

Bredfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Bredfield Parish Council Meeting held on 31st January 2011 at St Andrews Church Room Bredfield at 7.00pm.

Meeting started at 7.01 pm.

Present

Councillors – Mr G Taylor, Mr D Hepper, Mr A Miller (chair), Mr A Richardson, Ms A Henderson.

3 members of the public were in attendance.

1.0 Apologies received and reasons accepted by the Parish Council

1.0 Cllr Causier – family bereavement – Cllr Richardson asked that the Council send its condolences’, This was agreed.

2.0 Confirm minutes of previous meeting.

2.1 The minutes for 29th November 2010 were agreed unanimously and the minutes for January 24th 2011 were accepted on a vote of 4 for and 1 against and both were signed by the chairman

3.0 Action Points from the previous meetings.

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

3.2 **AP10/34** Registering parish land. 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.

3.3 Other action points highlighted in context throughout the meeting.

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 had previously 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. This was still the case. The clerk will contact again.

4.2 The clerk read out the report from the Police which is attached to the minutes. It was noted that only one crime (cheque fraud) had occurred in the village recently.

5.0 Report from the County / District Councillor

5.1 Cllr Bellfield once again commented on the financial position of Suffolk County Council (SCC) and discussed their “new” Strategic Direction. He noted that unlike press reports bus contracts were currently being re-negotiated and this would be completed by the end of February. This was likely to see reductions especially in Sunday services and those after the evening rush hour. When asked by councillors whether services could be altered after the contracts were revised, he said they could, not in frequency but in timing especially if the timetabling seemed unworkable for the service to be useful to the fare-paying public. It was also noted that bus passes would move from District to a County responsibility in April and conditions of use would change. The Clerk asked Cllr Bellfield whether he would support the development of community based services in the area should they be needed, he agreed he would. He continued to tell the meeting that SCC and SCDC had achieved zero council tax increase for 2011/12. A number of councillors were very concerned about the continued reductions in local services, libraries, social care, road crossing patrols and asked how the County and District conceived the idea that local voluntary provision could fill the gaps and surprised was expressed in that so little change was seen at the county council in the number of executives or the salaries while lollypop ladies were sacked. Cllr Bellfield supported the cost of the current SCC chief executive and moved on to highlight reductions made by the District Councils in their overall management levels.

6.0 Parish Plan

6.1 Cllr Hepper had asked the Parish Plan Group to a meeting to review the Parish Plan activity on February 17th 2011 and will report back at the next full BPC meeting, **AP10/39**.

7.0 Quality Improvement

7.1 Essential Processes

The planning application process document (attached to this report) that had been reviewed by members on line over recent weeks was agreed and accepted. This document will be one of several documents to be created to aid future councillors and the public in the way Bredfield Parish Council operates. These will be available from the clerk and on the Bredfield Parish website.

7.2 It was agreed that Cllr Richardson and the clerk would complete the development of the “budget process” and circulate it in the near future. **AP11/03**

8.0 Abolition of the Standards Regime

8.1 The Clerk asked the Council to note that the Localism Bill due for royal assent in December 2011 will abolish the current Code of Conduct, the requirement for local authorities to have standards committees and the Standards Board (Standards for England) will be abolished. It will be up to Council to consider whether or not it wishes to keep a code of conduct. Details of these changes had been circulated to members.

8.2 The Clerk informed the Council that he had been working on a new councillor pack for new and existing members for circulation after the forthcoming election. The Council agreed that this would be a good idea. It was also agreed that the clerk should publicise the forthcoming election to encourage new membership of the Council.

9.0 Finance

9.1 Two accounts had been paid.

The current accounts to the end of December 2010 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

9.2 A letter of thanks had been received from the chair of the Village hall Management committee thanking the Council for its financial support over the last 12 months

9.3 The clerk sought support of a member of the council to work with him on the repair of the war memorial, Cllr Hepper agreed to help.

