

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30PM**

Present:

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

Apologies:

Cllr Natalie Shewring

In Attendance:

County Cllr Jenny Antill
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)
One Member of the Public

		Action
16.01.00	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	
	Cllr James Davis welcomed all present to the meeting.	
16.02.00	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE	
	Apologies were received from Cllr Shewring and it was RESOLVED to consent to the absence.	
16.03.00	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
16.03.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were none.	
16.03.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
16.03.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
16.03.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
16.04.00	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 November 2015 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
16.05.00	TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT Cllr Antill gave her report. Consultation on the future of the Fire Service is running until 22 February 2016. Local meetings will be held on 25 January 2016 at Great Waldingfield Village Hall at 6.30pm and on 3 February 2016 at Sudbury Town Hall, also at 6.30pm. SCC Cabinet in December 2015 agreed to go out to consultation on the future of special needs education in Suffolk. Currently special units are unevenly attached to primary schools, and a significant number of pupils attend establishments out of county. This will not be so much a cost cutting exercise as a rationalisation of provision, as the budget is a ring-fenced sum received from central Government. An information collecting process starts January 2016 with full consultation being launched in the spring.	

	<p>The 2016/17 budget has been reviewed in the light of the December draft settlement from Government. This was £8m worse than forecast and will require savings of some £80m over the next two years. However this has to some extent been offset by a windfall of c£6m in 2015/16 through better council tax collection, and the amount of reserves used in 2015/16 will therefore be less than expected. It is anticipated that SCC will be requiring an addition 2% precept for adult social care in 2016/17, but that otherwise the County requirement will remain unchanged next year.</p> <p>SCC will be conducting a Residents’ Survey in 2016, with over 11,000 survey forms being posted to households across the County in January 2016. SCC has commissioned BMG Research, an independent company, to undertake the survey and measure County-wide views and satisfaction levels across a wide range of issues and services, including employment, transport and social care.</p> <p>Details of the High Speed Broadband coverage planned up to September 2016 have been released on the Better Broadband for Suffolk website at: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com</p> <p>According to the map Brent Eleigh cannot expect coverage until after that date. Further information that it was hoped to make available by now has been delayed due to EU procurement issues.</p> <p>In December 2015 SCC announced the public launch of a basic broadband service to fulfil the Government’s commitment that everyone should have the option of access to a broadband service of at least 2Mbps by the end of 2015. The scheme, which provides broadband by satellite, has been trialled in the County over the last few months ahead of the public launch. It is intended as an interim solution for businesses and homes currently receiving less than 2Mbps, and which are not included in the planned coverage in the next 12 months. Information is available on the website.</p> <p>Where this high speed broadband service is available, residents and businesses must contact a service provider to make the switch – it is not an automatic process.</p> <p>In relation to Brent Eleigh, Cllr Antill reported that she had not been advised of any issues over the Christmas period.</p> <p>Cllr Warner asked about the position in terms of the future of the land and buildings of the former Monks Eleigh school. Had there been any movement recently in terms of decisions?</p> <p>Cllr Antill responded that in order to ascertain the value of the property SCC was waiting for a response from the Secretary of State as to whether it could sell the playing field for development. SCC had written on 24 June 2015 and had yet to receive a reply. The response will inform both the value and the strategy for disposal.</p>	
<p>16.06.00</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>16.07.00</p>	<p>TO CONSIDER THE CONSULTATION RELATING TO THE FUTURE OF THE SUFFOLK FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE This had already been touched on in Cllr Antill’s report. Consultation on the Fire Services’s Integrated Risk Management Plan runs from 16 November to 22 February 2016. In terms of impact on the local area, the proposal is to replace the second engine at Sudbury with a rapid response fire fighting vehicle.</p>	

16.08.00	<p>TO RECEIVE A LETTER FROM THE T/CHIEF CONSTABLE / POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER</p> <p>The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 20 December 2015 addressed to all Town and Parish Councils in relation to the “match-funding” of PCSOs in 2016/17. As part of a Constabulary review, 68 PCSO posts will be removed from the establishment, and all existing service level agreements with town / parish councils to provide PCSOs will be terminated. Each PCSO costs £32kpa inclusive. Where communities do wish to fund PCSO posts, the officers will be required to target the Constabulary’s own priorities.</p> <p>The letter had provoked complaints from town / parish councils, both in terms of the lack of time for consultation on what is a significant item of expenditure, and also the timing – just prior to precept setting. Councillors noted the report with concern that in the future, small communities like Brent Eleigh are likely to receive only an emergency response service from the police.</p>	
16.09.00	<p>TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON VILLAGE MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC OR MEMBERS</p> <p>The issue of street lighting was raised, the absence of any having been commented on by a new resident. The Chairman made it clear that the Parish Council was not in a position to fund the provision of lighting, and given the current financial situation, neither would the Highways Authority.</p>	
16.10.00	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT RE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FROM THE VILLAGE CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Cllr Went reported that the reorganisation of the Constabulary will not help the concept of neighbourhood policing in places like Brent Eleigh. He had requested more meaningful communication from the police but had not received a positive response. Whilst there is now an interactive map on the police website on which it is possible to identify incidences of local crime, that was no substitute for having the ability to have a direct report from the police and to ask questions.</p> <p>Cllr Went also advised of recent vandalism at the Parish Church.</p>	
16.11.00	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS</p>	
16.11.01	<p>To Consider the Financial Position</p> <p>The Clerk tabled a spreadsheet setting out the Council’s income for 2015/16, together with payments / committed expenditure to date. Total resources available to the Council in the year are £3,488.57. Payments made to date (gross) totalled £1,236.73 and net of recoverable VAT £1,188.55. This was NOTED.</p>	
16.11.02	<p>To Consider and Approve Payments</p> <p>There were no new payments to be approved.</p>	
16.11.03	<p>To Consider and Agree the Budget for 2016/17</p> <p>The Clerk tabled a spreadsheet setting out the Council’s income for 2016/17 based on retaining the precept at this year’s level. He had also set out the minimum level of expenditure based on foreseen commitments. Assuming no further significant items of expenditure this year except for the Clerk’s remuneration and on-costs, the Council is likely to have disposable income next year of £3,664, with essential expenditure likely to be c£1,165. Following discussion, Members NOTED the report.</p>	

