

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

Present:

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

Apologies:

Cllr Michael Warner

In Attendance:

District Cllr Clive Arthey
Ms Cally Boardman (*Local Area Co-ordinator, Suffolk County Council*)
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)
One Member of the Public

		Action
16.18.00	CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME	
	Cllr James Davis welcomed all present to the meeting.	
16.19.00	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR AND CONSENT TO ABSENCE	
	Apologies were received from Cllr Warner and it was RESOLVED to consent to the absence. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Jenny Antill and representatives of the Village Hall Committee.	
16.20.00	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
16.20.01	To Receive Amendments to the Register There were none.	
16.20.02	To Receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
16.20.03	To Receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda There were none.	
16.20.04	To Receive Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensations.	
16.21.00	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 21 January 2016 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.	
16.22.00	PRESENTATION BY MS CALLY BOARDMAN ON LOCAL AREA CO-ORDINATION Cally Boardman introduced herself as the local Area Co-ordinator covering sixteen villages to the north and east of Sudbury. Local Area Co-ordination is a new facility established by SCC to work with local people with "physical / learning disabilities, mental health issues and age-related difficulties" to "pursue their vision of a good life and be involved with their communities". It will help people to realise their potential and target the right support for individuals and grow community networks. This new service will be driven by the needs of the individual across the whole social	

	<p>care and welfare spectrum. Based on successful models introduced in other parts of the world, the aim is to both reduce the burden on General Practitioners / Social Services, as well as helping individuals.</p> <p>Cally is also aiming to establish e.g. good neighbour schemes, and give feedback to the County Council on more strategic issues that affect social welfare, e.g. transport issues.</p> <p>Cally can be contacted on 07711 190433 for further information.</p>	
<p>16.23.00</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Antill, the Clerk read her report.</p> <p>The SCC Budget for 2016/17 was agreed in February. There will be a 2% increase in the County's precept ringfenced to Adult Social Care. Otherwise there will be no increase in the County element of the rates.</p> <p>SCC's services for looked after children have been rated "good" by OFSTED. Only 17 out of 78 councils so far inspected on this service have received a "good" rating.</p> <p>The report referred to progress on devolution. The creation of an elected mayor for East Anglia is controversial and could lead to four tiers of local government with commensurate costs.</p> <p>SCC has received 7,137 applications for secondary school places from September 2016, indicating preferences as to where the child should be educated. 92.9% of applicants received an offer for the first preference and 97.7 applicants received an offer for one of the top three preferences.</p> <p>Publicly funded schools in the County are set to benefit from a new £600,000 fund to assist in continuing to boost pupil's attainment. Schools will be able to bid for this funding for projects evaluated by the Educational Endowment Foundation as the type which have shown promise in raising educational attainment elsewhere in the country.</p> <p>There will be new contractual arrangements in place for community transport, with effect from June 2016. In Babergh the service will be delivered by Hadleigh Community Transport, subcontracting to Go Start from Sudbury.</p> <p>In relation to County Highways matters affecting Brent Eleigh, the damaged signage is being replaced. A Highways Officer will be visiting the village and will make contact with the Chairman to discuss the problem of the safe crossing by children of the A1141 to access school transport.</p>	
<p>16.24.00</p>	<p>TO RECEIVE THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>Cllr Arthey reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charges are to be introduced for the disposal of rubble / plasterboard at waste / recycling centres, but at the same time the cap on the amount that can be deposited is being lifted. • Babergh will be introducing community led planning initiatives which will invite communities to consider whether they wish to accommodate new housing. • Rents for Council tenants will be decreased with a consequent reduction of £300k income for the Housing Revenue Account. However there will be higher rents for households with an income greater than £30k pa. • In terms of Council Tax, for 2016/17, a Band D property in Babergh will be contributing £1,149 to the County Council, £173 to the police, £148 to Babergh and £24 to Brent Eleigh Parish Council. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data gathered on households to contribute to evidence led planning shows growth / decline in communities. Brent Eleigh has seen a 12% growth in terms of dwellings; from 73 in 2001 to 82 in 2015. 	
16.25.00	<p>TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON VILLAGE MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC OR MEMBERS</p> <p>A resident reported that parts of Hall Road turn into a river when it rains heavily. The Chairman promised that when the Highways Officer calls to discuss the matter of children crossing the A1141, he will raise the flooding problems in Hall Road and Milden Road as well.</p>	Cllr Davis
16.26.00	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT RE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH FROM THE VILLAGE CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>Cllr Went reported that the Neighbourhood Watch in Brent Eleigh now has 22 members.</p>	
16.27.00	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL MATTERS</p>	
16.27.01	<p>To Consider the Financial update Report</p> <p>The Clerk tabled a spreadsheet setting out the Council's cashbook for 2015/16. Taking into consideration payments to be approved at the meeting, total resources available to the Council in the year are £3,488.57. Payments made to date (gross) totalled £1,686.92 and net of recoverable VAT £1,635.94.</p> <p>This was NOTED.</p>	
16.27.02	<p>To Consider and Approve Payments</p> <p>Payments to be made to Suffolk Association of Local Councils for payroll services, and to the Clerk and HMRC by way of salary and tax were APPROVED.</p>	Clerk
16.27.03	<p>To Consider the Longer Term External Audit Arrangements</p> <p>The Clerk outlined the options for the Council in the light of the changes being brought in from 2017 in relation to external audit arrangements. Either Brent Eleigh PC can opt out (which is likely to be more expensive) or it can do nothing and will automatically be covered by the arrangements to be put in place by the newly constituted Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA). As with the present arrangements, the regime set up by SAAA is likely to be free to very small councils like Brent Eleigh. Following discussion it was AGREED not to make a decision to opt out.</p>	
16.27.04	<p>Standing Orders / Financial Regulations</p> <p>The Clerk advised that the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations needed to be updated, and revised versions would be presented to the Council's Annual General Meeting for approval.</p>	Clerk
16.27.05	<p>Pensions Act 2008 – Auto-enrolment</p> <p>Under the Pensions Act 2008 every employer with one or more staff now has pension duties. The relevant date for those applying to Brent Eleigh is 1 January 2017.</p> <p>There are complex rules on who has to be enrolled, and who has a right to join / opt in. Any Clerk employed on the current terms would have the right to join a scheme but does not have to. The Clerk will get in touch with the Pensions Regulator before 1 January 2017 to regularise Brent Eleigh PC's position.</p>	Clerk
16.27.06	<p>SALC Subscription 2016</p> <p>This will increase on 1 April 2016 from £123.00 to £127.32. The invoice will be received in April 2016.</p>	
16.27.07	<p>S137 Local Government Act 1972 – Expenditure limit for 2016/17</p>	

