



MINUTES

BRANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 06 April 2022, 7.30pm held at Brantham Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllrs M Aherne, L Cherry, Couchman, J Heywood

CHAIRPERSON: Cllr M Bridgeman

IN ATTENDANCE: S Keys (Clerk), 3 members of the public and Cllr Simon Harley

PC 04.22.01 OPENING

Cllr Heywood proposed that Cllr Bridgeman chair the meeting in the absence of Cllr McCraw and Cllr Osben, this was seconded by Cllr Cherry and aif.

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm and thanked all for attending. A statement was read out by the Chair indicating that, in accordance with legislation, the public and councillors were permitted to film, record, photograph or use social media in order to report on the proceedings of the meeting. A full transcript is available from the Clerk.

The Chair reminded the public that a Council meeting is not a public meeting, it is a meeting conducted in public. Members of the public, the press, and District, Borough or County Councilors are invited to attend our meetings and contribute during the public forum. Comments from the public during the remainder of the meeting should be by invitation from the Chair only.

PC 04.22.02 APOLOGIES

Cllrs E Osben, A McCraw and P Saward. Cllr Bridgeman proposed that the apologies were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood and aif.

The Chair paused the meeting and provided Cllr Aherne with an opportunity to formally apologise to the Clerk as per the requirements of the outcome of the Code of Conduct complaint against him. Cllr Aherne informed the Council that he would not make an apology.

Cllr Bridgeman stated that unless the apology was made all Parish Councillors present would leave the meeting therefore leaving the Council inquorate. Cllr Bridgeman pointed out that Cllr Aherne's presence was therefore disruptive to the meeting and asked him to leave the meeting.

At 7.35pm Cllr Aherne left the meeting.

PC 04.22.03 DECLARATION OF INTEREST AND LOCAL NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

- a) There were no local non-pecuniary interests declared for the agenda under discussion.
There were no gifts of hospitality exceeding £25 declared.
- b) There were no requests for dispensations for the agenda under discussion

PC 04.22.04 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES



- a) To consider and approve the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting on 02 March 2022 - Cllr Heywood proposed that the minutes were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Couchman and aif. (Cllr Cherry abstained from the vote).

PC 04.22.05 ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	Dismissed/ Ongoing
PC 02.22.06	Purchase dog litter bin for opposite Birch Drive and arrange installation <i>Purchase completed. Bin is expected to be delivered in May 2022</i>	Dismissed
PC 03.22.08	Ask SFG if it would be possible to access the Factory Site to undertake a litter pick in this area <i>Completed</i>	Dismissed
PC 03.22.11	Inform Lou Madley of this funding and to arrange payments when necessary. <i>Completed</i>	Dismissed
PC 03.22.11	Arrange purchase and distribution of the mugs <i>Order placed; payment included on Appendix A</i>	Dismissed

PC 04.22.06 PUBLIC SESSION

A written report had been submitted from Cllr. Harley (available as Appendix B). Cllr Harley gave an overview on the following issues:

- Diversion route along the A137 which will take place at night whilst work is underway on the A12
- SCC were unable to secure funding for the Bus Back Better scheme

A written report had been submitted from Cllr McCraw and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

The following questions were received from the public:

- What is happening with the BDC building at Corks Lane in Hadleigh which is currently standing empty? ACTION – Clerk to forward this query to Cllr McCraw
- How long will the work at the Merriam Close footpath take? The Chair stated that it was his understanding that this would take some weeks but that Cllr McCraw would have further information at the next meeting.

PC 04.22.07 TO CONSIDER/APPROVE SPECIAL MOTIONS SUBMITTED BY CLLRS CHERRY, COUCHMAN, HEYWOOD AND McCRAW

- a) Special Motion One – To formally censure Cllr Aherne for his recent behaviour as a Parish Councillor, dating back to October 2021 and continuing since – The Council considered this motion and then aif.
- b) Special Motion Two – To resolve that Cllr Aherne be immediately removed from all remaining appointments made by this Council. This includes committee, Sub-Committee, representative or any other body appointments – The Council considered this motion and then aif.

PC 04.22.08 FINANCE REPORT

- a) To note and approve the balance of accounts as at 28 February 2022 - The Clerk reported the following balances:
- Current account: £5001.00
 - Deposit Account: £114,420.77
 - Salaries Account: £145.06



Cllr Bridgeman proposed that the balance of accounts be approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood and aif.

- b) The Council noted the updated Appendix A circulated by the Clerk which detailed the accounts awaiting payment, the accounts paid since the last meeting and the receipts allocated since the last meeting. Cllr Cherry proposed that Appendix A was approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Couchman and aif.
- c) To note and approve the Bank reconciliation for the period ending 31 March 2022 – Cllr Cherry proposed that the Bank Reconciliation for 2021-22 was approved, this was seconded by Cllr Couchman and aif
- d) To note and approve the indicative Statement of Accounts, for the year ending 31 March 2022 – Cllr Cherry proposed the Statement of Accounts was approved, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood and aif.

