

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 29 MARCH 2018 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:**

District Councillor Clive Arthey  
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

		<b>Action</b>
<b>18.16</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME</b> Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
<b>18.17</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> Apologies were received from Councillor Shewring. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Robert Lindsay.	
<b>18.18</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>18.18.01</b>	<b>To Receive Amendments to the Register</b> There were no amendments to the Register.	
<b>18.18.02</b>	<b>To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were none.	
<b>18.18.03</b>	<b>To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were none.	
<b>18.18.04</b>	<b>To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared</b> It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
<b>18.19</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b> Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 25 January 2018 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
<b>18.20</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b> Cllr Arthey reported as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District Electoral Review – The Boundary Commission's final recommendations were expected by 6 February but were delayed until early March. Notwithstanding that, the new timetable still gives sufficient time for implementation before the next District elections in May 2019. The latest proposals place Brent Eleigh in a Box Vale Ward, together with Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Milden and Monks Eleigh.</li> <li>• 2018/19 Budget – Figures for the 2018 Council Tax (Band D) are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suffolk County Council £1,242.54 (+5%)</li> <li>○ Police £188.82 (+6.8%)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Babergh District Council £158.86 (+3.25%)</li> <li>○ Brent Eleigh Parish Council £27.24 (+2.3%).</li> <li>• Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – CIL Framework Document produced. 5% of CIL contributions will be used to administer the scheme, 15% will go to parish / town councils (25% to parish / town councils with Neighbourhood Plans in place), with the remainder being split 80:20% between local infrastructure and strategic infrastructure. These proposals should provide a significant local “pot” from which parish / town councils (and other providers) can apply for funding. It may well be possible to combine parish CIL with district CIL for more effective spending.</li> <li>• Conservation Area appraisal – Cllr Arthey expressed his pleasure that funding was finally in place to enable the completion of the Brent Eleigh Conservation Area appraisal.</li> </ul>	
18.21	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b></p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Lindsay, the Clerk read out his report which may be summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCC met to agree the budget proposals for 2018/19 on 8 February. The Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group were unable to support the budget, as it contained a number of cuts, including a £12m cut to adult social care, funding reductions for Citizens Advice and Trading Standards, and cuts to rural bus services. However the proposals were passed in full without support from opposition councillors. The 2018/19 budget includes a 4.99% increase in Council Tax.</li> <li>• Following representations made by opposition councillors, the Suffolk Public Leaders Group (council leaders and chief executives from authorities across Suffolk, as well as the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner, Chief Fire Officer and representatives from Suffolk’s Clinical Commissioning Groups) has agreed to reconsider its governance arrangements. Hitherto meetings have been held in private with no minutes being kept, and no transparency or accountability in terms of decision-making.</li> <li>• Consultation on proposed cuts to school buses has now closed. A motion by opposition councillors for a debate on the matter to be held at a special meeting of Full Council was rejected, and a decision on whether to go ahead with the cuts will be taken by Cabinet in April.</li> <li>• Cabinet has approved the “Raising the Bar” 2018-20 strategy, the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the programme which started in 2012 and is focused on improving educational standards across the County. The strategy includes the very ambitious goal to place Suffolk’s education system in the top 25% nationally. However there are concerns that no new funding has been allocated to this new phase.</li> <li>• The SCC Cabinet has agreed to set up a new outcomes-based contract to provide intensive therapeutic support for adolescents at the edge of care, via a private service provider. Payments will only be made if children are either not taken into care or are returned to their families. The contract will be funded by a Social</li> </ul>	



	<p>“pot” by Babergh to support parish funding; <b>it was AGREED</b> to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtain details of the contact at Babergh for administering such a fund from Cllr Arthey</li> <li>• Clarify the ownership of Clay Lane</li> <li>• Contact the Clerk of Lavenham Parish Council to ascertain in principle whether Lavenham PC might be willing to consider making a financial contribution to improvements at the Lavenham end.</li> </ul>	Clerk
<b>18.24.06</b>	<p><b>General Data Protection Regulation – May 2018</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that at a late stage discussions re the need for local councils to appoint a Data Protection Officer were taking place with a view to the legislation possibly being amended. However all other requirements of the Regulation will require compliance. Meanwhile the availability of a local DPO service was <b>NOTED</b>.</p>	
<b>18.24.07</b>	<p><b>Grant request</b></p> <p>A grant request was received from East Anglia Children’s Hospices. <b>It was AGREED to NOTE</b> this request.</p>	
<b>18.25</b>	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT</b></p> <p>Cllr Went reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He has advised the appropriate PCSO of the date of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting but has yet to receive a response.</li> <li>• In terms of Minute 18.10 of the previous meeting (damage caused to the grass on the triangle by BT contractors) he has decided not to write to the Minister but rather to make good the damage himself.</li> <li>• He will forward the Tree Warden information to Cllr Scoones.</li> </ul>	Cllr Went
<b>18.26</b>	<p><b>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS</b></p> <p>Cllr Warner reported that the boundary marking fence and the identification of the black poplar at Town Hill are being undertaken paid for by Locality grant funding to the Village Hall Committee. The intention is to follow that up by the provision of some interpretative signage.</p>	Cllr Warner
<b>18.27</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT</b>	
<b>18.27.01</b>	<p><b>Beacons of Light 11 November 2018 – update</b></p> <p>There was nothing to report. Cllr Warner will however raise this item with the Village Hall Committee.</p>	Cllr Warner
<b>18.27.02</b>	<p><b>Road safety mirror opposite Corner Farm</b></p> <p>This remains to be fixed. Cllr Went to try to resolve.</p>	Cllr Went
<b>18.27.03</b>	<p><b>Babergh / Mid Suffolk merger - update</b></p> <p>The eight week public engagement programme (consultation) ran until 5 February 2018. Cllr Warner responded as an individual to the survey. Since 5 February however there have been no further developments.</p>	
<b>18.27.04</b>	<p><b>New electoral arrangements for Babergh District Council – consultation</b></p> <p>The views of Brent Eleigh PC were sent to the Local Government Boundary Commission in response to the original consultation exercise on 10 December 2017. Given no direct functional relationship between Brent Eleigh and Bildeston, Brent Eleigh Councillors suggested that the proposed Bildeston and Whatfield Wards should be combined in one</p>	

