

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

**Present:**

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

**In Attendance:**

District Councillor Clive Arthey  
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)  
8 Members of the Public

		<b>Action</b>
<b>16.74</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME</b> Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
<b>16.75</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE</b> There were no apologies for absence from Members of the Council. Apologies were received from County Councillor Jenny Antill.	
<b>16.76</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>16.76.01</b>	<b>To Receive Amendments to the Register</b> There were no amendments to the Register.	
<b>16.76.02</b>	<b>To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were none.	
<b>16.76.03</b>	<b>To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> Cllr Warner declared an interest in the Agenda item in relation to parking at the Village Hall.	
<b>16.76.04</b>	<b>To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared</b> It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
<b>16.77</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 28 July 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
<b>16.78</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b> In view of Cllr Antill's absence on holiday there was no report.	
<b>16.79</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b> Cllr Arthey reported as follows: <b>Devolution</b> - the consultation results seemed to indicate support for the East Anglia Devolution proposals in Suffolk and Norfolk, but perhaps not with a directly elected Mayor. Further discussions to take place during September and early October, after which we should know if the proposals are still supported by the new Government. <b>Chief Executive, Babergh and Mid Suffolk</b> - during the period between the departure of the previous Chief Executive and the recruitment of her successor, BDC and MSDC have appointed Deborah Cadman (Chief Executive of SCC) as temporary Head of Paid Service.	

	<p><b>Conversation on Growth: building a sustainable future and call for sites</b> - following on from a series of briefings on housing and employment growth and consultation during the summer, the call for sites closed at the end of August. Submissions are being considered and Parish Councils will be advised on supported sites early in the new year. Local Plan consultation will follow (probably late spring).</p> <p><b>District electoral review</b> - some wards (including North Cosford) are now outside the 10% variance for electoral equality. The review will firstly establish a specific number of councillors for the district and arrive at a median number of electors per ward. Wards should then be within 10% of that figure to ensure electoral equality. It will involve changes to ward boundaries (not necessarily all), but should not split parishes.</p> <p><b>Capital investment strategy</b> - the Government's Revenue Support Grant is reducing (possibly to zero by 2020) and councils have to look to other sources of income. As well as receiving the new homes bonus, BDC is able to borrow £25m at very low rates to invest in land and buildings to generate a return and support its budget. Hopefully much of this will be investment in the district which will help support our market towns.</p> <p><b>Accommodation review</b> - on 20 September BDC considered four options. 1: MSDC and BDC operate from BDC Hadleigh HQ. 2: MSDC and BDC operate from MSDC Needham Market HQ. 3: Both councils move to SCC offices at Endeavour House, Ipswich. 4: MSDC and BDC build new joint HQ. Cllr Arthey favoured retaining the Hadleigh offices (with the lowest revenue costs of the four options), but both BDC and MSDC Conservative administrations had already stated their preference to move to SCC offices in Ipswich, and that was the decision made. Some of the capital costings in the business case were not convincing, and there was a conspicuous lack of public consultation, particularly regarding the impact on the district's more remote parishes, and the impact on Hadleigh itself. Hopefully BDC will be able to continue providing some functions in Hadleigh, particularly regarding planning and licensing.</p> <p><b>Electoral registration</b> – annual registration under way. Important in the context of next year's SCC elections.</p> <p><b>Funding event</b> in Lavenham Village Hall on 19 October. [Cllr Warner to attend.]</p> <p><b>Proposed Monks Eleigh Education Centre</b> – turned down by SCC, so the aim of getting something positive from the closure of Monks Eleigh school would not materialise.</p> <p>Cllr Warner expressed concern, in the context of a housing shortage, that it took at least a year and the intervention of Cllr Arthey, before the sales of the two vacant former Council houses in the village were completed.</p>	Cllr Warner
16.80	<p><b>TO DISCUSS VILLAGE MATTERS</b></p> <p>Concern was expressed about the difficulty of negotiating the footpath leading up from Snapes Lane due to recently completed emergency drainage works. The work was carried out by the landowner to divert water from The Glebe. <b>It was AGREED</b> to keep the situation in view.</p>	
16.81	<p><b>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</b></p> <p>Cllr Went said there was nothing to report. He had received no</p>	

