

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN BRANTHAM
VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 27TH APRIL STARTING AT 7.33PM**

PRESENT: Mr M Clark
Mr M Daniel
Mr I Duncan
Mrs L Evans (Clerk)
Mr K Glen (Chairman of VHMC)
Mr R Keeble
Mr T Nobbs
Mr S Elsey Responsible Finance Officer
Mr D Wood County Councillor
Mr T Ward District Councillor
Mr P Crowhurst Chairman of BML
Mr P Lawler Secretary of BML
Marcus Nixon
4 members of the public

CHAIRMAN: Mr P Revell

1. APOLOGIES: Mr Amoss, Mrs Dunnett, Mr Gray and Mr Kettle

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS YEARS MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2010 were approved, confirmed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

3.1 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Mr Revell report is as follows:

"Following established practice I shall be addressing topics by subject matter as opposed to providing a chronological report of events.

PERSONNEL

There have been no changes to the membership of the Parish Council over the past year. However for the benefit of the public present this evening I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce your Parish Council as follows:

Chairman – Myself: Paul Revell

Vice-chairman – Martin Clark

And then in alphabetical order:

Melvin Amoss, Mark Daniel, Iain Duncan, Liz Dunnett, Kevin Glen, Nigel Gray, Richard Keeble, Pat Kettle, and Trevor Nobbs.

The Council is very well supported by our Parish Clerk; Liz Evans, and Responsible Finance Officer; Stephen Elsey.

The Parish Council is organised around a number of sub-committees which meet regularly to consider submissions and make recommendations to the full Council. These are as follows:

1. Finance: Chairperson – Liz Dunnett
2. Planning: " – Richard Keeble
3. Legal: " – Mark Daniel
4. Recreation: " – Melvin Amoss
5. Services: " – Nigel Gray
6. Contributions: " – Martin Clark

The Clerk is the Parish Council's primary point of contact for Parishioners, but any Parish Councillor may be contacted should you have any issues or concerns. All Councillors' contact details are printed in the Bugle and are available from the Clerk on request.

In addition to the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer the Parish Council employs two Litter Pickers on a part time basis.

PLANNING

During 20010/11 the Parish Council dealt with 16 planning applications. We recommended approval on 13 and refusal on 3. (Council did not comment on the remaining 2 as these related to Parish owned land and buildings (Clubhouse)). I should just like to remind members of the public that it is Babergh District Council who make the final decision on these applications and that the Parish Council can only provide recommendations. Babergh approved 11 and refused 2. The disparity in numbers is due to those applications that are either still in progress or have been withdrawn.

LOCAL NEEDS/LOW COST HOUSING

Brantham Parish Council supports Babergh's policy of affordable housing. The building of housing at Kettle Close plus a further two properties in Palfrey Heights by ORWELL HOUSING ASSOCIATION has been completed to a very satisfactory standard. This was marked by a subsequent on site opening event attended by representatives from Babergh District Council, Orwell Housing Association, Brantham Parish Council and Parishioners. Concerns have been stressed to both Babergh District Council and Orwell Housing Association over the subsequent allocation of some of these properties.

With regard to this it is imperative that any future such developments within Brantham and in particular allocations are seen to be just. A further concern remains over the very poor state of the kerbside and grass on the Palfrey Heights top green which was damaged during the development by heavy plant and vehicles. Orwell Housing Association have afforded assurances that this will be made good by providing improved parking facilities in the damaged area. This has been agreed by your Parish Council but at the time of report remains outstanding.

In respect of further affordable housing your Parish Council has agreed to a low cost housing survey within Brantham, which will update our information on current needs. In the current financial climate the Parish Council has some concerns over the affordability of future such developments.

BRANTHAM INDUSTRIAL SITE

Not too much to report in respect of this important development site. This may be due primarily to the current economic climate. The Babergh planned consultation events of 19 May 2010 and 30 June 2010 were both postponed by Babergh District Council.

Currently, the Parish Council is unaware of any planning applications in respect of this site, although the majority of the site has now been leveled and cleared for development. Therefore, we must remain vigilant to future planning applications in respect of this site. It should be noted, however, that Brantham Parish Council are fully committed to working in partnership with Babergh District Council and potential developers in order to achieve the very best possible outcome for all potential stakeholders. Not least to ensure that the interests of the residents of Brantham are best served. For further information the Revised Planning Position Statement (Report H51) adopted by Babergh District Council in April 2009 refers.

In respect of other Parish concerns this site remains a potential death trap with numerous incidents of arson, electrocution and theft being reported. It also remains a dangerous playground for children who are unaware of the risks involved. Better parental supervision for those trespassing and the owners improved security could lessen this risk.