	<p>two Councillor Ward; that would at least ensure that where functional links do exist along the Brett Valley they can be preserved, and having two members serving a wide rural area would aid representation and avoid the one Member being double booked for Council meetings. Such an arrangement would also reflect grouping of parishes in the pre-Babergh (pre 1974) era when all the parishes in question formed the northern part of the old Cosford Rural District. No response was received from the Boundary Commission to that suggestion.</p> <p>New draft recommendations were received at the beginning of March. These included the suggestion that Brent Eleigh be included in a "Box Vale" ward together with Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Milden and Monks Eleigh. Apart from the geographical error – the Box Valley, like the Brett and Stour valleys, flows west – east, and Brent Eleigh sits in the upper Brett valley; Brent Eleigh has no local functional connectivity with Boxford. It was suggested by Cllr Arthey that a compromise solution might be to move Brent Eleigh and Monks Eleigh into the proposed South East Cosford ward, and transfer Lindsey and Semer into Box Vale. That suggestion was <b>AGREED</b> and the Clerk to respond to the Commission with that proposal before the consultation closes again on 30 April.</p>	Clerk
<b>18.27.05</b>	<p><b>SALC Annual training programme 2018/19</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported the publication of the SALC annual training programme which has been distributed to Councillors. There is a budget of £200 for training in 2018/19.</p>	
<b>18.27.06</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding training</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that safeguarding training specifically aimed at local councils is being offered in two half day sessions on 3 May 2018 at the Blackbourne Community Centre, Elmswell.</p>	
<b>18.27.07</b>	<p><b>Suffolk Walking Festival 2018</b></p> <p>This will take place from 12 May to 3 June and posters have been displayed on the village noticeboards.</p>	
<b>18.27.08</b>	<p><b>Control of dogs in Brent Eleigh</b></p> <p>Concern was expressed at both the number of recent incidents involving dogs attacking other dogs and also an increase in fouling along the most used dog walking paths. <b>It was AGREED</b> that a flyer reminding everyone of the need to keep dogs under control will be distributed to all homes in the village.</p>	Cllr Went / Cllr Marshall
<b>18.27.09</b>	<p><b>Fence at the end of The Street</b></p> <p>Following discussion on the need to repair / replace the section of fencing that has been lifted out on at least two occasions to allow large vehicles to pass through to the A1141, <b>it was AGREED</b> that Cllr Warner would seek an estimate for this work from a local contractor.</p>	Cllr Warner
<b>18.28</b>	<b>PLANNING ISSUES</b>	
<b>18.28.01</b>	<p><b>Consultation on Babergh / Mid-Suffolk Joint Local Plan</b></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
<b>18.28.02</b>	<p><b>Brent Eleigh Conservation Area – draft appraisal</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported receipt of an email from the Conservation Architect who has undertaken the appraisal. He wishes to present the document to the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 May and give residents the opportunity to both ask questions and correct any errors. <b>This request</b></p>	

	<b>was AGREED</b> and the Clerk to confirm the arrangements with the Architect.	
<b>18.28.03</b>	<b>To Consider Planning Applications Received</b> None were received.	
<b>18.28.04</b>	<b>To Consider Updates on Planning Applications</b> <b>(1) 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.</b> The Parish Council’s comments were sent to Babergh on 2 February 2017. No decision on the application has yet been advised. <b>(2) 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.</b> The Parish Council’s comments were sent to Babergh on 2 February 2017. No decision on the application has yet been advised.	
<b>18.28.05</b>	<b>To Receive Notification of Decisions of Planning Applications as Determined by Babergh DC</b> <b>(3) 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</b> Planning consent was granted by letter dated 1 March 2018. <b>(4) 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</b> Planning consent was granted by letter dated 1 March 2018.	
<b>18.28.06</b>	<b>Planning enforcement matter: Grove House, Lavenham Road, Brent Eleigh – Creation of entrances onto A1141 without planning consent</b> The Clerk reported receipt of an email from the Planning Enforcement Officer on 9 February explaining that as both of the accesses in question are “stopped up” and not in use, no further action will be taken at the moment. The Officer has informed the current owners that any potential purchaser is informed that if it is intended to reinstate and use these accesses, discussions are had with both the Highways Authority and the Local Planning Authority prior to them being brought back into use. No further information was available in respect of the position in relation to the sale of the property (see Minute 18.13.06 of the meeting held on 25 January 2018).	
<b>18.29</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS</b> The date for the Parish litter pick was arranged to take place on Saturday 28 April. It was intended to borrow the equipment from Monks Eleigh.	Cllr Went

	The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.	
<b>18.30</b>	<b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 24 May at 7pm.</b></li><li>• <b>The Statutory Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 24 May at 8pm.</b></li></ul>	