**BROMESWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (20/05)**

**Monday 20 July 2020**

**Meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

1. **Attendance & Apologies**

**Parish councillors attending:** Ian Abbott (IA) (Chair), Verity Brown (VB), Sue Todd (ST), Rory Burrow (RB), Tim Johnson (TJ), Tracy Rogers (TR)

**Clerk:** Rob Cutts (RC)

 **Guests:**  James Mallinder (JM) – District Councillor

 **Apologies:** Andrew Reid (AR) – County Councillor

This meeting was held online using Zoom technology. Prior to the meeting the PC had arranged for the 150+ recipients of the E-Warbler parish magazine to receive notice of the meeting as well as displaying notices on the notice boards. The Clerk will issue a full report of the meeting as soon as practical through the same mechanism.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations from councillors about agenda items.

Councillors were reminded to update the Register of Interests in the event of any changes to their personal interests including their own home address.

1. **Report from Suffolk County Council, Andrew Reid**

A written report had been received and circulated to councillors and is attached.

1. **Report from East Suffolk Council, James Mallinder**

A written report had been previously circulated and is attached.

ESC are giving digital support to towns to promote businesses and services. Trialling free wi-fi in Framlingham. Efforts to reduce verge cutting are attempt to reduce environmental damage, not cost cutting. Clerk to bring forward proposals for verge cutting in Bromeswell at next meeting. ESC are unhappy with current Sizewell C proposals from EDF as they do not meet ESC thresholds on environment or impact on East Suffolk residents. Concerned that EDF have not listened to feedback from consultation. JM agreed to send a link to help alleviate broadband problems in some parts of the village.

JM asked for regular updates on planning enforcement issues, particularly the bus on land off Summer/Church Lanes.

JM responded to a query regarding staffing at ESC that there was a gradual phased return to work. It is hoped to return to usual green bin service in September.

1. **Approval & signing of minutes from the meeting of 18 May 2020.**

These were approved as a true record of the meeting. The Chair confirmed he had signed these and would post them to the Clerk.

1. **Matters arising from minutes of 18 May 2020**

The Clerk advised that he had not received a response from AR in respect of Sutton Road highways project, although this had only recently been sent.

Council expressed dissatisfaction that the amendments to the planning application relation to the agricultural building on Summer/Church Lane had not been satisfactorily communicated to the PC or other residents by ESC. Whilst the PC acknowledged that what has been approved is smaller (some suggested “house sized”) the principle that this development has been permitted is a dangerous precedent for the development of any agricultural land in East Suffolk. There is however nothing within the PC’s financial constraints that can be done to challenge this bad decision by ESC.

1. **Emergency Plan**

VB gave a report to the PC. The village has managed this phase of the outbreak well with no shortage of helpers and all those in need finding support. The PC agreed that the Emergency Plan should remain in force with a review in September. VB will contact those we are aware of as being potentially vulnerable to ask whether there is more or different things the PC needs to bear in mind for the inevitable second wave.

1. **Adoption of General Privacy Notice**

The Council approved the revised General Privacy Notice dated May 2020.

1. **Finance**

Finance Report – The Clerk had previously circulated the Finance Report & Receipts and Payments record for the period since the last meeting and which is attached to these minutes. The PC approved the report. The Clerk confirmed that he had verified the report to bank statements and had signed those to confirm its accuracy. The report indicated healthy reserves of £11086.53. However when budgeted items are spent in the coming months a figure of £7882.53 is a truer picture of reserves which remains satisfactory. A claim for £424.40 for VAT refund is expected to be paid, usually by the end of July. The reduction in interest rates was noted by the PC.

Payments – A payment of £186.00 to SALC approved by email for payment of audit fees was confirmed.

Online Banking – Clerk reported that Barclays continues to have issues with dealing with non-essential changes of this type and will continue to monitor the situation and make arrangements as soon as possible.

