

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 7 MARCH 2019 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

Present:

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

Apologies:

None

In Attendance:

County Councillor Robert Lindsay (part)
District Councillor Clive Arthey (part)
Ten members of the public
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

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| 19.15 | CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting. | |
| 19.16 | TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE There were no apologies for absence. | |
| 19.17 | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | |
| 19.17.01 | To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register. | |
| 19.17.02 | To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none. | |
| 19.17.03 | To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none. | |
| 19.17.04 | To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations. | |
| 19.18 | MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 24 January 2019 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record. | |
| 19.19 | TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Lindsay reported as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019/20 Budget - Suffolk CC's Cabinet has approved budget cuts for 2019/20 to meet a savings requirement of £10.1m, and Council Tax will rise by 3.99% - 2.99% increase in general Council Tax and 1% for the Social Care precept. The forecast deficit of over £8m in 2018/19 has fallen to £5.9m. However this has been achieved by not replacing staff so is not sustainable in the long term. A significant part of the cost overrun has been incurred by having to send SEN children out of County, and those costs should decrease with the planned investment of £45m in SEN places in County over the next few years. | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen’s Advice – The Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have decided to step in to replace the £184k cut in grant to Citizen’s Advice (50%) by County in 2019/20. However County is set to abolish the grant fully from 2020/21 and it is not clear what the CCG’s position will be then. Cllr Lindsay voted against the 2019/20 budget in February mainly because of this budget cut. • School travel – For pupils eligible for free school travel from September 2019, parents must now opt in to confirm children will require a seat on the bus by the end of May. In future seats will not be reserved automatically. • Special Needs inspection – Two years after failing its inspection, the County’s Special Needs Service is still not meeting children’s needs, according to Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission. Progress has been made on improving governance but not on three other areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents are waiting too long and having to go to multiple authorities to get the new version of “Statements” – <i>Education, Health and Social Care Plans</i>, particularly for autism. ○ There is a lack of understanding amongst parents of support available, including access to child and adolescent mental health services. ○ There is a lack of joint working to monitor outcomes for children. | |
| <p>19.20</p> | <p>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT Cllr Arthey reported as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019/20 Council Tax – For Brent Eleigh Band D Council Tax elements break down as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suffolk County Council £1,292.13 (+4%) ○ Suffolk Police £212.76 (+13%) ○ Babergh District Council £163.86 (+3.15%) ○ Brent Eleigh Parish Council £27.07 (-0.6%). Band D total is £1,695.82 with 76.2% of that going to Suffolk CC, 12.5% to Suffolk Police, 9.7% to Babergh DC and 1.6% to Brent Eleigh PC. • Babergh DC 2019/20 budget – Included in the budget is another £25m of borrowing to fund commercial property through CIFCO Capital Ltd. This will bring the total investment in CIFCO to £100m split equally between Babergh and Mid-Suffolk. • Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – In the round 2 bids applications have been approved for electric vehicle charging points in Lavenham, funding for the Lavenham “Community Hub” (the former Tourist Information Centre) where Post Office facilities will be provided, and for the Preston St Mary village hall extension. Unspent round 2 funds will be carried forward to the next bid round in May. • Conservation Area Appraisal – Brent Eleigh’s Conservation Area Appraisal was approved by Babergh’s Cabinet on 7 March and adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance with immediate effect. | |

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| 19.21 | TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS Nothing was raised. | |
| 19.22 | TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR Cllr Went reported the following recent activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two people have been arrested for an attempted distraction burglary in Lavenham. • There was a shed break-in at Chelsworth. • A few weeks ago vehicles were damaged and there were shed break-ins in Monks Eleigh. | |
| 19.23 | TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS | |
| 19.23.01 | Financial update The Clerk distributed copies of the updated cashbook and reported that the balance in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank, as at 1 March 2019, stood at £4,148.74. In a discussion about the possibility of purchasing a defibrillator for the village, Cllr Marshall promised to investigate the practicality of installing it in the former BT Telephone Kiosk. | Cllr Marshall |
| 19.23.02 | To consider and approve payments There were no payments for approval at present. However the Clerk reported that he was expecting an invoice for payroll from SALC before year end, as well as the paperwork for the Clerk's year end remuneration and payment to HMRC. | Clerk |
| 19.23.03 | Precept for 2019/20 – update The Clerk reported that the precept claim form for £2,250.00 was submitted before the deadline and receipt confirmed by Babergh Financial Services. The 1 st instalment (50%) will be paid in April and the 2 nd instalment in September 2019. | |
| 19.23.04 | Grant request for <i>Roundabout</i> The Clerk reported that he has received a request from the team who are trying to resurrect the <i>Roundabout</i> magazine, for a one-off donation of £150.00. Following discussion, and on the basis that it will be distributed to all households in the village as an inclusive community magazine, it was RESOLVED to make a donation of £150.00. Proposed by: Cllr Went Seconded by: Cllr Scoones | Clerk |
| 19.23.05 | Grant request from Citizens Advice, Sudbury Councillors further considered the grant request from the Chairman of Trustees of Citizens Advice, Sudbury. It was AGREED in the light of the CCG's decision to step in to compensate in full for the 50% reduction in county funding this year (see Minute 19.19 above), that no action will be taken at present in respect of this request. | |
| 19.23.06 | Grant request from Village Hall Committee No grant request has so far been received. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to put aside an earmarked reserve for Village Hall improvements of £1,000.00. Proposed by: Cllr Went Seconded by: Cllr Shewring | Clerk |
| 19.23.07 | Data Protection Matters Nothing to report. | |

