

Bredfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Bredfield Parish Council Meeting held on 19th November 2012 at St. Andrews Church Room, Bredfield at 7pm.

Meeting started at 7pm.

Present

Councillors: Mr Andrew Miller (chair), Mr D Hepper, Mr D. Leyland, Ms A. Henderson, Mr T. Richardson, Mr G Taylor.

Nine members of the public were in attendance.

1.0 Apologies received and accepted by the Parish Council

Ms D Causier – on holiday

Cllr. Peter Bellfield – other commitments

2.0 Confirm minutes of meeting on 24th September

One slight amendment was made to the draft minutes of the meeting on 24th September 2012.

They were then agreed to be a true record and the chair signed them accordingly.

3.0 Matters arising from action points of previous meetings

AP11/35 village map

Cllr Hepper brought copies of the map to the meeting. It was agreed that the laminated A3 maps would be placed on the two village noticeboards and in the village shop. The A4 copies would be kept in the village shop and it was suggested that they could be purchased for 50p each. Cllr Hepper will organise this. It was also agreed to place an electronic copy on the village website, and Cllr Hepper will therefore ask Graham Schofield to forward this to Tony Bence. **AP11/35**

AP12/03 A12 junction

See agenda item 10.1

AP10/17 village noticeboard

There was no further news on this at present. **AP10/17**

AP11/20 & AP11/26 glebe land

See agenda item 8.0

AP11/16 war memorial

See agenda item 12.0

AP11/40 site specific allocations

See agenda item 11.2

AP12/09 Olympic event

The clerk had received the grant money from Suffolk County Council, and had paid Ufford church for the marquee. She is awaiting receipts for the remaining costs and will then reimburse Hassina Khan and Mary Bishop. **A12/09**

AP12/12 external audit report

Resolved

AP11/19 & AP11/28 highways

See agenda item 10.0

AP12/14 declarations of office

Resolved

AP11/45 budget adjustments

See agenda item 9.3

AP12/17 tree preservation orders

Mr Schofield's enquiries are still on-going. **AP12/17**

AP12/18 ownership of Village Green

The clerk has now received the registration document showing the parish council's ownership of the Green. **Resolved**

AP12/20 operator's licence, Debach

There was nothing further to report on this and it is believed that the application has been refused. **Resolved**

AP11/22 and AL11/23 HGV traffic

See agenda item 10.2

AP12/21 Planning application C12/1937/: Erection of a storage building for farm machinery on land north of Manor Farm, Woodbridge Road, Bredfield. The clerk had submitted an agreed response to SCDC. **Resolved**

AP12/22 Dogs fouling the local footpaths.

See agenda item 10.3

4.0 Declarations of interest

As owner of the land identified in item 11.2, Cllr Taylor declared an interest and would withdraw from that discussion.

5.0 Report from Community Police team

The clerk had learned that PC Gilmore has resigned her post. PC Marie Smith will temporarily take on her role, and will inform the parish council when there is a new appointment.

The clerk had not received a police report for this meeting.

6.0 Report from County/District Councillor

Cllr Bellfield was unable to attend this meeting, but had submitted a report. The chair read this out, and Cllr Bellfield was thanked for his on-going support. The report is attached at the end of these minutes.

7.0 Correspondence

7.1 The clerk had circulated the postal record to all councillors. She had received an email from Alex Gray at Bredfield House, enquiring about opportunities for improved broadband in the village. It was agreed that the clerk would place a note on the village noticeboard with the aim of assessing village interest in this. She would also seek further information about the Ufford scheme, as well as thanking Alex on behalf of the parish council for his communication. She will report back on this at the next full meeting in January. **AP12/23**

7.2 There were two letters from Bredfield Charities, following requests for donations towards both the Jubilee Field project and the repairs to the war memorial. Bredfield Charities felt that it was unable to commit money to the Jubilee Field at this time, but would be happy to donate £1000 to the costs of the war memorial. Thanks were extended to Bredfield Charities for this kind offer.

7.3 The clerk had received the annual statements of funds available for use in children's play spaces and sports grounds from SCDC. The chair read out the essential information from the document. It was agreed that the clerk would scan the documents and forward them to David Hepper, as representative of the village hall management committee. **AP12/24**

8.0 Jubilee Field project

8.1 Land purchase

The clerk shared information about the grant offer from Viridor Environmental Credits. The offer roughly equates to the cost of the land purchase. There are issues to resolve, including the question of legal charges. The clerk asked councillors to scrutinise the paperwork received from Viridor. She will scan a copy and begin to circulate it. The parish council have one year from the offer date in which to start the project. Cllr Hepper has spoken to a diocesan representative and understands that there is a meeting on Wednesday 21st November, at which Bredfield's land purchase is an agenda item. He will call the diocese at the end of the week to see if there is any news.

The clerk has spoken with SALC, who recommended Prettys of Ipswich as solicitors with good experience of working with parish councils. The clerk then spoke with one of Prettys' solicitors, who estimated that the legal costs for the Jubilee Field purchase would be around £1500.

However, Cllrs Leyland and Hepper had understood from their meeting with Mr Edgell that the diocese would be prepared to bear any legal costs involved.

