

20.60	<p>TO RECEIVE THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</p> <p>In the absence of Cllr Lindsay the Clerk read out his report, which was previously distributed. The report is appended below at Appendix 2.</p>	
20.61	<p>TO DISCUSS ANY VILLAGE MATTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was reported that the manager of Brook Farm has expressed concerns about dogs not being kept under proper control near to cattle and sheep. This is being mentioned in the December issue of <i>Roundabout</i>. In discussion it was suggested that this might in particular threaten the continued existence of permissive paths, and also encourage farmers and landowners to try to divert or close public footpaths. • The existence of a new free app called <i>Nextdoor Brent Eleigh</i> was discussed, in the light of invitations to download it having been sent to residents in the last few days. • Cllr Scoones reported that the Village Hall would be putting up a Christmas tree on the morning of Friday 4 December. Would the Parish Council be willing to pay for the lights? Following a discussion the majority of Councillors felt that given the support from Government that the Village Hall has received this year (and may receive further support for the 2nd lockdown) the request should be declined on this occasion. • Cllr Helms raised the problem of dog walkers bagging their pet's waste but then leaving the bag on or near to the footpath. There was a discussion about dog bins and signage. However in the first instance Cllr Helms will identify the worst locations. • All those present at the meeting were invited to sing carols around the Christmas tree outside the Village Hall on Christmas Eve at 6pm. 	<p>Cllr Helms</p> <p>All</p>
20.62	<p>TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE VILLAGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</p> <p>There was nothing to report. Cllr Went will remind Neighbourhood Watch members to be vigilant on dark nights and in particular about the risk of oil tank thefts. He also mentioned an incident of hare coursing behind The Glebe in Lavenham the previous week.</p>	
20.63	<p>TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS ON FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE MATTERS</p>	
20.63.01	<p>To receive the financial update report</p> <p>The Clerk reported that, as at the date of the meeting, the balance on the Lloyds Bank account, after allowing for un-presented cheques stood at £4,706.29. A copy of the cashbook sheet was distributed to all Councillors in advance of the meeting. The position was NOTED.</p>	
20.63.02	<p>To consider and approve payments</p> <p>There were none to approve.</p>	

20.63.03	<p>Budget report</p> <p>The budget spreadsheet showing expenditure against budget for 2020/21, and a 1st draft budget covering minimum expenditure only for 2021/22, had been previously distributed to Members. Expenditure for the current year is currently predicted to be £2,018 with income at £2,311, and minimum expenditure for 2021/22 is initially identified at £1,631. The position was NOTED.</p>	
20.63.04	<p>Precept and Tax Base 2021/22</p> <p>The Clerk took Members through the explanatory email received from Babergh Finance, together with the provisional tax base for 2021/22, previously forwarded to all Councillors. This year, because of its exceptional nature and the need therefore to await the final Local Government settlement just prior to Christmas, the final tax base will not be advised to local councils until the first week of January. On the basis of the provisional figures however there has been a slight fall in the Brent Eleigh tax base, from 81.95 Band D equivalents to 80.74 – probably as a result of reliefs for one reason or another. Modelling 2 options using Babergh’s spreadsheet produces the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the precept the same as in 2020/21 i.e. £2,295 - this (because of the reduced taxbase) means an increase in Band D of 1.50% from £28.00 to £28.42. • Increasing it to £2,350 means an increase for Band D of 3.93% from £28.00 to £29.11. <p>The decision on the precept for next year will need to be made at the next meeting on 21 January in the light of the Council’s final budget and the final tax base figures from Babergh. The report was NOTED.</p>	
20.64	<p>TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Footpath issues – see Minute 20.61 above. • Defibrillator update – Cllr Marshall has spoken to the proprietor of Café Como and she is willing for the defibrillator to be resited outside the building so that it is easily accessible when the café is closed. The detailed arrangements to be the subject of further discussions. 	Cllr Marshall
20.65	<p>TO RECEIVE THE CLERK’S REPORT</p> <p>Following the decision at the meeting on 22 October to register the Council’s interest in the “Quiet Lanes” initiative, the Clerk reported that he has registered both Cock Lane and Tye Road as potential candidates. The registration shows as reference QL17 on the interactive map on the Quiet Lanes Suffolk website. Both Monks Eleigh and Milden have also registered potential lanes. The latest information available from the Quiet Lanes Team states that we will be asked to resubmit our information via a different format, and the Clerk will monitor the position closely for further requirements.</p>	Clerk
20.66	<p>PLANNING ISSUES</p>	
20.66.01	<p>Babergh / Mid-Suffolk Draft Joint Local Plan</p> <p>As referred to by District Cllr Hurren in his report (Minute 20.59 and Appendix 1) the draft Local Plan has been endorsed by Full Council and is now out to consultation from 12 November to 24 December. In the New Year it will be examined as to soundness by an</p>	

	independent Inspector. There are no sites identified for new housing in Brent Eleigh and only one modest development proposal for Lavenham (the recent proposal for houses off Brent Eleigh Road is not included). The position was NOTED .	
20.66.02	To consider Planning Applications received (1) DC/20/05373 – Vaiseys Farm, Cock Lane – proposed conversion of outbuilding to form annexed accommodation for a family member It was AGREED to recommend approval of this application. Clerk to advise Babergh accordingly.	Clerk
20.67	DATES OF NEXT ORDINARY MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL The next meeting will take place on Thursday 21 January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom. Joining instructions will be posted on the Brent Eleigh village website as before. The subsequent meeting will take place on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom.	
20.68	CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.	

