

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

Present:

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

In Attendance:

William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)
One Member of the Public

		Action
16.89	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
16.90	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr Karen Marshall. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Jenny Antill and District Councillor Clive Arthey.	
16.91	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
16.91.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were no amendments to the Register.	
16.91.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
16.91.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
16.91.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
16.92	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 22 September 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
16.93	TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Antill's written report was read out by the Clerk. The main points are summarised as follows: Devolution – Following the Government's scrapping of the deal following the withdrawal of some Norfolk councils from the process, Suffolk councils decided to attempt to secure a deal for Suffolk alone. Council on 23 November agreed a motion to pursue this. Cllr Antill, along with six other councillors, abstained, but the motion was carried by 57 votes. School attendance – As well as reporting above average results for both SATS tests, GCSEs and A Levels, pupil absence has reduced from 4.7% last year to 4.4% this year – the highest attendance record over the last decade. Suffolk also continues to have less unauthorised absence than both the east of England and nationally, and ranks 16 th out of the 152 local authorities across the country for the lowest	

	<p>unauthorised absence this year – a vast improvement since 2013/14 when Suffolk was ranked at 71.</p> <p>Highways reorganisation – Highways is to be split into County-wide functional teams for the different areas of activity e.g. lighting, drainage etc. The functional teams will include both Keir and SCC employees. No firm arrangements have yet been made over the future of the local offices. Meanwhile consultation is taking place on new proposals for reactive maintenance across the county. It is not clear how the new proposals for prioritisation will differ from those currently in place however, although the intention is to introduce a more proactive approach to repairs.</p> <p>Brent Eleigh – Cllr Antill reported a meeting with David Stiff and John Simpson of SCC about both the Milden Road flooding and signage for children crossing the A1141 to catch the school bus. Nothing further has been heard from them. The drainage issue has been added to the list of jobs but is not a priority. Cllr Antill will raise the issue of signage again but it is unlikely that any action will be forthcoming at present.</p> <p>May elections 2017 – Cllr Antill apologised for not being able to tell the Parish Council in person that she will not be seeking re-election to the County Council in May 2017.</p>	
16.94	<p>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Arthey's written report was read out by the Clerk. Main points were as follows:</p> <p>Joint working and partnerships - In order to achieve the necessary economies, councils across Suffolk are working together in pairs, groups, and in partnership. Babergh and Mid-Suffolk are already integrated in service delivery, Babergh shares Revenues and Benefits administration with Ipswich Council, and now a Combined Legal Service has been established based in Bury St Edmunds, for Babergh / Mid-Suffolk, and St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath (West Suffolk) councils.</p> <p>Chief Executive – Arthur Chavonia has been appointed as the new Joint Chief Executive for Babergh / Mid-Suffolk, and will take up the post early in the new year.</p> <p>Accommodation review – Following the decision to move to the SCC Headquarters building (Endeavour House, Ipswich), a “Public Access Strategy” is being developed to improve access to the Council's services, and will include a new, improved, website. Cllr Arthey remains concerned regarding the accessibility of the new offices out of District, and as the Council expects more business to be conducted online, the issue of good internet connections for all residents within Babergh. For those without internet access, services must remain easy to use. A proper plan must be put in place for the future of the Hadleigh HQ buildings.</p> <p>Waste and recycling – The Suffolk Waste Partnership has recently launched a campaign to improve recycling and reduce contamination at the Great Blakenham Materials Recycling Facility. Leaflets have gone to all households, explaining what is allowed in the blue bin, what is not allowed, and where to take items that are recyclable, but not by the blue bin. The Hadleigh Household Waste and Recycling Centre accepts a wide range of recyclables, and has the best recycling rate for such centres in Suffolk.</p> <p>Devolution – After a period of public consultation during the summer,</p>	

16.97.04	Community Action Suffolk (CAS) The Clerk reported an offer of free membership from CAS (£25.00 plus VAT in 2015/16). It was AGREED that the Clerk would accept.	Clerk
16.97.05	Grant request – Suffolk Accident Rescue Service This was NOTED .	
16.97.06	Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) The Clerk reported advance warning received from SALC as to the 2017 subscription cost for Brent Eleigh PC. The invoice will be issued in April 2017 for £130.52, an increase of £3.66 On 2016. This was NOTED .	
16.98	BUDGET AND PRECEPT SETTING 2017/18 The Clerk reported receipt of the precept papers for 2017/18 from Babergh. Brent Eleigh PC has to set a precept for 2017/18 and advise Babergh by 31 January 2017. Both the budget and precept need to be agreed at the Council meeting in January 2017. As an aid to this process it was AGREED to hold a Budget Working Party meeting of all Councillors to consider all the preliminary issues on 15 December, 7.30pm at the Village Hall. The Clerk to distribute a paper in advance of the meeting.	Clerk
16.99	TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT Cllr Went reported that he had received no response from James Cartlidge MP, in response to his letter seeking support for the “children crossing” warning signs on the A1141.	
16.100	TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS Cllr Marshall reported via Cllr Went that the Clay Lane byway has still not been cleared and SCC were still unresponsive. Matter to be raised with Cllr Antill at the next meeting. All present were welcomed to the Village “Christmas Cheer” event on 8 December at the Village Hall. Flyers were available for distribution. The grit bin will be replaced in Milden Road sometime during the coming weekend.	Cllr Marshall Cllr Went
16.101	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
16.101.01	Update on Matters Arising from the previous meeting Nothing not covered in the separate minutes below.	
16.101.02	Children Crossing Signage / Village Name Sign In relation to the “Children Crossing” warning signs, Cllr Antill has previously advised (by email dated 19 October) following her meeting with Highways officers, that any signage was not likely to be very effective. The village sign on the approach from Monks Eleigh was replaced on 4 October, as promised by SCC Highways.	
16.101.03	Milden Road grit bin / drainage As minuted above, the grit bin, now with ownership plate attached, will shortly be replaced in Milden Road. Highways officers have promised Cllr Antill that the water problem is being referred to the newly formed drainage team. However as a minor road and with no reported accidents, it is likely to be a very low priority.	
16.101.04	SALC – Babergh Area meeting The Clerk advised that the next area meeting would be held at the Babergh offices in Hadleigh on Monday 28 November at 7pm. There will be no representative from Brent Eleigh PC attending.	

