigh have been purchased by the District Council to add to their housing stock, I am in favour of this and did indeed suggest it to housing officers as a good way forward as I feel that we look after our houses and their tenants better than most housing associations.

These houses do not come under the RTB scheme and are subject to a section 106 agreement that they will always be available for just local applicants.

Any Questions, please contact me and I will do my best to answer.

Hope to see you all at your next meeting in September. All Best Regards. Bryn

APPENDIX 2: REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR ROBERT LINDSAY

New look County Council

I was re-elected in May along with eight other Green councillors across the county, making us the main opposition group to the ruling Conservatives and the only county in the UK that has Greens as opposition. Thanks to all those who supported me. We have decided to again join forces with the 4 LibDems and 2 independent councillors to make a 15-strong group. I am deputy leader of the group for the first year. While Greens increased from 3 to 9 the Conservatives increased from 50 to 55, so they are still overwhelmingly in control. Our larger group size means our political group will have a seat on every major committee. The first council meeting at the end of May took place at Wherstead Park outside Ipswich as apparently the only venue large enough. The next meeting in July has been cancelled and an extra meeting will instead be held in September in the hope that restrictions will have lifted and a venue can be found by then.

New cabinet

The cabinet has been reshuffled and new roles created. **Matthew Hicks** is still the leader, his deputy is now **Richard Rout** who is also member for finance and environment, combining the two roles to hopefully ensure one does not hinder the other. Highways and young people's roles have both been split into two.

Paul West is in charge of operational highways (including footpaths and pavements), flooding and Ipswich. Paul is approachable and responsive.

Rachel Hood from Newmarket is cabinet member for education, SEND and skills (schools and colleges).

Becky Hopfenspurger is member for adult care;

James Reeder is member for children and young people's services – services provided to kids outside schools

Andrew Reid, who had been doing highways, has been put in charge of public health and public protection, including the fire service and CABs

Richard Smith is economic development, transport strategy – including road safety and speeding, and waste.

School travel and split villages and split siblings

Having been approach by both Cockfield PC and a resident of Thorpe Morieux over the issue of their siblings having to go to different schools in order to get a free bus, I have written to Rachel Hood as the relevant new cabinet member about the issue of split villages, asking if the policy could be reviewed. She has said she will talk to the senior officer regarding this and get back to me. The other route is via the new education and health scrutiny committee, at which our group will be pushing to have a review of this policy on the agenda. It is something that the administration was warned repeatedly about by members of our political group when they were considering introducing the new policy back in 2017. The cabinet member who introduced the policy, Gordon Jones, stood down from office in May.

Special educational needs (SEND) Review

Rachel Hood's first act as education and SEND cabinet member is to order an independent review into the way parents and carers of SEND children are communicated with by Suffolk County Council. The review will not look at the actual

provision of SEND services itself. A SEND team from Lincolnshire County Council has been appointed to do the job. They started week beginning June 21 and will take six weeks. The report, with any recommendations, will be published on Suffolk County Council's website. Some parents accuse the county council of breaking the law by not fulfilling legal requirements and demand a lawyer led inquiry. Suffolk County Council has refused since it says it is the role of Ofsted. Ofsted failed SCC's SEND services four years ago because of a slowness in providing needs assessments for children, and then when they are drawn up, failure to provide the actual services that they need.

Bus Back Better

Government has given Suffolk county council a series of tight deadlines over the next few months if it wants to benefit from a pot for bus funding. It must agree "enhanced partnerships" with commercial bus operators by the autumn which detail how they will invest to improve services. However, this does not appear to affect large parts of rural areas like ours where bus services are already non existent or minimal and largely dependent on dial a ride services.

Speed limits in Brent Eleigh

You did ask me, via Karen Marshall, about getting slower speed limits in Brent Eleigh, particularly on the main road. I have sent to Karen the criteria Highways use for approving slower speeds. Unfortunately I can not see a way that the main road by the Cock would fit with the criteria they demand – there are simply not enough houses and businesses along this stretch. I have had battles with Highways before over speed limit reductions from 60mph to 40mph on stretches of the main road from Hadleigh to Kersey Mill and they have proved time consuming and fruitless. However, I will continue to push the council to change its policy to allow for default lower limits in residential areas.