	The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that the appropriate sum for parish councils to use in relation to the purposes of calculating allowed expenditure under s137(4)(a) Local Govt. Act 1972 will be £7.42. This is an increase of 0.8% on the figure for 2015/16 - £7.36. The Clerk explained what s137 expenditure could cover and how the maximum amount that could be expended by Brent Eleigh is calculated.	
16.27.08	Grant requests The Clerk reported requests for grant aid received from (1) East Anglia's Children's Hospices and (2) Magpas Air Ambulance. It was AGREED TO NOTE these requests.	
16.27.09	The Queen's 90th Birthday Medal The Clerk reported receipt of a sample 90 th birthday medal which can be supplied to schools and councils at a special price of £1.99 each plus carriage and VAT. Councillors examined the sample medal and AGREED TO NOTE the report.	
16.28.00	TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman apologised for omitting to pass onto the Clerk the request by the Village Hall Committee Chairman that the Parish Council considers making a grant to the Village Hall Committee in respect of a contribution to the cost of food for the Queen's birthday celebration party in May. Because of the oversight it was not on the Agenda and could not be discussed. The Clerk suggested a way forward would be to consider the request at the council's AGM in May and agree a retrospective grant. Members AGREED that approach.	Clerk
16.29.00	TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS PRESENT Cllr Went gave an update on the status of the black poplar located on Town Hill. The District council will not consider making a TPO unless the tree is in danger of being damaged / cut down.	
16.30.00	TO RECEIVE THE CLERK'S REPORT	
16.30.01	Update on Matters Arising since the last Meeting There were no matters arising not separately listed below.	
16.30.02	"Children Crossing" Signs and Damaged Speed Limit / Village Name Sign The Clerk reported that the demolished speed limit sign opposite The Cock had been replaced, and he understood that a new village name sign was being made up to replace the one damaged by the hedging contractor. As reported by Cllr Antill, a Highways Officer will be visiting the village to discuss with the Chairman the issues around the need for "Children Crossing" signage.	Cllr Davis
16.30.03	Grit Bins and Milden Road drainage There were a few initial problems with the placing of the grit bin in Milden Road, now resolved by Cllr Went. In relation to both bins, SCC Highways are still dumping grit on the heaps notwithstanding that the bins are close by. The Clerk to advise Highways accordingly in time for the next gritting drop. A request was received by the PC from a resident in Milden Road, requesting that drainage measures be installed to prevent the regular hazard caused by spring water crossing the road and freezing. As minuted above (Minute 16.25.00) the Chairman will raise the suggestion with the Highways Officer.	Clerk Cllr Davis