POLICING

During 2010/11 Police Officers attended Parish Council Meetings on a quarterly basis. I trust that Suffolk Constabulary's current financial constraints do not impinge further upon this commitment. Similarly the loss of available Police Officer hours may well exacerbate the level of crime within our community. However, 2010/11 statistics for Suffolk suggest a slight downward trend in reported crime, although a recent spate of burglaries and theft have been reported within our Parish.

POLICING (Contd)

On a positive note in December 2010 four men from Essex and South-East London were convicted of a string of burglaries at various shops across Suffolk and Essex, including here in Brantham and sentenced to a combined 12 years imprisonment. Nevertheless, the majority of recorded crime in Brantham would appear to be largely of a 'petty' nature apart from some of the reported instances of theft and arson on the industrial site.

I take this opportunity to thank Councillor Ian Duncan for his regular attendance at Safe Neighbourhood Meetings and his subsequent feedback to the Parish Council.

HIGHWAYS

For the second year running the Parish, along with the rest of the country, experienced severe winter weather during the months of November and December 2010, with snow and ice in particular proving extremely hazardous to our community. This necessitated the acquisition of additional grit bins for the village. The usual hot-spots for trouble were throughout the hillier areas of the village and pavements and estates were badly affected. Supplies of grit from Suffolk County Council appeared to be adequate but necessitated a great deal of spreading by the village handyman Colin Orman and other good-willed Parishioners.

Parking issues remain a concern particularly along Brooklands Road, the junctions with Pattern Bush and Temple Pattle. Also in New Village abutting the Village Hall. These concerns have been reported to the responsible authorities both Suffolk Highways and Police.

RECREATION

I am pleased to report that Brantham's three play areas met with the requirements of the ROSPA report and as a consequence little expenditure has been incurred in this area, apart from £350 in repairs. However, the re-fenced and gated site at Merriam Close did require some remedial repairs and I take this opportunity to thank Melvin Amoss for this maintenance at no cost to the Parish. The safety of the Merriam Close site has been further enhanced by the installation of a metal roadside barrier adjacent to the site. There has been no capital expenditure on play equipment this year.

LITTER PICKERS

Phil Wainwright and Joe Clodd continue to do a first class job on maintaining a litter free Brantham. There have been some complaints by concerned residents as to perceived litter problems and fly sticking on lamp posts in parts of the village. I was disappointed to note therefore, so few Brantham residents in evidence on Village Spring Clean Day Saturday 1 April 2011. I may presume that as our village is so clean it was suspected as an April Fool's Day joke! Anyway it didn't appear to be taken seriously by those who complain the most. Nevertheless, I can report that the area off the normal beat of the litter pickers, viz in the thicket and bramble near the Kebab van at Red Bridges a large quantity of fast food related litter and bottles were recovered. Similarly in the woods between Merriam Close and Decoy a quantity of snack related wrappers and alcohol bottles were collected. Some instances of fly-tipping around the Red Bridges Kebab-van and Brooklands Road area were also noted. I take this opportunity to thank the small team of Parish Councillors and our litter picker Phil Wainwright for their attendance and endeavours that day.

LITTER PICKERS

With regard to fly-sticking and with so many advertised events occurring annually within the parish, it is imperative that those responsible remove their flies after the event.

Your Parish Council is also committed to the Suffolk County Council campaign

'Don't be a Tosser'. Please see The Bugle or contact the Parish Clerk Liz Evans for further information.

THE PARISH PRECEPT

You will be pleased to know, particularly in this current harsh economic climate, that there will be no increase in the Parish Precept. A 0% increase for 2011/12 was unanimously voted for by your Parish Councillors. Therefore the Parish Precept for a Band D property remains at £45.81 per annum.

VILLAGE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

No application for 2010 was submitted. However, your Parish Council believes an application for submission in June 2011 is well merited in view of the many differing community groups achievements over the last year.

COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

I am extremely proud to report that earlier this year Marian and Roger Dann were awarded one of Babergh District Council's Community Achievement Awards. Only 25 of these awards are presented each year to residents of Babergh District. This award was in recognition of their dedication and work over many years for the Brantham Scout and Guide Group. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to congratulate both Marian and Roger for this most worthy award. For further information a report is included within the Brantham Bugle No.95 – February/March 2011. With regard to the completion of the application for this award the Parish is indebted to both Liz Dunnett and Liz Evans.

BRANTHAM MANANAGEMENT LIMITED (BML) CLUBHOUSE AND SPORTS FIELD

2010/11 marked a new horizon for the Brantham Leisure Centre. I shall endeavour to get this into perspective with regard to the future development of the clubhouse.