Audit – Clerk confirmed that a satisfactory audit report had been received and had circulated a copy. This is available on the PC website. All necessary financial documents have been published. No queries have been received from the public.

Asset Register - Clerk has updated this with newly acquired Emergency Plan equipment.

1. **Highways**

TR had previously circulated a written report which is attached. The PC again expressed its thanks to Tracy Rogers for her tireless on highways issues.

The PC appreciates that in the current circumstances progress on these projects may get delayed.

Sutton Road - The Clerk has asked Cllr Reid to intervene on the question of the traffic survey. A response is awaited.

20 MPH Zone – It is expected that work will commence on this by Highways during August/September now that it has been approved. However Covid issues may cause delays.

School Lane Flooding – TR continues to try to establish causes of this flooding and it will be interesting to see what effect works at village hall have had further up the lane when/if we get more heavy rain..

Bentwaters HGV Issue – Clerk advised no further developments on this issue to report. PC agreed to continue policy of passive support for other councils.

Summer Lane bank erosion - Mainly being caused by agricultural vehicles. Not helped by hedge opposite. It is hoped that the hedge will be trimmed soon. Resident to talk to Foskett Farms direct.

Verges - In principle PC would like to encourage nature and environment by reducing verge cutting where safe to do so. Clerk to bring forward proposals at next meeting.

1. **Clerks Report**

The Clerk had previously circulated a report which is attached. Briefly:

Sizewell C – Submission of application for DCO awaited. PC name has been added as to a letter outlining our concerns from a group representing large majority of East Suffolk councils. It was agreed to defer the Clerks request for a policy statement on this to the September meeting.

Police Report – Two crimes reported in April and one in May.There were two burglaries and one anti-social behaviour.

Planning Applications – Ashley, School Lane & Woodbridge Golf Club both supported by PC and approved by ESC. Agricultural building on Summer Lane opposed by PC, but approved by ESC.Fairways on Summer Lane supported by PC & approved by ESC. Bluebell Cottage, School Lane being considered by PC. Developments of storage at Sawmill end of Summer Lane are permitted development.

Enforcement – no further developments regarding Jungle Run and Lodge at Bromeswell Corner. Bus on Summer/Church Lane due to be removed by 1 August. JM is liaising with ESC on these. Caravans on Common Lane will leave at end of current growing season.

ESC Planning Notification – with exception of the previously mentioned agricultural building issue this now seems to be working properly.

Local Plan Consultation on Main Modifications - IA has reviewed this and reports that with one possible issue regarding Policy SCLP11.9 regarding infilling there appears no substantive change to policy relating to Bromeswell.

1. **Public Forum**

Concern was expressed about a group of middle aged “lycra louts” who have cycled through the village at speed on more than one occasion using inappropriate language. Whilst the PC sympathised with the resident, it felt that there was little the PC could do to prevent this.

The PC agreed to review the need for additional dog waste bins around the village. RB to report back at next meeting.

Concern about litter on the lanes in the village was expressed. Clerk advised that due to Covid pandemic the usual Spring litter picks had not happened this year and suggested that for the time being covid social distancing rules made this difficult to arrange.

PC was thanked for its work during the current virus lockdown to support residents.

1. **Consultations**

Clerk suggested that responding to NALC consultation on Code of Conduct was not appropriate as the PC subscribes to the standard Suffolk Councils code. PC agreed not to respond.

1. **Any Other Business**

The PC agreed to make a donation of £50 to the Disability Advice Service as it is a key point of contact for residents in need of advice on benefits.

IA is undertaking online consultation on Parish Plan review on behalf of the PC with a report due at the next meeting.

1. **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be held as a Zoom online meeting again unless rules relating to public meetings are relaxed in time to arrange a safe physical meeting. Next meeting will start at 7.30pm on Monday 28 September.

Remaining 2020 meeting is set for 30 November

The public consultation meeting for the next Parish Plan set for 29 April is postponed until further notice.