**BROMESWELL PARISH COUNCIL**

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (20/07)**

**Monday 30 November 2020**

**Meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

1. **Attendance & Apologies**

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

**Clerk:** Rob Cutts (RC)

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

Andrew Reid (AR) – County Councillor

 **Apologies:** Verity Brown (VB)

 **Public:** There were 3 members of the public in attendance

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.

Apologies were received from VB due to a death in the family. These apologies were accepted by the PC.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

ST declared an interest in Item 12 on the agenda relating to her own planning application. It was agreed she would leave the meeting whilst this was discussed.

TJ declared an interest in Item 14 on the agenda as he is also Chair of Woodbridge RFC. The PC asked him to remain for that discussion as no decision would be made at this meeting and TJ would be able to supply information to the PC to further its understanding.

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

A written report is to follow. Regular Covid updates have been reinstated as the pandemic situation has worsened locally.No surprise we’re in Tier 2 but hopefully can move to Tier 1 in a few weeks. The Home But Not Alone Helpline has been restarted.

Government funding (£73m) has been confirmed for new bridge in Lowestoft which is seen as a key economic project by County. County funding will be £60m.

New Carefone project being trialled by adult & social care to support people remotely using a video call device.

SCC believes that EDF have moved in a positive direction with new Sizewell C proposals, but not far enough and without enough clarity for example on HGV numbers.

AR declared an interest in discussions about HGV issue in Campsea Ashe as he lives in the village. Believes it to be a wider issue for peninsula villages than just one road.

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

A written report had been previously circulated and is attached.

Please let JM know if there is a need for additional support for the PC, residents or businesses as he can help direct them to solutions.

A new Environmental Planning Guide is launched by ESC. Unfortunately not legally enforceable but will help developers meet higher standards.

There has been a noticeable increase in visitors to the area – particularly holiday cottage hotspots during autumn. Concern that people may be flouting government guidelines on travel.

A letter has been received from owners of Bromeswell Corner solicitors indicating a planning application is to come in new year.

Environment Agency has inspected damage to river bank at Wilford Bridge. Coffee van no longer seems to operating at the site.

The PC asked JM to follow up what action is being taken or planned regarding the timber lodge at Bromeswell Corner which had its Legal User application refused in 2019. Lodge still occupied full time we are told by employee of owners.

JM considers that Option C has to be best option for construction of Sizewell C as Network Rail will not pay for rail improvements and EDF will not fund road improvements. Real concerns about environmental damage north of site.

1. **Approval & signing of minutes from the meeting of 28 September 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 28 September 2020**

JM & RB to liaise on completion of Form so that JM can fund provision of additional dog waste bin on Summer Lane which is seeing increased use by people taking exercise during pandemic restrictions. PC thanked JM for this welcome support.

IA advised he had spoken with VHC and currently finances are okay as they have received government grant to help alleviate loss of income from impact of Covid. VHC will investigate possibility oif having an electric car charging point at the village hall for public use.

1. **Community Emergency Plan**

VB gave a report to the PC. No additional needs identified at this time. Connected Communities advertised through Warbler and on notice boards.

1. **Parish Plan**

The PC undertook a review of the draft of the new plan that had been previously circulated by IA.

Regarding the Highways section it needs to be remembered that many of the issues will be difficult to resolve as there can be significant financial costs and also difficulties in moving SCC from its established protocols of “how these things are done” which can prove both expensive and very time consuming. The PC however felt that its job was to keep trying to achieve these changes and would continue to push for improvements.

The draft Plan was approved other than minor changes to wording.

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 £13996.74. However when budgeted items are spent in the coming months a figure of £8180 is estimate of end of year reserves.

Payments – Since the last meeting payments of £186.73 for annual insurance, £186.00 for audit and £185.41 for SALC membership had been paid. Payments of £590.00 were approved to Bromeswell PCC to assist with the upkeep of the churchyard, £50.00 to the Disability Advice Centre and £50.00 to Leiston & District CAB. The PC chose not to make a donation to SARS as the specific link to Bromeswell and its residents was not seen as strong enough.

Village Hall – The Clerk will contact SALC for advice on how to proceed in supporting the VHC in relation to the septic tank/drainage project at the hall. The PC was keen to help but wanted to clarify how best to ensure it meets its legal obligations in helping with the VAT reclaim.

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. TJ undertook to make further enquiries of Barclays.

2021/22 Budget – The Clerk had previously circulated a draft budget for next year based upon known expenditure and projects identified that will require expenditure. JM indicated that at this stage he did not envisage any large changes in support for local communities from ESC. The PC was clear in its discussions that moneies raised by precept had to be put to use and should not just be used to bolster reserves which are seen as adequate based upon expected end of year outturn of £8180 (142% of current year precept). After discussion the PC agreed upon a precept request for 2021/22 of £4897 which will mark a significant reduction in precept from the current year.