The very recent confirmation of grant funding of £164,856 from the main stakeholder the Football Foundation towards the proposed extension to the BLC now brings the total stakeholder fund to £320,000. With the recent ratification of amended plans by Babergh District Council, enabled by this Council, BML with their preferred contractors will soon commence building work on the clubhouse extension. This to include additional changing rooms, toilets, shower facilities and bowls pavilion.

A major Parish Council concern with the current proposed project is the loss of the lift access to the upper floor. BML afforded verbal assurance at the Parish Council Extra- ordinary Meeting of 8 March 2011 in so much as a Second Phase development to BCL would take this into consideration.

I realise work has not yet commenced and I have no doubts that hiccups may occur along the way yet I can remember after the loss of the club's main benefactor Wardle Storeys how its future was viewed. To many parishioners it was considered to be a liability or a 'white elephant'. However, positivity over negativity have proven what can be achieved to the well-being of this important

Parish asset which now sees tens of thousands of people using its facilities annually.

BML CLUBHOUSE AND SPORTS FIELD

The Parish Council cannot take credit for being the driving force behind this project. This accolade goes to BML who were always at the wheel. However, the Parish Council may take credit for its foresight and commitment to the project and bestowing our trust in BML and working in partnership with them. We may from time to time have had to apply the brakes, but we somehow got there without hitting a brick wall, all together and undamaged.

To begin to thank all those individuals and groups involved in attaining the current position today would be an impossibility. However, the Parish Council were aware of how high the fence was and the remarkable achievement BML has made. I am also aware of the imposed budgeting time constraints by stakeholders, planning applications, building regulations, surveys, fund-raising, meetings etc all necessary requirements. Not least the personal sacrifices made which affect families and professions, general health and wellbeing. As a consequence I have no hesitation in affording the Parish's most sincere thanks on behalf of all involved to the main driving force behind this project BML's Club Secretary: Phil Lawler and Chairman: Peter Crowhurst. With Peter's charm and Phil's hard work who could have doubted their delivery.

On other matters during 2010/11 the club continued to improve facilities and carry out maintenance in accordance with the schedule contained within the lease. Repairs to the flat roof and balcony due to leakage and water damage have been carried out recently. The loss of the clubhouse boiler in December 2010 due to the freezing conditions was detrimental to the club usage through the winter months. This has necessitated the temporary installation of electric heating units within the bar area. Insurance compensation for the loss of the old boiler has been agreed. Whilst not confirmed by BML, I understand that a new and more efficient heating system will be installed when the extension to the property is carried out.

The Parish Council has a representative attend BML's monthly management meeting and report feedback. In addition to this members of the Parish Council and BML meet quarterly to ensure compliance with the terms of the lease and discuss issues of mutual interest. BML also submits a monthly report to the Parish Council.

Notwithstanding the historical issues regarding the need to seek retrospective planning permission, I believe that a very solid partnership has been forged between the Parish Council and BML both of which share in the common aim of working towards making the facility a success for all interested stakeholders in the community whilst preserving and enhancing facilities for future users.

As a Community Interest Company BML re-invest profits to further develop the site, its facilities, and support many sporting groups in Brantham. Much of the improvements have been completed with the assistance of voluntary labour and financial support from within the community.

FINALLY

This will be my last address as Chairman to this Parish Council in view of the impending elections on Thursday 5 May 2011. I take this opportunity to express my indebtedness to all Parish Councillors, not only for the support you have afforded me but more importantly on behalf of the Parishioners of Brantham whose best interests you have served.

Additionally, on behalf of all Parish Councillors I must express my sincere thanks to Liz Evans our very competent Clerk to the Council. I am pleased to report that throughout a very busy year as Parish Clerk, and privately, Liz has remained sane. Also to Stephen Elsey our Responsible Finance Officer, whose financial acumen this Council depends. Stephen has guided this Council wisely through a number of intricate financial procedures.

We as a Parish continue to be very fortunate in having had two very capable and supportive Babergh District Councillors in Trot Ward and Dave Wood. They both attend Parish Council meetings on a regular basis giving monthly reports and guidance on issues of relevance to the Parish Council.

Both Trot and Dave live within the Bebergh District Council constituency made up of the Parishes of Brantham, Stutton and Tattingstone which they represent jointly as District Councillors. Trot is very well known as a local Brantham man who works tirelessly on behalf of his constituents. Similarly, Dave is local, living in Tattingstone. He is also our Suffolk County Council representative on the Shotley Penninsular Ward which includes Brantham. He is always available to us for advice and guidance and continues to support local initiatives in the community through use of his locality budget.

