

BROMESWELL PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES (22/01)

Monday 17 January 2022

Meeting commenced at 7.05pm

1. Attendance & Apologies

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

Clerk: Rob Cutts (RC)

Guests: James Mallinder (JM) – District Councillor
Andrew Reid (AR) – County Councillor

Apologies: Verity Brown (Vice Chair) (VB)

Public: There were three members of the public in attendance

The Council accepted the apologies of VB (funeral attendance).

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.

2. Co-option of new councillor

This was not possible as the person concerned was unable to attend due to Covid pandemic related issues on this occasion.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded councillors to ensure that their own registers of interest were kept up to date and to ensure any hospitality or gifts received in their role as councillor were recorded. IA advised that he had a declaration regarding Item 10 as a planning application being reported related to his house. He would leave the room should discussion of that item occur.

4. Report from Suffolk County Council, Andrew Reid

A written report had previously been circulated.

SCC hoping to approve a budget of £625m (2021:£598m) for next year. This selected a 1.99% increase in general budget, 1% for adult social care with remainder coming from improved central government grant. There is an additional £2.5m in budget to support work with NHS on mental health. Better resuse equipment being acquired for fire service following Grenfell disaster.

The PC discussed and forcefully put to AR the case for reviewing SCC Highways refusal to implement any improvements to speed signs on Sutton Road despite PC paying for such work after almost 3 years of discussion and even in autumn last year being told a scheme was being worked on. AR to review with Highways.

5. Report from East Suffolk Council, James Mallinder

A written report had been previously circulated.

Further changes in how waste is collected will be forthcoming but now dependent on passage of national legislation so existing arrangements likely to be in place for 2022. All agreed that a key issue was reduction of waste – particularly hard to recycle for good value such as tetra-paks and disposable coffee cups. PC was supportive of profile JM is giving to environmental matters across the district.

PC thanked JM for his financial support across the last year – help with cost of village sign, dog waste bin etc is very much appreciated by this small village with limited financial resources.

Ownership of the riverbank at Wilford Bridge was discussed. Mr Foskett confirmed that at least part of the area between the board walk and high tide loan was owned by his family but the area closer to Wilford Bridge was unknown. Concern that it was being degraded. Clerk to investigate ownership of that area.

AR left the meeting.

6. Planning application presentation by Mr G Foskett

PC thanked Mr Foskett for taking the time to attend and talk to the PC about the renewed application made to ESC. As yet not validated by ESC so will be considered by PC Planning Committee in due course.

Key points presented to PC by Mr Foskett were:

- ___ New kiln was part of aim for business to move to being carbon neutral.
- ___ New kiln is better for the environment but needs more human intervention to maintain product quality compared to old LPG kiln.
- ___ Site of house dictated by legitimate reasons.
- ___ No trees or hedges to be felled; there will be additional planting.
- ___ House to be low carbon impact.
- ___ ESC Local Plan policy SCLP5.3(vi) is relevant.
- ___ There will be an agricultural tie restricting occupation of house to those engaged in agricultural activity.
- ___ Mr Foskett was very confident of the future success of his business due to it's specialist nature.

PC thanked Mr Foskett for this additional background information which would help it consider the proposal in due course.

7. Adjournment of the PC Meeting

At 7.37pm the Chair adjourned the PC meeting to enable the Annual Parish Meeting to take place with the agreement of the council. Please see separate minutes for that meeting. These arrangements had been agreed to enable those that did not wish to stay for the remaining PC agenda to leave early.

8. Re-convening of the PC Meeting

Following completion of the Annual Parish Meeting, the Chair reconvened the PC meeting at 7.57pm.

9. Approval & signing of minutes from the meeting of 29 November 2021.

These were approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

10. Matters arising from minutes of 29 November 2021

IA advised that he had spoken to SCC about the old boardwalk. The landowner has asked for this to be left on site.

TJ will chase Kiwi fencing about erection of village sign,

IA has spoken to VHC about caravan stored at village hall. Action in hand for this to be cleaned, repaired and removed.

11. Village Matters

Village sign – TJ to chase contractor. The PC confirmed its decision to authorise up to £300 to pay for the sign's erection. Actual expenditure to be confirmed at next meeting.

Eyke Road Open Access Area – Clerk apologised for not having done Land Registry enquiries and will get these done before he retires or ensure new Clerk aware of what is required.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Not possible to put oak in village hall grounds because of concerns about effects in long term of roots on new septic tank system. Further discussions took place. Possibilities to be investigated are at rugby club near new footpath to be created, open access area behind church or on Common Lane on Schlee's field at or near entrance to track to old piggery. It is likely that organisers for a village event have been identified.

Royal Mail Changes – IA has written to Royal Mail but no reply received. Latest update from Terry is that he has heard nothing more at this stage.

12. Finance

Finance Report – The Clerk had previously circulated the Finance Report and the Receipts and Payments record for the period since the last meeting. All PC Finance Reports are available on the PC website. Significant expenditures since the last meeting were:

Clerk's salary & PAYE	£500.00
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After adjusting for uncleared items Council reserves stood at £10770.61.

CIL Fund –The PC CIL fund stands at £298.21. This sum has been allocated towards payment of the SCC invoice for the TVAS posts on Sutton Road when this is received. This money needs to be spent by 31 March 2026.

