

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2015 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

Present:

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

In Attendance:

District Cllr Clive Arthey
County Cllr Jenny Antill
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)
9 Members of the Public

		Action
01.00	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	
	Cllr James Davis welcomed all present to the meeting.	
02.00	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE	
	There were no apologies for absence.	
03.00	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
03.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were none.	
03.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
03.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda Cllr Warner declared an interest as an adjoining landowner in relation to Item 14 (Planning application no. B/15/00213/FUL - Land rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive).	
03.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
04.00	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16 July 2015 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
05.00	TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Clive Arthey referred to the current consultation period in relation to reviews of Babergh's policy on both the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005. In respect of licensing, the District Council is required to carry out a five year review and prepare updated policy; the fourth version of the policy once adopted will be effective from January 2016. In relation to gambling, the District Council has the responsibility for publishing a three-year 'Statement of Principles'. This must also be published by January 2016. The closing date for both consultations is Monday 19 October. Cllr Arthey described the role taken by Babergh's Housing and Building Control teams in the aftermath of the recent Sudbury fire. He also referred to the interest shown and potential involvement of the District Council in the forthcoming devolution discussions with Government.	

	<p>Finally he reminded all present that planning application B/15/00213/FUL - Land rear of Millstone, Brent Mill Drive (see Item 14 below) would be going to Planning Committee on 30 September.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Arthey for his contribution.</p>	
06.00	<p>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Jenny Antill presented her report.</p> <p>Suffolk's expression of interest in taking on devolved powers from Government has been published this week and is available on the SCC website. It is a joint production by all Suffolk councils and public sector organisations and will go to Cabinet and Full Council for discussion.</p> <p>There is no update on how SCC proposes to bridge the forecast shortfall of £20m in its finances over the next two years. This is likely to be exacerbated by changes to the living wage and NI contributions, and the wider issue of future funding for Councils is becoming extremely urgent to resolve.</p> <p>On the basis of this year's examination results, it is fair to say that Suffolk's education standards are improving, albeit slowly. Both GCSE and A level results saw improvements; in SAT tests for 11 year olds, in 2015 77% of pupils achieved level 4 or higher in the tests compared with 73% last year; the national average is 80%. Suffolk has moved up 22 places in the national rankings and is now 118th out of 150. There have also been improvements at Key Stages 1 and 2.</p> <p>On recycling, people are now being encouraged to leave the aluminium bottle tops on the glass bottles when recycling.</p> <p>There is a new vaccination programme offering teenagers protection against meningitis and septicaemia caused by four meningococcal strains. GPs will be inviting all teenagers aged 17 and 18 (born between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997) for the vaccine.</p> <p>Finally in relation to the reported problems with grass / verge cutting in Brent Eleigh, Cllr Antill has made enquiries but they were inconclusive. She will keep the matter in view.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Cllr Antill for her report.</p>	
07.00	<p>TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
08.00	<p>TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON VILLAGE MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC OR MEMBERS</p> <p>The appearance of the new road sign "The Street" outside the Village Hall was greeted with approval. It is understood that one is also to be placed outside Street Farm, at the other end of "The Street".</p>	
09.00	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT RE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FROM THE VILLAGE CO-ORDINATORS</p> <p>Nothing to report except that the membership list is being revised.</p>	
10.00	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS</p>	
10.01	<p>To Consider the Financial Position</p> <p>The Clerk tabled a spreadsheet setting out the Council's income for 2015/16, together with approved or committed expenditure. Total resources available to the Council in the year are £3,488, and committed expenditure so far totalled £1,679. This was NOTED.</p>	
10.02	<p>To Consider and Approve Payments</p> <p>No invoices were received.</p>	
11.00	<p>TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</p>	

	The Chairman thanked those volunteers who had tidied up the village hall gardens so thoroughly and made them look so presentable.	
12.00	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS PRESENT There were no reports.	
13.00	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
13.01	Update on Matters Arising since the last Meeting Following on from Cllr Arthey's comments, Babergh DC was consulting on a new Local Licensing Policy (2016-21) and a new "Statement of Principles" which will form local policy under the Gambling Act 2005 from 2016 to 2019. Both these consultation periods close on 19 October 2015. In both cases the draft documents for consultation are available on Babergh District Council's website.	
13.02	Council House sales The Clerk reported that he had spoken to Ryan Jones at Babergh; both the house in The Street and the house in Hall Road would very shortly be placed with a local estate agent for sale on the open market.	
13.03	Community Emergency Planning Workshop 5 October 2015 The Clerk reported this event for information.	
13.04	Babergh's Litter and Dog Bin Emptying Service Babergh Council offers a litter and dog waste bin emptying service at (currently) £30.88 ex VAT per year per litter bin, and £41.29 ex VAT per year per dog waste bin. Currently there is only one litter bin in the village inside the bus shelter, which is not used because of the reconfiguration of services. Councillors discussed whether there was a need for any dog waste bins; whilst there was an identified need, it was in locations that could not be serviced by Babergh's vehicles (on a highway). It was therefore AGREED not to take up this offer for the time being.	
14.00	PLANNING ISSUES	
14.01	To Consider Update on B/15/00213 Land Rear of Millstone – Erection of 1 no. dwelling and cartlodge The application would be considered by Babergh Council's Planning Committee on 30 September 2015.	
14.02	To Consider Update on B/15/00711 Wroughton Lodge – Erection of 4no. dwellings for use as holiday lets The Clerk reported that he had been notified that this application was withdrawn on 27 August 2015.	
14.03	Planning Appeal re B/15/0051/AGD Land on south side of Brent Eleigh Road This was now the subject of an appeal to the Secretary of State. It is likely to be dealt with by way of written representations and at some point the Council will be able to submit its views.	
14.04	Dealing with Planning applications between Meetings In the past the practice had been (in common with other councils) to canvass Member's views electronically and for the Clerk to send a response based on the consensus reached. This is not strictly compliant with the legislation on decision-making. It was AGREED that in the future, where an application is received with a deadline for comments before the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, and a suitable extension of time cannot be obtained, the Chairman and Councillor Went will review it. Where they consider it is an application which the Council should formally consider and comment on, the	

	Clerk will be requested to arrange a special meeting of the Council to consider that matter only.	
14.05	<p>Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the formal pre-submission consultation on the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan closed on 9 September. The draft will be revised, taking into account the comments received. It will then be submitted for independent examination. If found sound, the final plan will be prepared for a village referendum. It will be adopted if more than 50% of those voting are in favour.</p>	
15.00	<p>Chairman's Closing Remarks</p> <p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	
16.00	<p>Dates of future Meetings</p> <p>Meeting dates for the remainder of the Council Year are as follows: 19 November 2015 21 January 2016 24 March 2016.</p>	