

Bredfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Bredfield Parish Council Meeting held on 24th January 2011 at St Andrews Church Room Bredfield at 7.00pm.

Meeting started at 7.01 pm.

Present

Mr A Miller (Chair), Mr T Richardson, Mr D Hepper, Ms A Henderson, Mr G Taylor

1.0 Apologies received and reasons accepted by the Parish Council

Cllr D Causier gave apologies due to family illness.

2.0 LDF – Reviewed Core Strategy and Development Policies – Consultation

2.1 The document produced a considerable discussion involving all members of the council. It was a general concern that the document as a policy document did its job but was too broad and general in its approach to be useful as a planning tool without a) improved clarification of a range of both strategic and management policies. Cllr Richardson raised the point that the document would be improved by providing a planning policy checklist as an appendix. The Council also felt that the generality of the document provided developers with more “wriggle room” than should be the case. Specifically the Council would bring the planning authorities attention to the following matters:

Economic Profile

Para 2.27, P27, The final two bullet points are both vague and incomprehensible.

The Local Strategic Partnership

Para 2.51, P33, The last bullet point should provide some form of action point to answer the question stated, perhaps the last bullet point is better omitted.

Development Management Policy DM2

The Council were concerned by the bias within this statement and suggest that it should be deleted and the following replace the third paragraph of the policy statement; “whether in total or in phases, the District Council will expect 1 in 3 units to be affordable housing unless its provision is not required due to exceptional circumstances: (state examples).

Development Policy DM7, The council could not see how the planning authority could judge what was or was not prejudicial in advance and therefore suggest that the last bullet point is removed.

Development Policy DM8, The Council suggest that point a) “within the existing curtilage” is un-necessary.

Development Policy DM10, the Council is very concerned over point b) and feel it should be altered to read “substantial benefit to the community”, not planning benefit.

Finally, the Council felt it necessary to highlight to the planning authority the continued lack of coordination at both local and national level with regards to transport / traffic and planning. The Council asked that a policy statement be introduced suggesting the “the planning authority would pay due attention to traffic movements and highways safety in relation to all planning applications and consult with a suitable body when necessary”.

2.2 It was unanimously agreed to send a letter highlighting these issues as the parish Council response to the consultation. **AP11/01**

3.0 Setting of Precept and Budget

3.1 The Council had previously set a precept for 2010 – 11, however in light of the current position of national cut-backs and local countywide divestment of services, the clerk asked if the Council might wish to reconsider the matter. To this end it had been agreed to make the matter an agenda point at this meeting as the deadline for acceptance of precept requests for 2011-12 by SCDC being 31st January 2011.

3.2 The Chairman outlined the current financial position. Over the last two years the Parish Council had not paid for a clerk as Mr Tilley had been a councillor as-well as clerk and was not allowed to receive payment for his work as clerk. Mr Tilley had recently resigned as councillor and was now paid a fixed payment for his clerking duties. During this time the Council had added steadily to its reserves and had also regularly spent in the region of £1,200 supporting community projects and small works in the village.

The Chairman explained that the estimated fixed costs for 2011-12 plus spending of a similar level to previous years would severely cut the current reserves as expenditure would exceed the current level of precept by some £700.

3.3 Members commented that it was important to maintain the reserves at the current levels as repairs to both the War Memorial and the village sign were imminent.

3.4 Members agreed that due to the current economic climate and changes in County and District Council spending there will be greater call on the Parish Council to play its role in the administering of activities possibly as diverse as road repairs and library or bus facilities.

3.5 The Chair asked that members considered an increase in the precept to the sum of £4,500 representing an increase of approximately £6 per household on average per year.

3.6 Members voted unanimously in favour of this motion.

3.7 Cllr Richardson asked that the budget process be reviewed in the near future so that a more long term approach to financing works and activity can be taken. This was supported by the Council **AP/02**.

4.0 Future Meeting Dates

4.1 The next full council meeting will be held at 7-00pm on the 31st January 2011 in the St Andrews Church Room.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

