

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 28 JULY 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

**Present:**

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

**In Attendance:**

County Councillor Jenny Antill  
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)  
2 Members of the Public

		<b>Action</b>
<b>16.58</b>	<b>CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME</b> Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting.	
<b>16.59</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 District Councillor Clive Arthey.	
<b>16.60</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>16.60.01</b>	<b>To Receive Amendments to the Register</b> There were no amendments to the Register.	
<b>16.60.02</b>	<b>To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were none.	
<b>16.60.03</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 grant aid for the Village Hall Committee	
<b>16.60.04</b>	<b>To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared</b> It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
<b>16.61</b>	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b> Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 30 June 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
<b>16.62</b>	<b>TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION TO VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL</b> The Clerk advised the meeting that the period for claiming a parish poll to elect a successor to Cllr Davis had expired, and it was open to the Council to fill the vacancy by co-option. Only one expression of interest was received. The Chairman invited Mrs Francesca Scoones to introduce herself and state her reasons for wanting to join the Council. After she had done so Members <b>AGREED</b> unanimously that she should be co-opted onto the Council, and she completed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office accordingly.	
<b>16.63</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b> Cllr Antill gave her report. <b>Devolution</b> – Online consultation on the devolution proposals for Suffolk and Norfolk is currently running. Concerns were expressed that the new	

	<p>arrangements – in effect a 4<sup>th</sup> tier of local government – will be undemocratic, with no involvement of other than the ruling political parties in local administrations. The amount on offer - £25m pa is not a particularly significant sum in terms of overall East Anglian budgets.</p> <p><b>New Orwell river crossings</b> – There is also a consultation exercise currently underway in relation to the three proposed Upper Orwell crossings. This runs from 1 July to 12 August. Funding is in place for these proposals. Full details can be found on the Suffolk County Council website. Cllr Warner advised that river users are concerned that tall-masted vessels will not be accommodated by the new proposals and legal advice is being sought. Cllr Antill offered to bring the concern to the attention of the relevant Ipswich County Councillor.</p> <p><b>Suffolk CC’s children’s services</b> continue to improve. Ofsted’s latest annual report contains a Suffolk based case study.</p> <p><b>Brent Eleigh - Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Antill is in conversation with County Highways over the historic and ongoing flooding problem in Mildred Road. Highways have indicated that as a C road it will not be given high priority but will be investigated before the autumn.</li> <li>• A high level meeting is taking place over the acknowledged poor state of the roads and verges. It is accepted that the contract with Kier was badly negotiated and is not in the County Council’s best interests.</li> <li>• There is to be consultation on County Highways’ Asset Management Plan</li> <li>• Road closures on the A1141 will take place overnight between 24 August and 1 September due to the resurfacing of The Street, Monks Eleigh.</li> </ul> <p>Finally Cllr Antill offered to consider making a contribution towards the works being undertaken to the Village Hall if someone will write to request grant aid. Cllr Warner, as Treasurer of the Village Hall Committee, undertook to do that.</p>	Cllr Warner
16.64	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b></p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Arthey, the Clerk read his report as follows:</p> <p><b>Devolution</b> – the proposal is now a “pair” of combined authorities (each with a directly elected Mayor), one covering Suffolk and Norfolk, the other Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. All Suffolk authorities support the proposal, but four Norfolk authorities have rejected it. There is now a period of consultation ending 23 August.</p> <p><b>Chief Executive – Babergh &amp; Mid-Suffolk</b> – the joint CE is leaving shortly and recruitment of her successor is taking place.</p> <p><b>Council HQ</b> – a decision will be made in September, but both Mid-Suffolk and Babergh conservative administrations have been reported as favouring a move for both councils to Endeavour House in Ipswich (SCC HQ).</p> <p><b>Conversation on growth – Building a sustainable future</b> – there will be community engagement with leaflets to all households. There was recently (7 June) a Parish Liaison meeting. Communities are being encouraged to consider what may be appropriate for them.</p>	
	<p><b><i>It was then agreed to take the Item concerning the Clerk’s report out of order</i></b></p>	