16.30.04	<p>Bus Shelter The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation of £200.00 from Suffolk Property Services for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out the timber repairs • Coating with 2 coats “Sadolin” preservative or equivalent • Clearing out the rubbish. <p>No other quotation was received. It was AGREED to accept the quotation and commission the work to prevent further deterioration to this parish asset.</p>	Clerk
16.30.05	<p>SALC Area Meeting Dates For 2016, the remaining Babergh area meeting dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 June • 5 September • 28 November. 	
16.30.06	<p>Informal Meeting with Lavenham Parish Council At the request of Cllr Warner, the Council considered an invitation from Lavenham PC for an informal meeting. Members felt that there were already sufficient informal channels of communication between the two villages, and felt that organising another would serve no useful purpose.</p>	Cllr Warner
16.30.07	<p>Suffolk Year of Walking Babergh has invited parishes to apply for a trained walk leader to lead a walk in their local area. This is limited to one walk per ward. Brent Eleigh is in the North Cosford Ward, along with Cockfield, Thorpe Morieux, Preston St Mary, Kettlebaston, Monks Eleigh and Chelsworth. The invitation was NOTED.</p>	
16.30.08	<p>Police Liaison The Clerk reported receipt of a letter dated 22 March from the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable, setting out the post review arrangements for engaging with local councils. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each Safer Neighbourhood Team will make regular contact with the Town / Parish Clerk to ensure two way flow of information. • Police will not attend all town / parish council meetings but will attend the Annual Parish Meeting / AGM of the Council. • Written reports will be prepared on a standard template on a monthly basis on a ward by ward basis. <p>The new arrangements were NOTED. It remains to be seen how they will work in practice.</p>	
16.31.00	<p>PLANNING ISSUES</p>	
16.31.01	<p>To Consider Update on B/16/00013 Swan Cottage – Erection of Summerhouse The Parish Council had previously recommended the approval of this application. However the Clerk reported that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant.</p>	
16.31.02	<p>To Consider Applications B/16/00173 and B/16/00174 for (1) a Certificate of Lawfulness in respect of the existing caravan on the site and (2) a Certificate of Lawfulness for the temporary stationing of a storage container on the site to store tools to establish a forestry business - Land on South Side of Brent Eleigh Road These applications were NOTED.</p>	

16.31.03	<p>To Consider Notice to Carry Out Works to a Tree in a Conservation Area – Serendipity, Brent Mill Drive – Notice No. B/16/00137/TCA This involved the proposed reduction of the crown of 1 No. Weeping Willow Tree. This Application was NOTED.</p>	
16.31.04	<p>Planning Legislation Changes The Clerk outlined proposed changes to planning law set out in the current Housing and Planning Bill. The most significant proposed change would be with the introduction of two stage planning – permission in principle in housing led applications which will cover only the location and housing numbers (minimum and maximum) and then a “technical details” stage where detailed design issues can be approved. Only at the first stage will the community / statutory consultees be guaranteed an opportunity to put forward their views (and may not be able to do so effectively because the amount of information required for a stage one application is very sparse.)</p>	
16.32.00	<p>Chairman’s Closing Remarks The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.</p>	
16.33.00	<p>Date of Next Meeting The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall at 7pm on Thursday 26 May followed by the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 8pm.</p>	