16.11.04	To Agree the Council's Precept Requirement for 2016/17 Following discussion on next year's budget, it was AGREED to retain the precept at £2,000.00. Clerk to advise Babergh accordingly.	Clerk
16.11.05	To Consider the Longer Term External Audit Arrangements The Clerk outlined the medium term changes likely to be brought in from 2017 in relation to external audit arrangements; in particular for very small councils with a turnover of under £25k the position had yet to be fully clarified.	
16.12.00	TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman wished to publicly record his thanks to resident Arthur Jamieson for his outstanding contribution to the redecoration of the village hall, currently being undertaken. He reported a conversation with resident and former Parish Councillor, Kate Bentley-Walls, concerning the (rare) male black poplar which stands on village owned land. It is not currently covered by a TPO. Cllr Went to speak to former Councillor and Tree Warden Brian Symes.	Cllr Went
16.13.00	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS PRESENT There were no reports.	
16.14.00	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
16.14.01	Update on Matters Arising since the last Meeting There were no matters arising not separately listed below.	
16.14.02	"Children Crossing" Signs and Damaged Speed Limit Sign No substantive response received to date from SCC Highways to these matters referred last year. Additionally the Clerk reported that the "Brent Eleigh" village sign on the road from Monks Eleigh had, the previous day, been demolished by a hedging contractor. He would also raise that with Highways. The Chairman promised to pass a message to Mrs Getty as the contractor was working on the Brook Farm hedging. Cllr Antill promised to chase up Highways on all these matters and also to contribute if possible from her budget to the funding of the "Children Crossing" signs.	Clerk Cllr Davis Cllr Antill
16.14.03	Grit Bins These had been delivered and were being stored at "The Cock". It was AGREED that one would be located by the BT box adjacent to The Triangle opposite Corner Farm, and the other in Milden Road. Because they are small and light they need to be located on a flat surface where they cannot slip onto the carriageway and for that reason also need to be filled (at least partially) on being located. Cllr Went to carry out a reconnaissance to identify the best spots. Once the bins are in place the Clerk to advise County Highways so they will be filled instead of the grit heaps being replenished.	Cllr Went Clerk
16.14.04	Bus Shelter The Clerk reported that the Bus shelter (a Parish asset) needed some minor repairs. AGREED that both Cllr Davis and the Clerk would each obtain one quotation for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carrying out the timber repairs• Coating with 2 coats "Sadolin" preservative or equivalent• Clearing out the rubbish.	Cllr Davis Clerk

16.14.05	<p>SALC Area Meeting Dates For 2016, the Babergh area meeting dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 February • 6 June • 5 September • 28 November. 	
16.14.06	<p>The Queen's 90th Birthday Beacons The Clerk reported receipt of an email from the Queen's Pageantmaster, Bruno Peek, via SALC, enquiring whether the Parish would be lighting its beacon to celebrate the above event in June. An indication is required by Mr Peek no later than 10 April 2016. This was referred to the Village Hall Committee for a decision / action.</p>	<p>Cllr Warner Clerk</p>
16.15.00	<p>PLANNING ISSUES</p>	
16.15.01	<p>To Consider Update on B/15/00966 Street Farm – Change of Use from domestic outbuilding into café (A3) and retail (A1) premises The Clerk reported that the application was granted subject to the usual standard conditions on 18 December 2015. Brent Eleigh Parish Council had supported the application subject to the proposed parking area being moved nearer to the location of the café and further away from neighbouring dwellings. However the applicant did not amend the application accordingly. The Clerk advised that he had spoken to the Planning Officer on the matter of curtilage listing. The Officer appended a detailed report to the decision letter, which, <i>inter alia</i>, satisfactorily addressed that issue by reference to the site's planning history.</p>	
16.15.02	<p>To Consider Planning Notice re B/15/01734 Vaisey's Farm – Notification of permitted development – erection of single storey office This notification was received on 6 January 2016 with a required response date of 7 days. Following circulation of details via email to Parish Councillors, the Clerk responded on 12 January that Brent Eleigh PC had no comments to make, and Babergh DC responded to the applicant on 15 January that no further details were required to be submitted and the applicant was free to undertake the development, subject to notifying Babergh on completion.</p>	
16.15.03	<p>To Consider Planning Appeal re B/15/0051/AGD Land on South Side of Brent Eleigh Road – Notification of Decision – Whether proposed development (Forestry Barn) is permitted development This appeal was dismissed by letter dated 1 December 2015. The proposed barn cannot be permitted development "otherwise any small piece of land in the countryside with trees on it would benefit from a permitted development right for a new building..."</p>	
16.15.04	<p>To Consider the Lavenham Neighbourhood Plan The Parish Council has been notified that the Lavenham Draft Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to Babergh District Council. Babergh is now consulting on the Draft Plan, and the consultation runs until 5pm on 16 February. Members decided that Brent Eleigh PC did not wish to make any comments; Clerk to respond accordingly.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

16.15.05	To Consider Planning Application B/16/00013 Swan Cottage – Proposed erection of summerhouse in front garden Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend approval of the application.	Clerk
16.16.00	Chairman’s Closing Remarks The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.	
16.17.00	Date of Next Meeting The next and final meeting date for the remainder of the Council Year is on 24 March 2016.	