1. **Highways**

Wilford Bridge Area – with coffee van having apparently moved on, highways concerns at this location are resolved.

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 – TR explained that she was in discussion with SCC Highways about using data from police traffic speed survey which would save around £400 costs. She was dealing with a new officer at the council. JM will provide details of contact at National Trust Sutton Hoo to see what support they can offer.See later in Public Forum item for further discussions.

20 MPH Zone – Council expressed thanks to TR for her work and perseverance in achieving a satisfactory completion to this project.

School Lane Flooding – TR trying to get SCC to undertake pipe camera survey to try to establish what problems near Meadow View are. There has been an improvement following works at village hall. Awaiting a wet period to assess how quickly water drains and trying to gauge frequency needed for SCC to jet the drains. Trying to identify where outlet pipe at Motwill House goes.

Bentwaters HGV Issue – Clerk had previously circulated email correspondence from local councils on this point. PC decided to continue to observe rather than support as it felt changes suggested by Campsea Ashe would potentially adversely impact other villages including Bromeswell.

Community Safety System- Clerk had previously circulated details. There was no appetite for this approach from PC.

Slow Ways – This had been brought to the attention of PC by a resident. Attempt to link walking routes to provide a national network. They will keep PC informed of developments. PC generally supportive of encouraging use of paths and lanes for non-vehicle use.

Footpaths – IA has reported damage on foot bridges on paths to Ufford to SCC.

1. **Clerks Report**

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

Sizewell C – There is a consensus between ESC and SCC that EDF efforts to deal with traffic impacts is not sufficient. In addition JM was very concerned about potential environmental impacts. PC asked Clerk to make a submission to Planning Inspectorate in current consultation to support the responses of ESC & SCC and to make clear that it does not support the road led strategy.

Police Report – Three crimes reported in period August to October. The reports were of two public order incidents and one burglary. Overall crime reports in Woodbridge SNT continue to be higher since the first lockdown was announced in March.

\*\*\*ST left the meeting\*\*\*

Planning Applications – The PC had no objections to the proposed tree removal at Church View Cottage in Church Lane. The new agricultural building on Summer/Church Lanes had been opposed by the PC and several residents but approved by ESC. The application to demolish & replace Meadow View on School Lane had been supported by the PC but has been withdrawn by the applicants.

The appeal by the owners to build a house on land behind Church View Close (access from Summer Lane) has been refused by the Planning Inspectorate.

Enforcement – The issues relating to the Jungle Run and Lodge at Bromeswell Corner were discussed earlier. All public health licences are in place for the Korean Kitchen takeaway business in School Lane. TJ has spoken with the business owners who are keen to find proper premises for the business as soon as covid restrictions permit as they are keen to run the business on a proper footing. Current trading is seen as a short term necessity. Keep under review. Caravans on Common Lane to be removed in the near future.

Pilot scheme on transfer of planning information -­ This scheme is proposed by a private resident in Pettistree. The PC declined to get involved.

Posts on Common Lane – These are to provide telephone to new holiday lodge complex.

1. **Public Forum**

The issue of speeding vehicles on Sutton Road was raised (see earlier discussion). Discussions with the Suffolk Police operative conducting a recent survey indicates that 1 in 5 vehicles are speeding through the 40mph limit with 10-12% exceeding 60mph. This is a clear danger to vehicles entering and exiting drives along the road and pedestrians on very narrow paths and stretches where there are no paths at all. TR will try to obtain police data to progress PC request for more repeater signs. Will also discuss what possibilities there may be of getting speed limit reduced to 30mph.

Footpath is generally overgrown in summer and dangerous due to leaves in winter.

1. **Consultations**

PC decided not to respond to the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document consultation.

1. **Any Other Business**

Matters relating to the village hall had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

The councillor vacancy was still open. Whilst the PC would like to see someone living in the Sutton Road area coming forward, this vacancy was open to all residents.

TJ agreed to talk to Woodbridge RFC about possibility of getting grant funded electric car charging point at rugby club for use by general public.

Clerk to provide TJ with contact details of Sarah Shinnie at ESC regarding use of “Sports Pot” funds for rugby club project to acquire old Baptist chapel site and building.

IA had circulated an email regaing getting fibre broadband in the village.

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. It was agreed to start the next meeting at 7pm on Monday 25 January 2021..

Meetings for 2021 to be as follows:

29 March

10 May

19 July

27 September

29 November