It was noted that the third party contribution could not come from the parish council, and should therefore consist of monies raised through fund raising. The village shop has already promised £500, while the Ladies' Group will donate £150.

It was suggested that an approach could be made to Cllr Bellfield, who has a locality budget, and may be able to make a contribution. The clerk will email him to make enquiries. She will also make the administration team at Viridor aware that the parish council is working with church authorities on this matter.

It was agreed that the parish council must be scrupulously transparent as it proceeds with this project. Cllr Richardson suggested that a breakdown of financial and other needs would be helpful. It was possible that the fundraising sub-committee could draft such a document.

8.2 Christmas bazaar, December 8th (together with play area committee)

The clerk had agreed that the Jubilee Field group would manage the draw, the bottle stall and the children's tombola at this event. She had emailed both volunteer groups and had two provisional offers of help so far. She is aware that it is a busy time of year, but will send another email to encourage support. As the Jubilee Field group are making a small contribution to the event, it seemed reasonable that they should receive a relatively small percentage of the profits made. The event would however publicise the project in the village. The clerk is hoping to make a small display board with some information about the Field.

8.3 Volunteer groups - news

There was nothing further to add to the information above. **AP11/20 & AP11/26**

9.0 Finance

9.1 Financial statement

The financial statement to 31st October had been circulated prior to the meeting. This was agreed and was signed by the chair.

9.2 Income and payments

Cheques were drawn for Ladywell Accountancy Services (organisation of clerk's employment), clerk's salary and HMRC (clerk's PAYE).

9.3 Preliminary budget setting for 2013

The clerk had circulated a proposed draft budget for 2013/14, but brought a communication from SALC to the attention of councillors, relating to advice that precept decisions should be delayed until January. Councillors unanimously agreed to reconsider the budget at their January meeting. **AP12/25**

10.0 Highways

10.1 A12/C309 junction

The clerk had made brief notes following the meeting with David Chenery and Steve Griss at the A12/C309 junction. These had been circulated to all councillors. She had sent emails to thank the police and the highways department for their attendance, but had heard nothing more since then. It was unanimously agreed that she should contact them again in January, before the next full parish council meeting, in order to check on progress made with proposed improvements to the C309 exit. She will also enquire about the investigation into container storage, and the possibility of placing a 'ceiling' on the capacity for HGV traffic on the C309. **AP12/03**

10.2 Volume of traffic on C309

The clerk had received an email from Jenny Mills at SCDC, and the chair read this out to councillors. It asserted that there had, to the district council's knowledge, been no changes to the agreed capacity for HGV storage in Debach, but asked that the parish council bring any specific sites of concern to the attention of the district council.

10.3 Dog fouling in Bredfield

The chair had placed a note in the last edition of The Lantern, alerting dog owners to the need for greater care when walking their dogs and it seemed that the situation had improved. The clerk had received an offer of support from the Waste and Environmental Enforcement Officer at

SCDC. It was unanimously agreed however that further action was unnecessary at his time, and that councillors would review the situation at a later date. **AP12/22 Resolved**

11.0 Planning

11.1 Neighbourhood planning – approach from Debach Parish Council

Cllr Richardson had received an enquiry from Debach Parish Council, which is interested in creating a neighbourhood plan collectively with other villages in the locality. He had circulated information to councillors prior to this meeting. There was some discussion about the merits of neighbourhood planning, and the workload that might be involved. Debach has arranged a meeting with Suffolk ACRE to explore this possibility, and Cllr Richardson volunteered to attend this meeting in order to find out more about the process. It was agreed that he should attend and then report back to the parish council so that they could consider the matter more fully. **AP12/26**

11.2 Development in Bredfield – with particular reference to the land between Tudor Cottage and the community shop

Cllr Taylor removed himself from the discussion at this point.

The chair outlined the history relating to the designation of this site as having the potential for a small residential development. In January 2009 there had been a well-attended meeting in the Bowls Club to consider the future of the village, including its physical limits. The meeting was part of the consultation process for Suffolk Coastal's Local Development Framework. Bredfield is identified as a Local Service centre, with a limited number of important amenities. The village is split into two distinct parts, and development has not been facilitated outside these areas. This has resulted in pressure on domestic curtilage, with most building taking place as infilling. There was public discussion at the 2009 meeting, exploring the possibilities for small scale expansion of the village, so that it would continue to thrive. The consensus at this meeting was that the space next to the village hall could be identified for a small building project of about 5-6 homes, and this recommendation was included in Bredfield's response to the consultation. The site is outside the physical limits of the village however, and, to the knowledge of the parish council, it is not included as a site specific allocation. The land owner has not shown an interest in selling the land for development purposes.

It should also be noted that the Parish Plan's questionnaire showed that a high proportion of residents favoured small incremental expansion in the village.

Hopkins Homes had recently approached the clerk, and the parish council had considered their communications at the last meeting. They unanimously agreed that they were not in a position to comment on the matter or to enter into any discussion with Hopkins Homes at this time, and the clerk had made a response accordingly. The parish council had also been in contact with the planning department at SCDC, who had made a supportive response, indicating that this was a 'kite flying' exercise and should not foster anxiety. It was recognised however, that there was currently a degree of vulnerability, as developers could take the opportunity to initiate housing projects before the district council's LDF is published.