Both Trot and Dave are candidates standing for re-election at the forthcoming District Council Elections on Thursday 5 May 2011. I may add that this Parish would be hard pressed to find two more supportive and capable District Councillors and I wish them both well and take this opportunity to thank them both for all they have done for the Parish of Brantham over the past year.

With Brantham Parish Council elections also looming on 5 May 2011 there may be some subtle changes to the make up of the new Parish Council but at least eight out of the eleven of us will be returned.

This Council is comprised of individuals of strong character with differing qualities, views and opinions. This is as it should be and is good for democracy. However, good Council also requires harmony, it must not be about personalities, but striving together in the common interest of the majority. A saying I acquired from many years of playing cards – Bridge – and my own personal experiences of life 'fortune favours the brave'. You might be thinking what does this have to do with Parish Council. Well it does when important and relevant decisions need to be made. Despite our fallibilities as human beings a pre-requisite for a good Parish Councillor must be honesty and integrity. Putting the welfare and wellbeing of others before yourself can afford great personal pleasure. It must always be 'not what my Parish can do for me, but

what can I do for my Parish'.

This concludes my report for 2010/11 and I am more than happy to answer any questions that you may have."

3.2 RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Report attached.

3.3 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Report attached

3.4 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Report attached.

3.5 CHAIRMAN OF THE VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE'S REPORT:

Report attached.

3.6 CHAIRMAN OF BRANTHAM LEISURE CENTRE'S REPORT:

A copy of the full report is attached.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE PARISH CUP:

The Parish Cup is presented each year to someone within the Village who had done a lot for the Village. This year the Parish Council unanimously agreed that it should go to Marcus Nixon for all the maintenance work he has done on a voluntary basis in the Village Hall. Mr Nixon was presented with the cup by Mr Revell and took the opportunity to thank the Parish Council for nominating him for this award and said that it was nice to be appreciated.

5. A.O.B

None.

Meeting closed at 8.43pm

Signed:.....

Dated:.....7/6/11.....

Brantham Parish Council – Financial Summary

Year Ended 31st March 2011

Administration

The overall expenditure for general administration is £2,130 less than budget with most budgets showing savings. Significant savings have been made by transferring internal audit over to SALC and the savings in salaries reflect the current frozen levels. Councillors have once again not claimed any expenses and further savings have been found in postage, stationery and training.

Energy Charges & Maintenance

Expected increases in street lighting haven't come to fruition at this time creating further savings of £278.

Parish Maintenance

Parish maintenance budget has been distributed to general, recreation and churchyard so that spend can be more accountable. Overall maintenance costs are £250 more than expected, although there are further savings in litter picking. General parish maintenance stands at £285 over spent.

Recreation

Swings were repaired during the year and the annual safety inspection carried out. Overall savings totalled £1,300 although cost of mulch etc will be carried over into the new financial year.

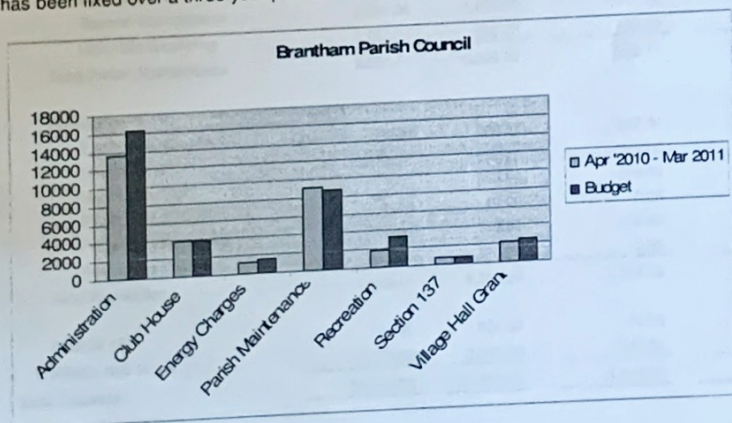
Section 137

The following donations have been made during the year :

Brantham CFC	£100	Headway	£50
Friends Of Foundry Court	£ 50	Brantham Cubs	£45
Brantham Bonfire Comm	£300	SARS	£60
St Michaels Church	£100	Suffolk Age UK	£50

Village Hall Grant

The grant to the village hall insurance has again fallen short of the budgeted grant by nearly £400. Insurance has been fixed over a three year period.



Capital Funding

Capital payments this year total just over £8,000 for legal work in respect of the new lease, the balance of the basket ball court and the purchase of a new bin along with material cost for rabbit fencing and the new gate to the Brooklands play area, grit spreader and minor office equipment.

£9K was disputed in respect of the street lighting and an agreed credit of half of this amount has been requested from Suffolk County Council which they have provisionally agreed to.

