

Bredfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Bredfield Parish Council Meeting held on 30th April 2012 at St. Andrews Church Room, Bredfield at 7pm.

Meeting started at 7pm.

Present

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

Four members of the public were in attendance.

1.0 Apologies received and accepted by the Parish Council

Ms D. Causier: previous commitment

2.0 Confirm minutes of previous meetings

The clerk had discovered a numbering error in the draft minutes of the meeting on 26th March and had corrected this. There were no other changes and the Council agreed that they were a true record and the Chair signed them accordingly.

3.0 Declarations of interest

None

4.0 Glebe lands

Cllrs Hepper and Leyland reported on their recent meeting with Mr Nicholas Edgell (Diocesan secretary). Mr Edgell was open about needing to raise money through the sale of the glebe lands and the PCC have now withdrawn their objections to this. He was sympathetic to the proposal that the Parish Council should be offered one plot, and he particularly liked the idea of a contemplative area, which would be an appropriate use of the land. He verbally suggested that the smaller plot of land could be offered to Bredfield for a figure of around £16,500. The larger plot of land is in a better commercial location, and would raise more money on the open market. This plot is currently scheduled for auction in June. Councillors discussed the possibility of land purchase at some length, and they unanimously agreed that the amount for the larger plot (up to £50,000 was mentioned by Mr Edgell), was unattainable. £16,500 for the smaller plot might be achievable, although there was much to consider. This plot was less accessible from the road, and was quite secluded and damp. Parking could be an issue. Covenants on the land might need to be checked, although councillors did not feel these would present problems. The main problem would be raising the money for purchase, and the Parish Council would need a little time to explore possibilities, including the legal implications of taking on a mortgage agreement. It might also be possible for a private consortium of individuals to buy the plot for the village, or for donations to be made towards the cost. Despite misgivings about raising the necessary funds and also the subsequent management of the plot, councillors unanimously agreed that it was an opportunity that should be explored further. Cllr Hepper will communicate with Mr Edgell, to express the Parish Council's interest in buying the land, but also stating the need for time to pursue enquiries about raising the money, and to gather the views of the local community. The matter would be placed on the agenda for the annual parish meeting on 30th May. The clerk was asked to consult SALC on the matter, and also to contact Gressingham Foods to enquire about a possible donation. **AP11/20 and AP11/26**

5.0 Finance

5.1 Audit update

The clerk updated the Parish Council on the arrangements for both the internal and external audit. The audit notification had been placed on the village noticeboard, and the documents for internal audit would be taken to Heather Heelis in Rendlesham on Thursday 3rd May. The annual return to the external auditor must be made by June 18th. **AP12/08**

5.2 Outstanding payments

A cheque was raised to pay for the annual subscription to SALC.

6.0 Adoption of amended standing orders

The clerk had amended the model standing orders, and these had been sent to all councillors. It was unanimously agreed to accept these. **AP12/05 Resolved**

7.0 Other matters arising

7.1 The clerk informed councillors about the outcome of the Suffolk Celebrates grant application for an 'Olympic' opening ceremony event. £485 had been offered, although this would be paid after the event, so there would be an initial outlay of money needed. The clerk had accepted the offer, on behalf of the sub-committee, and had communicated with Hassina Khan. **AP12/09 resolved**

7.2 There was to be an increase in costs for waste transfer services in the village, and approval of these services needed to be made by 25th May. The clerk asked the Chair to look over the documentation. She will also raise an invoice for the village shop, in accordance with an agreement made last year. **AP12/11**

7.3 Cllr Henderson re-introduced the question of a village welcome pack. Although this was considered a good proposition, it would need regular updating. The suggestion was made to have an electronic version on the village website. It was agreed that the matter could be another agenda item for the annual parish meeting.

8.0 Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 30th May in the village hall. The Parish Council AGM will be at 7pm, followed by the annual parish meeting at 8pm. **AP12/10 Resolved**

Meeting ended 8.15pm