<b>16.65</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT</b>	
<b>16.65.01</b>	<b>Update on Matters Arising from the previous meeting</b> Nothing not covered in the separate minutes below.	
<b>16.65.02</b>	<b>Children Crossing Signage / Village Name Sign</b> The request for "Children Crossing" warning signs to be displayed on the A1141 where children cross the road to catch the school bus was rejected by County Highways by emailed report on 27 May. A response from the Clerk expressing dissatisfaction with the report and conclusion was sent to County Highways on 13 June. Cllr Antill has also expressed concern about this as well but so far no further response has been received. Cllr Went has spoken to PCSO Laura Mansell. Cllr Antill will speak to the Cabinet Member for Highways. Cllr Went to write to James Cartlidge MP, cc to Cllr Antill who will then speak to the Leader. The Brent Eleigh village sign on the approach from Monks Eleigh, demolished during the winter by a hedging contractor, has still not been replaced. Cllr Antill to speak to County Highways again.	Cllr Went
<b>16.65.03</b>	<b>Milden Road grit bin / drainage</b> On drainage, please see Minute 16.63 above. The Parish Council expressed its extreme displeasure at the fact that residents of Milden Road had seen fit to empty and remove the grit bin from its site, and dump it at the village hall. Residents were reminded that the bin was purchased out of public funds and is an asset of the Council for which it in turn is accountable. Following discussion it was <b>AGREED</b> to return the bin to its site (which was originally selected because of its potential to become icy in winter). Cllr Warner to source a label identifying the bin as Parish property, following which Cllr Went will replace it as securely as possible.	Cllr Warner Cllr Went
<b>16.65.04</b>	<b>Bus Shelter request for south side of A1141</b> The Parish Council discussed a request by a resident for the provision of a bus shelter on the south side of the A1141 where children wait for the school bus. Whilst the reason for the request was understood, it was not felt to be practical to follow up for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Antill confirmed that SCC no longer fund the provision of bus shelters.</li> <li>• The Clerk had ascertained the cost of a simple metal structure to be circa £1.5k and a traditional wooden structure at least £4k, to which would need to be added the cost of erection and provision of hard standing. The Parish Council could not realistically commit to such a project.</li> <li>• It was also felt by Members that it was not realistic to make such provision in a very small community such as Brent Eleigh, and that in any event, young people aged 11 to 18 would neither use such a shelter nor consider it a requirement.</li> </ul>	
<b>16.65.05</b>	<b>Suffolk Year of Walking</b> A funding opportunity to apply for a trained "Walk Leader" to lead a walk in North Cosford ward was received from Babergh, together with an application form. The opportunity was <b>NOTED</b> .	
<b>16.65.06</b>	<b>Devolution presentations</b> SALC together with SCC have arranged presentations for local councillors on the latest developments on devolution. The nearest to	