Income

Budgeted income for 2010/11 was for £2,297K although only a fraction of this expected to be realised as there was a delay in achieving the new lease and investment income remains very small.

Summary

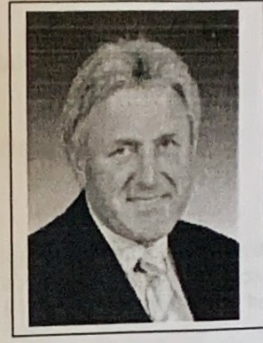
Overall the expenditure is expected to be finalised broadly in line with the budget enabling the capital sinking funds to be maintained at the budgeted level of £6,275 in the year.

	<u>Apr '2010 - Mar 2011</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>£ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
Administration				
Audit	400.00	750.00	-350.00	53.33%
Councillor Expenses	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
Employers NIC	153.60	211.00	-57.40	72.8%
Hall Hire	250.00	400.00	-150.00	62.5%
Insurance	2,817.74	2,750.00	67.74	102.46%
Misc	226.56	250.00	-23.44	90.62%
Office Allowance	130.00	150.00	-20.00	86.67%
Petrol	76.16	100.00	-23.84	76.16%
Postage	87.50	175.00	-87.50	50.0%
Salary	7,926.12	8,749.00	-822.88	90.6%
Stationery	240.49	800.00	-559.51	30.06%
Subscriptions	702.25	735.00	-32.75	95.54%
Telephone	600.00	550.00	50.00	109.09%
Training	30.00	500.00	-470.00	6.0%
Total Administration	<u>13,640.42</u>	<u>16,220.00</u>	<u>-2,579.58</u>	<u>84.1%</u>
Club House/Sports Ground	3,984.00	3,984.00	0.00	100.0%
Energy Charges & Maintenance	1,221.06	1,500.00	-278.94	81.4%
Parish Maintenance				
Churchyard Maintenance	2,128.00	2,800.00	-672.00	76.0%
Cleaning/Litter Picking	3,209.70	3,956.00	-746.30	81.14%
General Maintenance	2,501.00	1,200.00	1,301.00	208.42%
Litter Bin Emptying	1,253.04	850.00	403.04	147.42%
Total Parish Maintenance	<u>9,091.74</u>	<u>8,806.00</u>	<u>285.74</u>	<u>103.25%</u>
Recreation				
Equipment Repairs	702.06	1,000.00	-297.94	70.21%
Maintenance	1,121.00	1,500.00	-379.00	74.73%
Mulch Renewal	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Playing Field Rent	10.00	10.00	0.00	100.0%
Private Grass Cutting	0.00	150.00	-150.00	0.0%
SCC Grass Cutting	112.35	100.00	12.35	112.35%
Total Recreation	<u>1,945.41</u>	<u>3,260.00</u>	<u>-1,314.59</u>	<u>59.68%</u>
Section 137	754.95	825.00	-70.05	91.51%
Village Hall Grant	2,116.50	2,500.00	-383.50	84.66%
Total Expense	<u>32,754.08</u>	<u>37,095.00</u>	<u>-4,340.92</u>	<u>88.3%</u>

Parish Report - AGM

Councillor
David Wood

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The past year at the Council has been extremely tough. The required reduction in public spending has forced local councils across the country to make difficult decisions in order to balance the budget. The approach to this in Suffolk is to 'divest' or close many of the services we know and cherish. The New Strategic Direction has caused a lot of controversy, but as we see the next financial year come, I hope that vital services in the community are not lost.

New Strategic Direction

The County Council back in September 2009, agreed to implement the New Strategic Direction, which was then deemed as a new way to run the Council in order to save the sums of money that the County predicted would be cut from the Government Grant.

At the end of 2010 more detail came to light about the method the Council wished to take to overcome this hurdle. The main idea running through the report brought to Full Council was to look at ways in which the community and other organisations could run Council services. The term 'divestment' was used to illustrate placing Council run services such as Libraries, Youth Clubs, and anything else that could legally be provided elsewhere in the community, or into the hands of businesses willing to provide and fund the service.

This New Direction would, according to the administration, provide the means to cut the costs to the County Council but still provide the services that individuals relied on.

There have now been a number of consultations, or 'conversations' around the Libraries, the Country Parks, Care Homes, and Youth Clubs, to assess whether businesses are willing to take on the provision of services in place of the County Council.

The Lib Dems oppose the New Strategic Direction, as we have not been provided enough information about how the Council plans to implement these changes. It is still unclear as to whether some services that have been cut, can be divested to the community legally, or the level of funding that they may receive.

The New Strategic Direction will continue through the year, and I will keep you up to date with the latest developments.

The Budget

Towards the end of February every year, the County Council sets its budget. This year was one of the hardest budgets we have seen from the Council. Many services that provide for the community have been cut or lined up ready for divestment.