APPENDIX 1: REPORT FROM DISTRICT CLLR BRYN HURREN

The most immediate challenge for the District Council at the moment is to set a balanced deliverable budget. At this present time we have a very large gap between what we have and would like to achieve and the money that we have to do it with. As I write this report the gap is a straightforward one million pounds, which, bearing in mind the total spend of the council is around 12 million, leaves us with a very big hole to plug. We will have to put up council tax by the statutory amount of 3% which has already been taken into account to get this close. The old car parking charges debate is now coming to the fore again which I have always opposed, but this time I may lose the argument on the vote, we will see.

Our main problem is that our receipts are down because of the Coronavirus pandemic and will not pick up again any time soon. Also, our costs have risen due to extra duties we have either chosen or have been asked to do.

On a more positive note recently councillors were briefed on our new Joint Local Plan which is now about three years behind where I would have expected it to be. Having been very critical of how long it has taken, I am very relieved that it seems to be at last complete and has gone before the full council on the 9th November for debate and subsequent backing. It has now been fully endorsed and will now go on to be examined by an appointed planning inspector in the spring and hopefully will be statute by the end of 2021. This JLP, as well as having allocated sites for residential dwellings, will also include environmental policies and requirements for biodiversity which we have been working on for the whole of this year.

In my role as chair of the Audit and Standards committee, it is down to myself along with members of my committee to see that all of the money we spend is properly audited and checked and that all of the contracts we enter into are open for tender and transparent. Also all appointments are required to be advertised and open to all and any applicants.

It also falls to my committee to see that standards in public life within the Babergh area are upheld and all elected councillors follow a strict code of conduct. Should there be any misdemeanors a panel is formed to sit in judgement to see that standards are upheld. Something which seems to be sadly lacking from our national government at this moment.

Since we last met the country has been plunged into another national lockdown with all its traumas and hardship to our residents and businesses alike. We have once again been given finance to distribute to residents through a hardship fund and also set amounts to businesses who have had to shut down due to current restrictions regarding trading and safety.

The new business support grant is available to any business trading at w/c 2nd Nov and paying business rates. Businesses with a rateable value under £15,000 will receive £1,334.00 for the months closure and businesses with a

rateable value between £15,000 and £50,999.00 will receive £2,000.00 and firms with a higher rateable value £3,000.00 all for a 28 day period. Babergh staff have been very quickly trained to do this work and hopefully this time keep all our other functions and duties running as well.

Locally I have been told that the application for an extended mast at Swingleton Green in Monks Eleigh is not likely to be returning in another format or size. Telephonica will try to plug the gaps in coverage by other means, possibly in less sensitive areas.

The 112 bus service continues to run and I believe is picking up increasing numbers of passengers and providing a much needed lifeline and service.

I continue to follow and keep up with all local and district matters and am happy to answer any questions at the meeting or by email afterwards.

All Best Regards for now Bryn.

APPENDIX 2: REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR ROBERT LINDSAY

Motion for 20mph default limit in residential areas voted down

This motion that I proposed fell by 48 votes to 20 at full council on October 22nd as councillors voted along party lines. However it gained support from the Labour group and from many in press and public so I hope it has started a debate.

Hadleigh Covid outbreak has peaked

A local Covid-19 alert was issued for Hadleigh following outbreaks at least one care home and at Hadleigh High. Issued on November 13 it said that in Hadleigh there had been 53 new cases in the last seven days. Most of these were at Magdalen House care home. There are also reported to be four pupils at Hadleigh High who tested positive (150 staff and pupils are self-isolating). The latest information is that it is thought the outbreak has peaked in Hadleigh.

Boundary Changes to county council divisions

This consultation has now closed. Under the proposals, Brent Eleigh remains within Cosford, however, several new villages are tacked onto Cosford while some other villages will join Hadleigh and others Brook division. I have suggested a few tweaks in the consultation.

Foodbank

It is estimated that the number of people claiming Universal Credit in Suffolk has increased by 75% since March and there has been a 238% increase in the amount of food handed out to single adults and families from Suffolk's foodbanks. There are also 104,000 people still furloughed from their jobs. Bildeston food bank is now supporting 12 families.

Home But Not Alone phonenumber reactivated

The service was paused in August because of low call demand and the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. However, in light of the new national lockdown, the service is now up and running again. The aim is to put people in touch with local voluntary help. The telephone number is Freephone **0800 876 6926** and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phone line (**0800 068 3131**) which helps those with debt, benefits employment or housing worries, is still running.