	Brent Eleigh is at the SALC offices at 7pm on 2 August.	
<b>16.65.07</b>	<b>Appeal for funding</b> An appeal for funds to help create an “access for all path” to RSPB Minsmere’s reserves’ best wildlife hide was received from Waveney Bird Club.	
<b>16.65.08</b>	<b>Sudbury Citizens Advice Bureau – extension of service to Lavenham</b> Starting in August, Sudbury & District CAB will be offering a drop-in session in Lavenham Village Hall, 9.30-12.30, on the second Wednesday of each month. This initiative was welcomed by Councillors.	
	<b><i>It was then agreed to revert to the order of the Agenda</i></b>	
<b>16.66</b>	<b>TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS</b> Concern was expressed about the continued overgrown state of local footpaths and bridleways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Scoones to liaise with Lady Getty over the state of the footpaths across Brook Farm land through the vineyard to Hedgerows Farm shop.</li> <li>• Cllr Marshall to speak to Strutt &amp; Parker Manager Martin Bowers over the state of the footpath leading up from Snapes Lane.</li> <li>• Cllr Marshall liaising with SCC over the need to improve accessibility over the Clay Lane bridleway to Lavenham.</li> </ul>	Cllr Scoones  Cllr Marshall
<b>16.67</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</b> Cllr Went reported back on his meeting with PCSO Laura Mansell. Because of cost-cutting and consequent reorganisation, she is the link officer for all the parishes in the Sudbury police area. Cllr Went regretted that it is no longer possible to obtain detailed statistics on local crime. Case studies only are available which are not necessarily locally related, and the police website provides no detailed information.	
<b>16.68</b>	<b>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS</b>	
<b>16.68.01</b>	<b>Financial update</b> The clerk reported that, at the end of June 2016, there was a balance of £2,539.15 in the Council’s account with Lloyds Bank.	
<b>16.68.02</b>	<b>To consider and approve payments</b> There were no new payments to approve. Payment of the annual fee to the Information Commissioner and the renewal of the Council’s insurance policy already approved were awaiting Cllr Went becoming a bank signatory.	
<b>16.68.03</b>	<b>Bank Mandate update</b> Cllr Went reported on the position in relation to completing his ID verification with Lloyds Bank. He would complete the process as soon as possible. Meanwhile the Clerk would begin the process of enabling Cllr Shewring to become a bank signatory as well.	Cllr Went  Clerk
<b>16.68.04</b>	<b>Budget 2016/17</b> The Clerk tabled a budget spreadsheet for 2016/17. It showed an opening balance of £1853.18, together with guaranteed income in the year of £2,015.63, bringing the total income to £3,868.81. Estimated expenditure at present was £884.91. That left a balance of £2,983.90.	

16.68.05	<p><b>Grant to Village Hall Committee</b> Following discussion it was <b>AGREED</b> to make a payment of £700.00 to the Village Hall Committee to support the repairs and improvements being carried out to the Village Hall.</p>	Clerk
16.69	<p><b>TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b> Cllr Went had nothing to add to what he had said previously.</p>	
16.70	<p><b>TO RECEIVE COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS</b> There were no reports.</p>	
16.71	<p><b>PLANNING ISSUES</b></p>	
16.71.01	<p><b>To Consider Updates on Planning Applications Received</b> <b>(1) B/16/00602 – 4 The Glebe, Brent Eleigh – Erection of two storey side extension</b> At the meeting on 26 May the Parish Council had agreed to recommend refusal of this application for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed extension is disproportionately large in relation to the existing property and the enlarged dwelling will be out of scale with the surrounding dwellings thus compromising residential amenity</li> <li>• The proposal to place photo-voltaic panels on the extension roof is likely to require further substantial works to the oak tree to make them effective</li> <li>• Access for construction will be off a restricted byway and damage to the hedge / bank is likely to result.</li> </ul> <p>Revised plans were received from Babergh DC on 23 June. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving the extension back from the oak tree by 2m.</li> <li>• Reducing the width of the extension by 400mm.</li> <li>• First floor balcony provision to the rear.</li> </ul> <p>At its meeting on 30 June the Parish Council agreed that the application should still be recommended for refusal; the balcony would have an adverse impact on the residential amenity of the adjacent property to the north, and both the size of the extension (which suggests a potential separate dwelling) and the parking arrangements (which would be inadequate) were both reasons why the application should be resisted.</p> <p>The Clerk reported receipt of a further letter from Babergh on 14 July, informing that there would be re-consultation as the site of the application lies inside the Brent Eleigh Conservation Area. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk would write to Babergh, informing that the Parish Council does not wish to make any further representations. However it wishes the previous comments made on both 9 June and 5 July to still stand.</p>	Clerk
16.71.02	<p><b>To Receive Notification of Decisions of Planning Applications as Determined by Babergh DC</b> None received.</p>	
16.71.03	<p><b>Babergh call for sites 2016</b> The Clerk reported an email received from Babergh announcing a further call for development sites starting from 18 July and running until 26 August 2016, as an early evidence gathering exercise for the new Babergh and Mid-Suffolk Joint local Plan. This was <b>NOTED</b>.</p>	

16.72	<b>CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS</b> The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.	
16.73	<b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b> 22 September 2016 7.30pm 17 November 2016 7.30pm There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:30pm.	