Over the next four years it is predicted that the County Council will have to save £125m, this year the budgeted saving is required to be a total of £42.5m.

I will go into more detail for the larger aspects of the budget which are being removed later, but below please find a brief summary of the cuts at the Council.

- Community Meal Cost increase from £3.55 to £5
- Divestment/Closure of Youth Clubs
- Ending Healthy Schools Programme

- Reducing opening hours at Household Waste Recycling Centres and closing seven sites.
- Withdrawal of Bury Road Park and Ride
- Cease funding School Crossing Patrol Service
- Divesting the running and operation of Countryside Parks and other Countryside sites.
- Cease checking lorries if they are overloaded
- Divest Fire Control Service to another authority

At the meeting the Liberal Democrat group put forward an amendment to the budget which would have saved many frontline services. We believed it would be possible to provide funding for all these services if we looked at savings from the centre of the organisation and used a small proportion of the £108m which the council holds in reserves.

The Liberal Democrats amendment would have saved these services;

- Libraries
- Youth Clubs and Youth provision
- Subsidies to public transport services for Sundays, evenings and Bank Holidays
- Park and Ride Service from the Bury Road, Ipswich site
- Funding for the eXplore student card, which gives half price travel on buses up to age 19
- School Crossing Patrol Service
- Keep open all Household Waste Recycling Centres, instead of reducing them from 18 to 11
- Continue checking Lorries to see if they are overloaded.
- Stop the divestment of the Fire Control Function to Huntingdon
- Keep Felixstowe as a Day Crewed fire station, instead of reducing it to retained
- Retain full time crewing of the Ipswich Aerial Appliance

By using these funds;

- Re-open Bury Road Park and Ride by reviewing revenue streams for Park and Ride to increase income, including from concessionary fares, creating a cost neutral service
- Reduction in Road Maintenance Revenue Budget – not affecting emergency repairs
- Business Mileage reduction of 10% - saving nearly £1m a year
- Reduction of hours, to enable the continuation of all Household Waste sites
- Reduction of one Director and 2 Assistant Director posts
- Reduction of 2 Cabinet posts
- Reduce back office staff in Fire Service & review the number of appliances attending incidents (at present, for example, they send 5 appliances to a cat up a tree)
- Reduce External Room Hire by 30%
- Felixstowe Fire Station to 5 day weekday manning
- Use of Service reserves
- Reduce Corporate Contingency reserve
- Reduce Management of Change reserve

These savings would be heavily focused on the use of the management of change budget, which was set up for business transformation during the year at the council, and the corporate contingency fund, which is there to help manage risk throughout the year and has been increased to deal with the higher risk levels associated with this budget. We believe with the current financial situation this is the best time to use the reserves to ensure communities will continue to receive essential services.

The amendment was defeated on the day, and all of the cuts we passed.

Libraries

In line with the County Council's New Strategic Direction, the decision has been made to divest the majority of Libraries in Suffolk.

At the beginning of February a consultation was held to ask the people of Suffolk their views on the Library service, and whether any community or business would be willing to take on the running of Libraries. At that stage Libraries were split into two different categories, the first being a community Library, and the second being a County Library. Community Libraries are those which tend to be smaller and attract users from the

mediate area. They also tend to open fewer hours than other libraries. There are 29 libraries in Suffolk in this category, including three in Ipswich and Capel St Mary.

Within the consultation the County Council stated that if they do not receive adequate proposals or response from those people who use these Libraries, funding will be stopped from 2012.

The second form of Library is the County Library, these tend to be much bigger and serve a larger portion of the community. There are 15 of these Libraries, and the plan is to assess whether these can also be divested, apart from a collection of three individual libraries.

There is also the risk as part of this review of Library services that the mobile library could also be removed.

This consultation, which is still ongoing, is collecting views on all aspects of the Library service, including the mobile Libraries. We will find out after the 30th of April, what decisions or bids have been made.

Buses

In addition to the budget cuts as specified above, the County Council has made significant reductions in the levels of subsidy provided to passenger transport, a total of £2.2m, which enable commercial services to operate in non-peak time slots. This means that some services will cease completely, whereas others will stop operating in the evenings, and on weekends.

This has affected many services across the County and in our area. We have also now heard that the Buzabout service is likely to be reduced in hours, removing the late night provision, and the Sunday service.

In addition to the cuts to the bus services, the popular eXplore card, which provided reduced bus rates for those 16-19 year olds in the county, has also been stopped saving the council around £1.7m.