	<p>information from the police; any information disseminated comes from other residents. <b>It was NOTED</b> that SALC had advised councils to express concerns to the Constabulary where there was evidence of declining support to Neighbourhood Watch teams.</p> <p>Cllr Warner reported that a suspected bogus trader was operating in the area and residents should take care not to fall victim to a scam. They should always ask for evidence of identity and take the vehicle registration number as a precaution.</p> <p>The Clerk informed all present of public meetings to be attended by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk and the Chief Constable. There would be a meeting at Hadleigh Town Hall on Monday 21 November and at Sudbury Town Hall on Thursday 24 November, both meetings starting at 6.30pm.</p>	
<b>16.82</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS</b>	
<b>16.82.01</b>	<p><b>To approve and accept the audited Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016</b></p> <p>The Clerk advised that the external audit had been completed. <b>It was AGREED</b> that the Annual Return including the auditor's certificate should be approved and accepted. The Issues arising report was also considered and <b>NOTED</b>.</p>	
<b>16.82.02</b>	<p><b>Financial update</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that currently there was a balance of £3,539.15 in the Council's account with Lloyds Bank.</p>	
<b>16.82.03</b>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Instalment of Precept</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment of the precept (£1,000) had been paid into the Council's bank account during September.</p>	
<b>16.82.04</b>	<p><b>To consider and approve payments</b></p> <p>Approval was given to the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reimbursement to Cllr Warner for £34.80 in respect of disbursements in relation to securing a grit bin</li> <li>• The Clerk's salary and payment to HMRC in respect of months 1 to 6 of 2016/17</li> <li>• Subscription to the <i>onesuffolk</i> website hosting for one year (£30.00 plus VAT).</li> </ul> <p>Payments to be made once the Bank mandate changes are implemented.</p>	Clerk
<b>16.82.05</b>	<p><b>Bank Mandate change update</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the mandate change paperwork, sent off on 25 August, was still in the backlog of work with the Lloyds Mandate Change Team. He is continuing to chase.</p>	Clerk
<b>16.82.06</b>	<p><b>Budget 2017/18</b></p> <p>The Clerk reminded Councillors that they would need to consider and agree the budget and precept for 2017/18 by late January 2017 in order that he can advise Babergh accordingly. Budget setting will need to be considered at the November Council meeting.</p>	
<b>16.82.07</b>	<p><b>Grant request – The Marie Curie Charity</b></p> <p>This was <b>NOTED</b>.</p>	
<b>16.82.08</b>	<p><b>Government consultation on precept referendums</b></p> <p>The Clerk referred to his email sent to Members earlier in the day in which he set out the issues in the current round of consultation. As far as Brent Eleigh is concerned, the risk is only in respect of the "threat"</p>	

