

Bredfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Bredfield Parish Council Meeting held on 29th November 2010 at St Andrews Church Room Bredfield at 7.00pm.

Meeting started at 7.05 pm.

Present

Councillors – Mr G Taylor, Mr P Tilley, Mr D Hepper, Mr A Miller
3 members of the public were in attendance.

1.0 Apologies received and reasons accepted by the Parish Council

1.0 Ms D Causier – family illness, Ms A Henderson – work commitments, Mr T Richardson – holiday.

2.0 Confirm minutes of previous meeting.

2.1 The minutes for 27th September 2010 were unanimously agreed and signed by the chairman

3.0 Action Points from the meetings of the 26th July and 9th August 2010.

3.1 AP10/17 quotes for new notice-board, AP10/28 Mr Miller to circulate organisation list are still outstanding.

3.2 AP10/34 Registering parish land. The clerk investigated the ownership of the village green at Caters Road. It is registered as common land in the ownership of the Parish Council. It is registered with Suffolk County Council (SCC) as ref: VG11. The application was made in 1967 and completed on 1.11.1970. Bredfield Parish Council was registered as the owner on 4.9.1974. The clerk informed the Council that he is still investigating the other smaller pieces of land that are thought to be in the ownership of the Council.

4.0 Matters for the Community Police Team

4.1 The clerk was asked to contact both the Community Team and the Portfolio Holder for Roads and Transport over matter **AP10/32**, speeding in Woodbridge Road. The clerk informed the Council that he had met with and written to the portfolio holder for Roads and Transport at SCC and was awaiting a response. The clerk informed the Council that PC V Gilmore had been advised of the council's actions over this matter and was fully supportive of the Council. Subsequently, the police have carried out several more speed checks and both warned and booked drivers for speeding. PC Gilmore had wished to attend the meeting but had been unavoidably delayed.

5.0 Report from the County / District Councillor

5.1 Cllr Bellfield commented on the financial position of Suffolk County Council (SCC) and discussed their “new” Strategic Direction. He noted that the Bury Road, Ipswich, Park and Ride was to cease operation, OAP accommodation was likely to be reduced, rural Transport was likely to see decreases in service levels. Cllr informed the meeting that he was a member of the working party developing future strategy. Suffolk Coastal District Council was also looking at further reductions in service to meet their potential £1.8m annual shortfall. He commented that leisure services could potentially “take a hit”.

6.0 Parish Plan

6.1 Cllr Hepper had received communications from ACRE who suggested that annual reviews of the parish plan should take place and that they should be re-surveyed regularly (3 – 5 years). The Council felt that this was overkill for a community of the size of Bredfield. The Council agreed that Mr Hepper should organise a meeting of the Parish Plan Committee during 2011, **AP10/39**, to see if any areas of the plan had either not been dealt with satisfactorily or should be reviewed.

7.0 Finance

- 7.1 No accounts had been or were due to be settled.
- 7.2 The clerk warned the Council of potential election expenses in 2011 when considering the precept.
- 7.3 The clerk advised the Council that he and the Chairman had had discussions about future remuneration. It had been agreed to put an agreed package in front of the Council for its agreement. The clerk had agreed to resign as councillor at the end of the current meeting and take up the post of clerk in a paid capacity. To reduce overheads and the need for p.a.y.e etc the clerk would be self employed and charge the Council on a monthly basis a set fee for all works carried out. The sum agreed between the chairman and clerk was £100 per month for a notional 10 hour’s work. The clerk would not claim personal expenses. The Council discussed the matter and agreed unanimously to the proposal thanking Mr Tilley for his voluntary work over the last two years. It was also agreed by the Council that a new council member would not be sought until the elections in 2011.
- 7.4 The current balances were agreed and signed by the chair.
- 7.5 Members were provided with a breakdown / balance of fixed costs and current income for the Council and projected future fixed costs. Cllr Tilley was concerned that the current changes in local government finance would provide increased pressures on the parish for provision of support for services; he felt that a substantial rise now would provide a reserve for the parish to work with. Cllr Hepper and Cllr Miller felt a smaller rise in the current economic climate

would be more acceptable. It was agreed by a vote of three to one that the precept for 2011 – 12 be set at £4,000.

8.0 Correspondence

- 8.1 The clerk had received the following correspondence which he wished to bring to the Council's attention.
- 8.2 The Clerk had received no communication from ACRE over the outcomes of the recent housing survey. After a number of e-mails and telephone conversations he discovered that the support officer responsible was on sick leave. He ascertained from ACRE that some 55 surveys had been received to date representing a return of 36.9%; this is thought to be fairly representative. However members of the council did feel that this was poor as it also represents a significant 63.1% lack of interest in the future housing in the village.
- 8.3 The Parish had received £8.63 for the last quarter in recycling credits.
- 8.4 Thank you from Local Works. The Council had been thanked by Local Works for its continued support for the Sustainable Communities Act under which some 300 ideas to improve economic, social and environmental well-being had been put forward to be short-listed for recommendation as changes to the law.

9.0 Public Questions

- 9.1 There were no public questions

10.0 Planning

- 10.1 A new revised Draft Core Strategy has been circulated by SCDC for consultation by the 23rd January 2011. The Council were concerned at the timing over the Christmas period and that the next P.C. meeting was after the closing date. The clerk was requested to ask SCDC for an extension until the 1 February 2011. The clerk was also asked to review the document prior to the Christmas festivities and circulate his comment.
- 10.2 Planning Application C10 2397. The Council has received both a formal letter of planning permission and conditions and a letter from SCDC informing the Council that in the view of the planning authority the conditions attached to the permission are enforceable.
- 10.3 Planning Application C10 2888, Summer Cottage, continuation of use as annexe. The Council unanimously support this proposal with the proviso that the accommodation should only be used as part of a single dwelling.
- 10.4 Planning Application C10 2919 The Shingles, Single storey extension to ground floor. No objections were raised to the proposal.
- 10.5 Scrutiny of the Planning Service. The clerk expressed his appreciation of a generally improved standard of communication and plans received from SCDC

recently. SCDC has written to the Council informing it that the scrutiny panel will review its report and the 13 recommendation in 8 months time. The scrutiny committee has asked parishes in the interim to make comment upon improvements or otherwise. The clerk informed the Council that he would monitor the situation and comment when necessary.

11.0 Highways Matters

11.1 Winter preparations. The clerk reported that the grit bins have now been filled.

11.2 Speeding issues were dealt with under 4.1

12.0 Any Other Matters Arising

12.1 The clerk highlighted a number of issues from two meetings he had attended recently on the proposals for the SCC “New strategic Direction”. SCC had stated that they needed to reduce costs by £125m in the next four years £40m of this to be front-loaded in the financial year 2011-12. The underlying problem being that the outcomes of the “new direction” proposals will not be seen until 2012-13. If the voluntary sector gets hit hard by cuts in 2011 – 12 there will not be the organisations to take up the proposals the following year. He expressed serious concerns over the capacity of the volunteer or as it is now known the third sector to take over the role of the statutory bodies. So far no financial packages to manage this work had been clarified. Furthermore there were no firm assurances to the equality of service that will be provided in the future across the county.

12.2 Cllr Peter Tilley resigned as a parish councillor with immediate effect to take up the role of clerk to the parish.

13 Future Meeting Dates

13.2 The next full council meeting will be held on the 31st January 2011 in the St Andrews Church Room.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.