The County Council at the end of February released information of all those buses that will now cease. You can find all the relevant information here –
http://www.suffolkonboard.com/news/changes_to_public_transport_services_april_2011

Online Petitioning & consultations

At the beginning of the year, the County Council launched e-petitioning, where members of the public can create, and sign petitions in order to bring an issue to the Council's attention.

The system works on a basis that once a petition achieves 3,675 signatures the issue will have to be brought to Full Council and debated. This had already happened with the petition to save school crossing patrols and is likely to occur even more throughout the year.

Scrutiny

As a result of constitutional changes, the beginning of 2011 heralded a new era in scrutiny for the Council. Instead of the previous arrangement where scrutiny was based around a theme, the County decided that having only one scrutiny committee would be more effective.

Previously the Council had a total of eight different scrutiny committees, covering a range of subjects.

- Adult and Community Services Scrutiny Committee
- Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee
- Customer Services Scrutiny Committee
- Environment, Waste and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee
- Health Scrutiny Committee
- Public Protection Scrutiny Committee
- Resources, Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee
- Roads and Transport Scrutiny Committee

These themed scrutiny committees have now been amalgamated to form one scrutiny committee that covers all items. The committee meets every month for an entire day to discuss the latest items requiring scrutiny, making recommendations, and questioning decisions by the administration. So far the committee has

discussed items such as Country Parks, Stroke Care and the upcoming implications of incorporating some of PCT functions into the Council. The Scrutiny committee discusses business in public, and therefore anyone able to attend.

Incinerator given the go-ahead

Over the past year the County Council finally agreed to sign the contracts for the incinerator at Great Blakenham.

The Incinerator, which will be built by Sita UK, will burn over 250,000 tonnes of waste per annum. The process of burning the waste will lead to electricity production to feed back into the grid, and the possibility of providing heat to local houses/business.

The Lib Dems opposed the Incinerator at all stages of its development, even calling the decision in to Full Council back in September. Unfortunately, the administration has proceeded with this polluting and wasteful technology.

We feel that there are other technologies available that would help us reduce our reliance on landfill sites, but also reuse more valuable resources, and be significantly less polluting.

The next stage of the process is the planning application, which will be heard at the Development Control Committee on the 21st of July.

Locality Funding:

The following projects have benefitted with grants from my Locality Fund:-

Brantham Village Hall – Renovation work
Brantham Sports and Social Club – Architects costs for new sports facilities at Leisure Centre
Brantham Netball Club – New courts, floodlighting and equipment.

Royal British Legion – Peninsula Fete
Home Start Babergh – Peninsula Group

SaferNeighbourhoods

Making a difference...together

Priority Setting Meetings and Partnership Problem Solving Meetings Matrix

Month	Babergh East PSM	Location	Babergh West PSM	Location	Sudbury & Gt Cornard PSM	Location	PPSM
February	16 th at 1930 hrs	Hadleigh High School	17 th at 1100 hrs	Bures St Mary Village Hall	17 th at 1500 hrs	Stevenson ctre Gt Cornard	21 st at 1400 hrs
	16 th at 1930 hrs	East Bergholt High School	17 th at 1100 hrs	Lavenham Village Hall	17 th at 1500 hrs	Town Hall Sudbury	21 st at 1400 hrs
	20 th at 1930 hrs	Pinewood Baptist church	21 st at 1900 hrs	Boxford village hall	21 st at 1800hrs	Delphi Sports and Social	25 th at 1400 hrs
April	18 th at 1930hrs	Hadleigh High School	19 th at 1900hrs	URC rooms Long Melford	19 th at 1800hrs	Stevenson Centre Cornard	23 rd T 1400 hrs
May	22 nd at 1930hrs	Brantham village hall	23 rd at 1900	Village Hall Hitcham	23 rd at 1800hrs	Delphi sports	27 th at 1400 hrs
June	20 th at 1930 hrs	Pinewood Baptist church	21 st AT 1900	Community Centre Stansted	21 st at 1800hrs	Delphi sports	25 th at 1400 hrs
July	No meeting	No meeting	18 th AT 1900	Village Hall Cockfield	No meeting		No meeting
Aug	21 st at 1930 hrs	Hadleigh High School	22 nd at 1900	Village Hall Grotton	22 nd at 1800hrs	Delphi sports	26 th at 1400hrs
Sept	19 th at 1930 hrs	Capel Methodist Church	20 th at 11am	Village Hall Melford	20 th at 1800hrs	Delphi sports	24 th at 1400hrs
Oct	16 th at 1930 hrs	Pinewood Baptist church	17 th at 11am	Village Hall Alpheton	17 th at 1800hrs	Stevenson centre	21 st at 1400 hrs
Nov	No meeting	No meeting	15 th at 11am	Village Hall Leavenheath	No meeting		No meeting
Dec	18 th at 1930 hrs	Hadleigh High School			19 th at 1800hrs	Delphi sports	
Jan 12	22 nd at 1930 hrs	East Bergholt High School			23 rd at 1800hrs	Delphi sports	
Feb 12	21 st at 1930 hrs	Pinewood Baptist church			22 nd at 1800	Stevenson centre	

All the coloured meetings advertising priority setting locations are open to the public.