2022-23 Budget and Precept Request – The Clerk presented the PC with a draft budget document for next year. The PC must submit its precept request to ESC by 24 January. A copy of this document is attached. There was a good discussion about the level of precept to be set this year in light of the refusal of SCC Highways at this stage to progress a project for better speed signs on Sutton Road. Whilst the impact of the PC precept on household budgets will be very small, the PC felt that the precept should be kept as low as possible with no additions or planned use of reserves in 2022-23.(ie. A precept that would cover expected revenue expenditure and a sum to help towards the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations). The PC unanimously agreed for the Clerk to submit a precept request of £5363.

Audit Action Plan – The Clerk regretted he had not been able to progress this as yet. The PC accepted this apology.

2022 Audit – The PC accepted the Clerk's recommendation to once again use SALC for its annual audit.

13. Arrangements for appointment of the new Clerk

The Chair expressed his gratitude to the outgoing Clerk for his work over the past 10 or so years which was supported by all the councillors.

The PC agreed for the outgoing Clerk and Chair to make arrangements (to include offer letter and contract of employment based upon current NALC contract) with the new Clerk, Jenny Lloyd to take up the role at a suitable date for her and the existing Clerk. The PC had previously confirmed within its discussions regarding the budget that the new Clerk's salary should be £2500 (an hourly rate of £12.00ph with an expectation of about 4 hours per week on average required). The PC were aware and advised that further payments would be required should the new Clerk wish for pension contributions to be made. A further sum for overtime for the new Clerk to assist in the extra time for the handover was agreed as set out in the approved budget.

The existing Clerk will make himself available to help with the handover period and thereafter as necessary.

14. Highways & Footpaths

Wilford Bridge Area – No issues reported but camper van appears to be a permanent fixture. A horse box also appears to be stored on river bank. PC authorised Clerk to do Land Registry search to identify land owners of the area bordered by A1152 and Common Lane. Concerns about encroachment on to river bank near to Wilford Bridge. Landowner has requested remains of old boardwalk be left on site. No news from Melton PC re there 30mph proposal at Wilford Bridge.

Sutton Road – TVAS have been operational for a couple of weeks but have now been removed. Anecdotally the down hill one seems to have been activated more frequently than the uphill. PC are angry and disappointed that, after over three years of discussions with much positive feedback, that SCC Highways have now refused to take any action on better speed signage despite the PC making it clear that any costs would be borne by PC and not SCC. AR has been asked to intervene. Roundabout due to be resurfaced but no dates as yet.

School Lane Flooding – PC continues to monitor ground water flooding in this area.
Common Lane Bend Sign – TR will contact SCC Highways to look at possibility of erecting pole on Common Lane so our own VAS can be deployed in the 20MPH zone.

Bentwaters HGV Issue – RC provided update. Outcome of traffic monitoring received and circulated. RC attended zoom meeting with SCC councillors, officers and representatives of other PCs. County councillors supportive but awaiting further analysis by Highways officers.

Discover Suffolk Footpath Signs - Still awaiting further details from SCC.

15. Clerks Report

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

Sizewell C – Decisions likely on both Sizewell C & Friston sub-station in early 2022.

Police Report – Only figures for November available. One burglary reported on Sutton Road out of 200 crimes reported in Woodbridge Neighbourhood team area.

Planning Applications – Oakwood, Sandy Lane (DC/21/3840) – PC did not comment. ESC decision still awaited.

Willows End, Orford Road (DC/21/3441) – PC did not comment. ESC decision still awaited.

Birch House, School Lane (DC/21/4632/FUL) – supported by PC and approved by ESC.

Church View Lodge, School Lane (DC/21/5070/TPO) – tree work supported by PC and approved by ESC.

Enforcement – There have been no developments or further complaints to report on enforcement matters at Bromeswell Corner (Jungle run & lodge) or the Korean Kitchen takeaway business being run on School Lane. JM advised that the barn erected on Summer/Church Lane is to be painted dark green when weather permits.

Joint Deben Ward Meeting – Next meeting set for March 24 at Sutton Heath. IA has agreed to attend this meeting with the Clerk.

Retirement of Clerk – With a new Clerk identified and arrangements being put in place for handover of Clerking duties, this is likely to be the Clerk's last meeting. He thanked councillors past and present for their support and the hours of voluntary work that they put in for the village.

16. Consultations

Clerk confirmed that he had responded as instructed on both the SCC Lorry Route and ESC Walking & Cycling consultations.

17. Any Other Business

It was mentioned that Woodbridge Golf Club were considering the possibility of some residential development. The PC would comment on proposals in the usual way if any application is made to ESC.

18. Resignation of the Chair

IA confirmed that he was resigning with immediate effect as Chair due to increasing work commitments. He will remain as a councillor. VB, the current Vice Chair, has indicated a willingness to stand as Chair and will temporarily assume the duties of the Chair in accordance with Standing Orders. An election for new Chair and Vice Chair will take place at the start of the next meeting.

19. Next Meeting

At village hall meeting room at 7.00pm on Monday 4 April 2022.

Remaining meetings for 2022 are:

9 May (to include PC AGM)

18 July

26 September

29 November

Date of 2022-23 Parish Meeting to be decided.