16.101.05	<p>Request from Babergh re Street naming / numbering</p> <p>The Clerk reported a request from Babergh to provide a list of appropriate street names to be held on file and referred to when a request is received from a developer. Following discussion it was AGREED that in relation to a small community like Brent Eleigh, where the last new road was in the 1960's, this is a flawed approach. If new housing development was to happen in one part of the village the name suggested is likely to be entirely different from what it might be in another part, in relation to the history of the plot in question. The name given to the last new road in Brent Eleigh – The Glebe, formerly part of the Rectory land – confirms this view. Councillors felt that the time taken by initial informal discussions with the parish Council, the formal planning process itself and the duration of the build, will provide ample time to put forward a name tailored to the site in question. Clerk to respond to Babergh accordingly.</p>	Clerk
16.101.06	<p>SALC – Lobbying for allowances</p> <p>The Clerk mentioned details of a survey run by NALC, to help provide evidence that the inability of local councillors nationally to be able to claim the Dependants' Carers Allowance, which is available to members of Principal Authorities, is inhibiting Members' ability to attend meetings. Further information on this, together with the link to the survey, had been distributed to all Brent Eleigh councillors on 21 November. Deadline for completion of the survey is 17.00 on 18 January 2017.</p>	
16.102	<p>PLANNING ISSUES</p>	
16.102.01	<p>To Consider Planning Applications Received</p> <p>(1) 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</p> <p>Following discussion it was AGREED to recommend approval.</p> <p>(2) 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>Following discussion it was AGREED to recommend approval.</p> <p>The Clerk to advise Babergh planners of the Council's recommendations accordingly. In both cases to the recommendation for approval should be added a requirement to safeguard the public right of way represented by Footpath 3 which runs through the Hill Farm buildings complex, and the relationship between the footpath and the new proposals needs to be clarified.</p>	Clerk
16.102.02	<p>To Receive Notification of Decisions of Planning Applications as Determined by Babergh DC</p> <p>(1) B/16/01098/FHA – Millstone, The Street, Brent Eleigh – Replacement of door and fenestration</p> <p>The application was approved by decision letter dated 14 October 2016 subject to conditions, including the approval of (1) the precise details of the weatherboarding to be used and the colour</p>	

	<p>finishes, and (2) full details of the proposed fenestration changes.</p> <p>(2) B/16/01093/FUL – Rye House, Hall Road, Brent Eleigh – Erection of single storey stable block The application was approved by decision letter dated 17 October 2016 subject to conditions, including the use of materials and colour finishes as per those detailed in the application, a ban on the burning of manure on the site, and the prior approval of any proposed external lighting on the development.</p> <p>(3) B/16/01150/FUL – Rye House, Hall Road, Brent Eleigh – Erection of 1 no. dwelling (following demolition of existing building) This application was withdrawn.</p> <p>(4) B/16/00755 – Hill Farm, Lavenham Road, Brent Eleigh – Retrospective application for change of use of dwellinghouse to bed and breakfast / training facility At the date of the Parish Council meeting, a decision on this application was still awaited.</p> <p>(5) B/16/01240/FUL – Brook Farm, Cock Lane, Brent Eleigh – Erection of 5 bay extension to agricultural building for livestock housing; insertion of gates, fence and walls to create yard area The application was approved by decision letter dated 4 November 2016.</p> <p>(6) B/16/01253/TCA – Macs Folly, Brent Mill Drive, Brent Eleigh – Notification of works to trees in conservation area Approval for the works contained in the Notice was given by letter dated 11 October 2016.</p>	
16.102.03	<p>Planning enforcement matter: Grove House, Lavenham Road, Brent Eleigh – Creation of entrances onto A1141 without planning consent The Clerk reported that, having had no follow up to his telephone call to Babergh Planning Enforcement in October, he sent an email on 18 November, and had not yet had any response to that. He will keep in view.</p>	Clerk
16.103	<p>CHAIRMAN’S CLOSING REMARKS The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	
16.104	<p>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 12 January 2017 at 7.30pm 23 March 2017 at 7.30pm There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:35pm.</p>	