BRANTHAM

LEISURE CENTRE



Summary of Brantham Leisure Centre Activities for 2010/2011

1.0 Lease

Quarterly review meetings are ongoing.

A diary of Events is in place.

2.0 Community Interest Company (CIC)

CIC status has been maintained with Audited Accounts Registered.

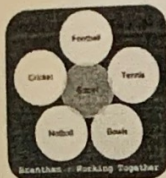
All banking and business is registered as the CIC.

3.0 Executive Committee

P. Crowhurst	Chairman
P. Lawler	Secretary
J. Kennel	Treasurer
A. Clarke	Football & Grounds
B. Felgate	Membership & Minutes Secretary
D. Pembroke	Cricket
T. Nobbs	BPC - Representative
J. Kennel	Netball
A. Smith	Bowls
M. Smith	Bowls
P. Wainwright	Social
K. Crowhurst	Majorettes
S. Cooke	Health & Safety

4.0 Management Committee 2010/2011

P. Crowhurst	Chair
P. Lawler	Secretary
S. Cooke	H&S/Projects
J. Kennel	Treasurer



BRANTHAM

LEISURE CENTRE



5.0 Membership Profile

Approximately 350 paid up members.

Regular audits are taking place.

6.0 Investment Projects Undertaken

A number of projects have been undertaken.

Balcony Refurbishment	£ 8,500.00
New Hard standing around main pitch	£ 3,500.00
New Main Pitch Floodlighting	£ 2,500.00
New Lawn Mower	£ 3,500.00

£ 18,000.00

7.0 Future Expenditure

- Clean and repaint tennis courts. May 2010.
- Planned New Changing Rooms and Club Room. £300,000 Project Delivery November 2011.
- Incremental redecoration of Club House interiors (flooring / lighting etc).

8.0 Groundsman

- All hedges regularly cut.
- Annual maintenance approximately £14,000 / annum.
- Football & cricket sections – provide financial support on seasonal basis.

VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Chairman's Report 2011

As Chair of Brantham Village Hall and a member of the Brantham Hall Management Committee, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the day to day running of the hall. This also involves those who have given considerable unpaid time.

The nature of the building requires a mix of skills able to ensure its day to day functioning. Clearly for the work requiring professional input of certificates to validate work done, we are forced to hire suitable and appropriate trade's people and pay the going rate. For other work we have a small number of volunteers willing to assist and this keeps costs down and is appreciated. All help is beneficial.

One main cost is oil costing approx £1800p.a. or £38 p.wk. The system is difficult to regulate for occasional use needing to be on for 2/3hr periods prior to an event that may only last an hour. Another cost is £1200p.a. Insurance for which we thank the parish council who re-imburse this.

We endeavour to keep up with refurbishment regarding it as an ongoing matter. Recently we have looked to improve the external appearance of the building whilst retaining character and historical standing. As we know the lower kitchen area and small kitchen in the corner have received attention. The small kitchen wall now covers up the large double door but to maintain character it has been retained visible externally. Rooting exterior doors have been made good avoiding replacement & painted to a high standard. I estimate this will prolong the door life for another 10yrs minimum making this cost a comparatively inexpensive one to the cost of replacement.

Village Hall bookings remain healthy and vary from toddler parties to facilitating the gathering of family and friends following a funeral , group activities , meetings & the like.

Our main regular customers include Braiswick Photographic, a dancegroup , those wishing to partake in band practice , yoga/meditation classes, Parish Council, W.I, BATS, children and grown-up parties. I believe Braiswick have made fewer bookings than last previously. If anyone had any ideas or contacts to increase usage please contact Liz in the first instance. Regular ongoing bookings are appreciated and assist economically. For those who think I have neglected fire safety extinguishers are serviced annually & a new one was purchased now totalling 11

In conclusion, we are always looking for volunteers to become involve with the hall - involvement can be varied and could include assistance with domestic cleaning, painting, hedge cutting, grounds maintenance, and general refurbishment DIY work. I have further endeavoured to improve first impressions by adding flowers & tubs outside . Additional safe planting would be welcomed if anyone has further ideas., Again contact Liz who I thank for her assistance this last year. It's a difficult building to maintain and we continue to ensure it remains central to Brantham Village.

Kevin Glen 21 APR 2011