There is one known site specific allocation in Bredfield. There may be others, and SCDC intend to release full information once the LDF is published.

There followed a lively discussion of this issue with members of the public, some of whom had not felt fully informed of this issue. They were assured that the parish council does its utmost to keep everything transparent and in the public domain. All minutes are published and are agreed as a true representation of meetings. There is a minuted account of the public meeting in 2009, and while councillors were sorry if residents missed this meeting, the validity of decisions made at that time was indisputable.

Members of the public raised concerns about traffic and possible parking issues should there be further development. They also felt that it was important to manage any change with care in order to retain the character of the village. These comments were noted, although at this stage the understanding was that the owner had no intention of selling the land and that all discussion was hypothetical.

Cllr Taylor rejoined the meeting.

12.0 War memorial

The hoped for repairs to the war memorial had unfortunately not taken place in time for Remembrance Day. During the interregnum the church wardens are responsible for the church and churchyard and they therefore sought advice about the planned works from the diocese. It was discovered that the parish council needed a faculty from the diocese in order to complete the work, to ensure that appropriate procedures were being followed, including a rigorous schedule of works and a risk assessment. The parish council had been unaware of these requirements and even though they were offered the possibility of a retrospective faculty the contractor was by that time unable to reschedule the repairs. Councillors were disappointed by these difficulties and the clerk was asked to write to the PCC in an attempt to find a solution to the problem. She was asked express the parish council's concern about the matter and to suggest either paying an allocated and agreed sum of money to the church and asking them to organise the work, or relocating the war memorial to a site outside the churchyard. The PCC would also be asked for their own suggestions as to how best to proceed. The clerk will draft a letter and will circulate it amongst councillors for their comments before sending it. **AP11/16**

13.0 Matters from the public

13.1 A member of the public raised the issue of potholes on Ufford Road. It was explained that SCC contractors had missed Ufford Road when resurfacing this year. Cllr Leyland agreed to report the problem and will inform the clerk of any developments. **AP11/19 & AP11/28**

13.2 The subject of green waste produced by the Bowls Club was mentioned as a potential hazard, and councillors noted and acknowledged this comment.

13.3 The matter of wheelchair access in the village was raised, and the chair recommended that the wheelchair user in question get in touch personally with the highways department to highlight her concerns. The clerk will pass on contact details for the highways department at SCC. **AP12/27**

13.4 A member of the public wondered if there had been progress with road signs in Bredfield. The clerk had been in communication with SCDC some time ago, and improved signage had been promised. She will make enquiries as to why there has been no action on this. **AP11/36**

14.0 Other matters arising

The clerk had received a planning application after setting the agenda for this meeting. An extra meeting would therefore be necessary. This was agreed for Monday 26th November at 7pm.

15.0 Date of next full meeting

The date for the next full Parish Council meeting was agreed as Monday 28th January 2013.

Meeting ended 9.45pm

KB 22.11.12

Attachment – see item 6.0 above

County Council Report from Peter Bellfield.

November 2012

Council Tax 2013/14

We announced last month that the County Council element of the council tax will be frozen for the third consecutive year. This means that for the four years of the current administration at Endeavour House the council tax will only have risen by 2.4%.

The future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service

Suffolk residents are currently being asked their views about the county's Fire and Rescue Service working more closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough service. This could potentially mean a full merger. This follows the successful merger of the fire control centres for the two authorities last year. A business case is currently being prepared which it is hoped will show that fewer back office and top management staff will be required thus saving costs while maintaining or improving the service.

Future Back Office Requirements

At last months Cabinet meeting it was agreed that the partnership between BT, the County and Mid-Suffolk D.C. to run back office services like finance, ICT and H.R. should not be extended or renegotiated after it ends in 2014. This means the end of C.S.D. as we know it today. Many will say thank goodness! We are, therefore, now looking for other outside organisations to perform these functions at a lower cost as the B.T. contract has escalated significantly more than originally anticipated.

Records and Heritage functions

It has become clear that it is necessary for the County to reorganise and re-site its records and heritage functions and we are currently investigating the options that we have. They include moving within Ipswich or to Stowmarket

Future of County Care Homes

The Scrutiny Committee has confirmed the Cabinet's decision to appoint Care UK as the new provider of the council's residential care homes and community wellbeing centres for older people (known as day centres). The running of the 16 homes will be taken over by Care UK who will then inject £60m to build 10 new homes, some on existing sites. Without exception the 16 homes need substantial investment which the council can not afford in these difficult times and hence the need to transfer their operation to an outside provider. When the rebuilding programme is complete there will be around and extra 150 places with most of the new beds suitable for dementia patients.

Future Expenditure Savings

I have mentioned previously that in each of the next two years the Council is budgeting to save a further £26m. on top of the £65m. savings made last year, but this is unlikely to be the end. Before the start of the financial year 2014/15 the government is going to indicate the likely reduction in the central grant to local authorities over the following four years and the best guess that we can make is that we will be looking to find another £60m. over that period.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.