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| 19.24 | TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Village litter pick Spring 2019 – This will take place on the morning of Saturday 16 March, starting at 10.30am at the Village Hall. Cllr Marshall reported that the worst areas for litter are on the edges of the parish; e.g. Milden Road and towards Preston / Lavenham. Milden Road grit bin – local residents are being consulted. | Cllr Marshall Cllr Marshall |
| 19.25 | TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT | |
| 19.25.01 | 2019 Elections – 2 May 2019 The election notice will be published on 12 March. Nomination papers must be returned to Electoral services at Babergh DC by 4pm on 3 April 2019. They must be returned by hand. An appointment for the delivery of nomination papers is however available for Friday 15 March at 2.30pm at the Mayor's Parlour, Sudbury Town Hall, which will save a trip to Endeavour House in Ipswich. All current councillors retire on 7 May and the persons elected take office. | All Councillors |
| 19.25.02 | Village Telephone Kiosk It was AGREED to leave refurbishment of the kiosk until after the election. | |
| 19.25.03 | Babergh Alliance of Parish and Town Councils The Clerk reported receipt of notes of meetings between the above Group and Babergh DC. Membership is open to any Parish / Town Council in Babergh. It was AGREED to NOTE this information. | |
| 19.25.04 | Rural Transport Conversation 15 March 2019 The invitation to Brent Eleigh PC to attend the Rural Transport conversation to be held on 15 March was NOTED . | |
| 19.25.05 | Suffolk CC School and post 16 Travel Policies for September 2019 The new school travel policy statement effective from September 2019 issued by Suffolk CC in January 2019 was NOTED . | |
| 19.25.06 | Babergh Area Forum It was NOTED that the next area forum for Council Members to exchange information, network and receive information on the latest local and national topics, will be held on 11 March, 7pm at the Ansel Centre, Market Place, Hadleigh IP7 5DL. | |
| 19.26 | PLANNING ISSUES | |
| 19.26.01 | Babergh / Mid-Suffolk Joint Local Plan As reported to the previous meeting (24 January 2019, Minute 19.12.01) public consultation on the draft new Local Plan will now take place in the summer of 2019. | |
| 19.26.02 | Brent Eleigh Conservation Area – draft appraisal As reported at Item 19.20 above, the Conservation Area appraisal has been approved by Babergh's Cabinet and now represents Supplementary Planning Guidance for the Parish. | |
| 19.26.03 | To Consider Planning Applications Received (1) DC/18/05625 – Bennetts Piece, Cock Lane – Erection of stable block to include tack and feed rooms; construction of menage with post and rail fencing. Following discussion it was AGREED to recommend refusal for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proximity of the proposed stable block to the Cock Inn. | |

- The detrimental effect that the pollution generated by the stables at such proximity would have on both food preparation and the number of customers wishing to eat.
- Issues of waste management and drainage given the proposed level of equine accommodation and closeness to human habitation.
- The proposal of stables for 6 horses is much greater than the recommendation by the British Horse Society for a plot of only 3 acres (which suggests an element of commercial activity which is not explicit in the application).
- Paragraph 182 of the latest version of the National Planning Policy Framework makes it clear that planning decisions should ensure that new development can be integrated effectively with existing businesses, which should not have unreasonable restrictions placed upon them as a result of new development.
- Trees covered by a Group TPO are likely to be affected by the proposed construction.

The Clerk to advise Babergh DC accordingly.

(2) DC/19/00474/5 [Planning & Listed Building applications] – The Old Cottage, The Street – alterations to existing single storey rear extension (retrospective) and refurbishment of existing garage / workshop.

The deadlines for comments were 22 and 27 February respectively; Brent Eleigh Parish Councillors had no comments to make. Planning consent was granted by letter for DC/19/00475 on 4 March; no decision on DC/19/00474 has yet been advised.

(3) DC/19/00898 – Land to rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive – Erection of two storey dwelling and detached garage / annexe building (amendment to consent B/15/00213).

Following discussion it was **AGREED** to recommend refusal for the following reasons:

- The design is harsh and unsympathetic within the context of the Brent Eleigh Conservation Area. The zinc cladding particularly at 1st floor level will stand out and be highly visually intrusive in the local street scene.
- The overall area of the proposed build is too large in proportion to the plot, and will dominate the site and appear to be crammed into its location.
- The garage / annexe building in this revision has evolved into what appears to be a separate compact dwelling on the same plot. This gives rise to concerns of overdevelopment leading to a compromise of residential amenity given that the site is only served by a narrow, privately owned and unadopted road.
- The pipe carrying foul water from the sewage treatment plant serving Millstone, runs underneath the proposed new building and its integrity would be at risk from construction work / settlement.

The Clerk to advise Babergh DC accordingly.

Clerk

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| 19.26.04 | <p>To Consider Updates on Planning Applications (4) 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>The Parish Council's comments were sent to Babergh on 30 November 2018. No decision on the application has yet been advised.</p> | |
| 19.27 | <p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 April 2019 Annual Parish Meeting • 9 May 2019 Statutory Annual Meeting of the Council (Note revised date) <p><i>All meetings are held at Brent Eleigh Village Hall and start at 7.30pm.</i></p> | |
| 19.28 | <p>CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.</p> | |