

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF BRENT ELEIGH PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2022 IN THE VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.30PM**

**Present:**

Cllr Kevin Went (Chair)  
Cllr Martin Austin  
Cllr Natalie Helms  
Cllr Karen Marshall

**Apologies:**

Cllr Francesca Scoones  
County Cllr Robert Lindsay

**In Attendance:**

District Cllr Bryn Hurren  
Manager – Brook Farm  
18 members of the public  
William Grosvenor (*Clerk to the Council*)

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Item discussed</b>
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<b>22.15</b>	<b>Chair's welcome</b> Cllr Went welcomed all present to the meeting, the primary focus of which was to discuss planning application DC/22/00145 – the creation of a dirty water and slurry lagoon and erection of 2m high boundary fencing at Office Field, Brook Farm.
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<b>22.16</b>	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Scoones and County Cllr Lindsay.
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<b>22.17</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
<b>22.17.01</b>	<b>To receive Amendments to the Register</b> There were no amendments to the Register.
<b>22.17.02</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda.
<b>22.17.03</b>	<b>To receive Declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in Respect of Items on the Agenda</b> There were no declarations of Non Pecuniary Interest in respect of Items on the Agenda.
<b>22.17.04</b>	<b>To consider Full / Partial Dispensations for Pecuniary Interests Declared</b> It was noted that there had been no requests for dispensation for Pecuniary Interests declared.

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<b>22.18</b>	<b>To consider planning application DC/22/00145 – Brook Farm, Cock Lane – creation of a dirty water and slurry lagoon and erection of 2m high boundary fence</b>
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Cllr Went thanked the Brook Farm Manager for attending the meeting and invited him to present the arguments in support of this application. The Manager explained that the farm covers only 130 acres; there is housing for about 80 to 100 head of cattle but the stock level is usually around 150. All animals are kept outside as far as possible. He went on to explain the distinction between the definitions of dirty water and slurry; dirty water is only approximately 3% solid waste, whereas slurry is solid waste. All rainwater from the farm buildings is recycled. The proposed lagoon would have clay walls, a 2 metre high fence and would be constructed in line with government guidelines for good agricultural practice and used during the winter months. Planning consent is only required because the proposed site (chosen as the necessary pipework is already in place) is within 400 metres of village dwellings. The Manager sought to address issues raised by objections relating to both noise from machinery and cattle; the tractor is only used for about 2 hours in the morning in winter, and animal welfare standards are of the highest. He felt that the

issue of odour was exaggerated, there will always be flies around cattle, and no heritage assets nor rights of way will be impacted.

Residents responded by taking issue about odours – one pointed out the “permanent” smell along Cundys Lane and informed the meeting that the issue had been drawn to the attention of the national press. Could the proposed lagoon be sited elsewhere on Brook Farm land further away from the village? Is it needed at all?

At this point it became clear from the responses made by the Farm Manager that the application had in fact been withdrawn (although at that stage was not being shown as such on the Babergh DC planning website). As Chair of the meeting, Cllr Went expressed his dissatisfaction that the applicant’s representative had not made this clear at the start of the meeting, or even beforehand, as if there was no live application to be considered then there was nothing to discuss and the meeting could have been cancelled. At that point any further discussion was aborted.

[NOTE: A number of significant issues were not discussed in view of the fact that the application was being withdrawn. However any fresh proposal for such an installation anywhere on Brook Farm land (even if outside the Conservation Area) may raise issues relating to:

- Babergh’s policies in relation to Special Landscape Areas
- Public safety and amenity
- Environmental protection issues (control of pollution)
- Air quality impacts on the local Sites of special Scientific Interest (as raised by Natural England)

which might be overlooked if no planning consent is required.]

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**22.19**

**To consider a grant to GoStart Community Transport in relation to route 112**

The opportunity afforded by the meeting and by the presence of District Councillor Hurren was taken to discuss grant support to this important community bus link.

A letter had been received from GoStart on 8 February, making it clear that without contributions from councils the service could only be maintained until the end of 2022. Whilst no formal decision on grant aid could be made at this meeting, because the window of funding opportunity via Cllr Hurren’s Locality Awards budget for 2021/22 closes in early March, **it was AGREED** that the Council will make a grant of £200 to GoStart, funded by a Locality Award of the same amount from Cllr Hurren; such grant to be ratified at the next Ordinary Meeting of the council.

Cllr Hurren to arrange for the Clerk to be sent the relevant form by the Babergh Grants Team to be completed and submitted for countersigning by him as soon as possible.

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**22.13**

**Date of next Ordinary meeting**

24 March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

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**22.14**

**Chair’s closing remarks**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.05pm.