10.0 Correspondence

10.1 Collaboration between parishes – SALC

SALC have recently provided information related to collaboration between parishes which had been circulated to members. The clerk advised the members that in light of the level of changes currently happening within local government that work or even amalgamation with other nearby parishes should be considered to provide a greater critical mass when dealing with the District or County Council. Members supported the need to look in more detail at this matter and asked that it be put on to agenda following the elections in May, **AP11/04**.

10.2 Screen Team Call for Partners.

It was agreed that this matter be best dealt with by the Village Hall Committee and it was asked that correspondence was forwarded to the secretary Mrs Tilley.

10.3 Fit Villages Information Pack.

It was agreed that this matter be best dealt with by the Village Hall Committee and it was asked that correspondence was forwarded to the secretary Mrs Tilley.

10.4 The County Council Divestment of Country Parks consultation.

It was noted by members that none of the current consultations by SCC are in fact consultations they are requests for others to take over the services. The Clerk listed the areas of the county currently managed for public access by the County Council. Members were concerned that any divestment would limit potential access to sites and although BPC was not able to contemplate the management of any of these sites as they were outside its jurisdiction, members were aware that they would be used by parishioners. The Clerk was asked to write to the County to seek assurances that access would be ensured to be to the same high standards that is currently enjoyed by the public following any management change. **AP11/ 05**

10.5 Public Libraries Consultation.

The Council was seriously concerned by such short-sighted seemingly politically motivated policies that would lead to withdrawal of basic services to many in need. Libraries were in many areas not just sites for borrowing books but provided childrens' groups, learning facilities for all ages and many peoples only access to the internet. The Council were especially concerned about the potential closure of Wickham Market which had in recent years moved to a new building and provided some limited facility for the young in Wickham. Wickham is currently seen by the Community police Team as a high priority for youth issues and this process would appear to be a retro-grade move away from supporting the local community in providing youth facilities. The Clerk was asked to complete the consultation document especially giving support to the continuation of services in Wickham Market. **AP11/ 06.**

10.6 Removal of Recycling Facilities.

The District Council has informed the Council of its intention to remove recycling bank facilities for paper and cans from April 2011 as these materials can be recycled through household waste collection.

10.7 Housing Needs Survey.

Suffolk Acre has, after a wait of 3 months informed the clerk that the survey results should be available by the end of February 2011. Some 51 surveys had been returned to ACRE representing 35.6% of households returned the survey OR 64.4% did not which is the average return achieved for such a survey. Some members commented that this was a disappointing response.

11.0 Public questions

11.1 A member of the public asked to make a statement about the forthcoming changes in library provision. She stated she was pleased at the stand that the parish council was making over these issues and agreed with members conclusions.

12.0 Planning

12.1 There has been no further activity in relation to the LDF process.

12.2 The clerk had received a series of planning permission notifications relating to recent applications. C/10 2940, C/10 2919, C/10/2888 had all been agreed in line with the Parish Council views and conditions had been put in place where appropriate.

12.3 A full application had now been received for C/10/3101 as C/11/0066 barn development on Ufford Road. The clerk ensured that there would be sufficient members available to call a meeting that would be quorate on 7 February 2011.

13.0 Highways matters

13.1 Drainage and condition issues of Woodbridge and Ufford Road continued to be a concern and the clerk was still awaiting answers from SCC. A request was also received to inform the Highways dept about the danger of damage to the main stop cock near the telephone box. Clerk to report the matter. **AP11/07**. The clerk also requested the support of a member of the council into seeking “best fix” for verge damage on Woodbridge Road. Cllr Taylor said he would help.

13.2 SORR – Cllr Richardson presented a paper to update the council on the activities of SORR’s (Save Our Rural Roads).(attached)

14.0 Any Other Matters Arising

14.1 Cllr Miller told the council he had been approached by Mr T Bishop about the possibility of supporting a mobile post office in the village. It was agreed to make this an agenda item at the next full council meeting

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm

PT 2 / 2 /11