	contained within the consultation to extend referendums to all parishes where precept increases of 2% and above are being proposed.	
<b>16.83</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> Cllr Went had nothing to add to what is covered elsewhere in the Agenda.	
<b>16.84</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS</b> Cllr Marshall reported that via the intervention of Cllr Scoones, the footpath through the Brook Farm vineyard was now cleared. Also Snapes Lane and the footpath through to Milden Road were much improved. Unfortunately the Clay Lane byway has not been cleared and SCC were proving unresponsive. Cllr Marshall to provide the Clerk with the relevant SCC contact details for him to chase. Cllr Warner reported receipt of a locality grant of £1k from Cllr Antill as a contribution to the Village Hall refurbishment.	Cllr Marshall  Clerk
<b>16.85</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b>	
<b>16.85.01</b>	<b>Update on Matters Arising from the previous meeting</b> Nothing not covered in the separate minutes below.	
<b>16.85.02</b>	<b>Children Crossing Signage / Village Name Sign</b> In relation to the "Children Crossing" warning signs Cllr Went has written to James Cartlidge MP, cc to Cllr Antill, also suggesting that a 40mph limit be imposed on that section of road. The Brent Eleigh village sign on the approach from Monks Eleigh is scheduled to be replaced on 4 October.	
<b>16.85.03</b>	<b>Milden Road grit bin</b> A plate will be attached indicating ownership and that the bin should not be removed, prior to it being replaced for the winter months.	Cllr Went
<b>16.85.04</b>	<b>SALC public service survey</b> This electronic survey was previously distributed to Councillors. It covers a range of key issues: broadband, policing, highways, parking and planning. Following a discussion on broadband speeds, where it was felt they were generally good but could be better, Cllr Warner agreed to respond to the survey on behalf of the Parish Council.	Cllr Warner
<b>16.85.05</b>	<b>Proposed Brett Valley Community &amp; Education Centre</b> As already reported by Cllr Arthey, a letter had been received from the group promoting the above project, informing its supporters that the bid had been rejected by Suffolk CC.	
<b>16.85.06</b>	<b>Village Hall – parking issues</b> A number of residents expressed concern at the "no parking" sign displayed outside the village Hall. Cllr Warner set out the background to this, including the ownership and insurance issues. The Clerk advised that this was not primarily a matter for the Parish Council, but rather for the Trustees of the Village Hall. <b>It was AGREED</b> following discussion that Cllr Warner would report back to the Village Hall Committee and the matter would be set down for discussion at the next meeting of the Village Hall Committee on 7 November. Cllr Went indicated that he would attend that meeting.	Cllr Warner  Cllr Went
<b>16.85.07</b>	<b>Pensions Regulator – Declaration of Compliance</b> The Clerk reported that the staging date for compliance with the Council's duties under the Pensions Act 2008, is 1 January 2017. Notwithstanding that in practical terms it is unaffected by the legislation,	

	a Declaration of Compliance will have to be completed and submitted. Failure to do that will incur penalties.	Clerk
<b>16.86</b>	<b>PLANNING ISSUES</b>	
<b>16.86.01</b>	<p><b>To Consider Planning Applications Received</b></p> <p><b>(1) B/16/01098/FHA – Millstone, The Street, Brent Eleigh – Replacement of door and fenestration</b> Following discussion it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend approval.</p> <p><b>(2) B/16/01093/FUL – Rye House, Hall Road, Brent Eleigh – Erection of single storey stable block</b> Following discussion it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend approval.</p> <p><b>(3) B/16/00755 – Hill Farm, Lavenham Road, Brent Eleigh – Retrospective application for change of use of dwellinghouse to bed and breakfast / training facility</b> Following discussion it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend approval.</p> <p><b>(4) B/16/01253/TCA – Macs Folly, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh – Notification of works to trees in conservation area</b> Following discussion it was <b>AGREED</b> to recommend approval.</p> <p>The Clerk to advise Babergh planners of the Council's recommendations accordingly.</p>	Clerk
<b>16.86.02</b>	<p><b>To Receive Notification of Decisions of Planning Applications as Determined by Babergh DC</b></p> <p><b>(1) B/16/00602/FHA – 4 The Glebe, Brent Eleigh – Erection of two storey side extension</b> The application was approved by decision letter dated 31 August 2016 subject to conditions, including a restriction on the extension being occupied as a separate dwelling, and a requirement to submit an arboricultural report / method statement explaining how the trees / hedgerows will be protected during construction.</p>	
<b>16.86.03</b>	<p><b>Planning enforcement matter: Grove House, Lavenham Road, Brent Eleigh – Creation of entrance onto A1141 without planning consent</b> The Clerk reported no developments on this and he will chase.</p>	Clerk
<b>16.87</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS</b> The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	
<b>16.88</b>	<p><b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b> <b>24 November 2016 7.30pm (Please note revised date)</b> There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:45pm.</p>	