PC 04.22.09 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

1. Finance Committee

- a) To update on any actions since the last meeting – Cllr Bridgeman informed the Council that at the recent Finance Committee meeting the Committee had:
 - o Confirmed that a bank reconciliation had taken place and all was in order
 - o Approved the March 2022 payslips
 - o Approved the request from the Manningtree Responders that the Parish Council would fund the cost of Defibrillator batteries and pads at the Brantham Bull Defibrillator.
 - o Reviewed the litter picker salaries in light of the increase in the National Minimum Wage. The Committee had agreed that the Litter Picker salaries should be increased to £10ph
 - o Reviewed the Clerk's salary and agreed the backdated National pay award of 1.5%. The Committee had also agreed that the Clerk should move to SCP 25
 - o Reviewed and approved the BPC Asset Register
 - o Agreed payment of the Insurance premium for the Brantham Leisure Centre
- b) To consider/agree proposals for contributions from the Finance Committee – None
- c) To consider/agree any other proposals presented by the Finance Committee - none.

2. Recreation Sub-Committee

- a) To update on any general actions since the last meeting – Councillor Heywood informed the Council that the new safety surface under the seesaw at the LPF has been installed. The damaged surface under the swings has been repaired and the old, dangerous climbing frame has been removed by Wickstead. Turf has been laid in the area for the new equipment. Cllr Heywood formally noted thanks to Alison Nichols from the Scout & Guide Group for regularly watering the turf during the warm and dry weather. Installation of the new equipment will begin on 25 April 2022.

Cllr Osben has been sourcing quotes for football goals for installation on the LPF which will be presented at the next Finance Committee meeting.

Correspondence has taken place with Darren Smith of the Fireworks Committee due to damage to the ground on the LPF by vehicles accessing the bonfire area on Fireworks night. DSmith has agreed to arrange for the ruts in the ground to be repaired. Following discussion Cllr Heywood proposed that the Fireworks Committee were informed that Brantham Parish Council would like the bonfire at next year's event to be smaller in order to reduce damage to the ground and the surrounding trees and fencing. Any damage should be repaired by the Fireworks Committee within three months. This was seconded by Cllr Cherry and aif. **ACTION** – Clerk to write to DSmith informing him of this decision.

- b) To consider/approve any other actions or expenditure needed – none.

3. Planning Committee



- a) To note recommendations made by the Committee – Cllr Bridgeman informed the Council that there had been no planning applications received since the last meeting and therefore there had been no BPC Planning Committee meeting.
- b) To note the planning decisions received – none.
4. Village Hall Management Committee
 - a) To update on actions since the last meeting – Cllr Heywood informed the Council that the VHMC had met on 30 March 2022 and welcomed Lisa Butler from BATS to the Committee.
Work to remove asbestos in the boiler room has been completed.
The Clerk had met with Sean Jeffries, a local architect, who has agreed to help the VHMC with a Feasibility/Viability study on the future of the Hall.
Plans are underway for the VH quiz night on 14 May 2022
 - b) To consider/agree any actions/expenditure necessary – none.
5. Footpaths & Services Sub Committee
 - a) To consider/agree any proposals presented by the Footpaths Sub Committee – nothing to report.
 - b) To consider/agree any proposals presented by the Footpaths and Services Sub Committee – none.
6. Legal Sub Committee
 - a) To receive an update from Cllr Bridgeman on the review of the current lease held with BMCIC – Cllr Bridgeman informed the Council that proposals for amendments to the current lease had been received from BMCIC but that the Legal SC would like to consider the future lease.
 - b) To agree next steps re: review of the BMCIC – A meeting will be arranged with BMCIC to discuss.
 - c) To consider/agree any proposals received from the Legal Sub Committee – a FOI request has been received from the Information Commissioner. The Legal Sub-Committee will be considering a response in the near future.
7. SALC Representative – nothing to report.
8. BLC Representative – nothing to report
9. SNT Representative – nothing to report
10. CEP Representative – Cllr Couchman informed the Council she is currently working on finalising the draft document.

PC 04.22.10 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE/ACTION

The Clerk reviewed the correspondence that had been received in March 2022 (copies had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting). Councillors noted the following:

- A letter from BDC re: the agreed street name of Bailye Court for the development at Brantham Place
- An email from Brantham Rainbows re: tree planting for the Platinum Jubilee. The Councillors considered possible locations such as beside the WI memorial tree at Palfrey Heights, on Brantham Open Space and at the Gravel Pit Lane area. The Council noted that each location would require permission from the landowner.
ACTION – Clerk to respond
- An email from the Fireworks Committee re: repairs to the LPF following the Fireworks event
- An email from a local resident re school parking problems on Grove Road. Following discussion it was agreed that this email should be forwarded to the Headteacher at Brooklands to ask her to try to ensure parents park responsibly. The Council also agreed that local residents with verges on Grove Road should be asked if Parking signs could be put up on their land. **ACTION** – Clerk to contact local residents in Grove Road
- Letter from a local resident with planning queries and queries about a circus in the village. **ACTION** – Clerk to respond pointing the resident to BDC Planning Department and the Brantham Past & Present Facebook Group.

PC 04.22.11 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

All miscellaneous correspondence by email had been forwarded to Councillors during the month.



PC 04.22.12 QUEEN’S JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

- a) To review progress of plans for local Jubilee celebrations – the Clerk confirmed that she had ordered the Jubilee mugs for local school and pre-school children. A meeting will take place with Lou Madley when she had returned from her holiday.
- b) To consider/agree next steps as necessary – None.

PC 04.22.13 PARISH CUP

- a) To note any nominations for receipt of the Brantham Parish Cup to be awarded at the Annual Parish Meeting – the Council noted the previous nomination of Ruth Clark from the local Cub Group that had not been awarded due to the Pandemic.
- b) To consider/approve the nomination for 2022 – Cllr Cherry proposed that Ruth Clark was awarded the Parish Cup, this was seconded by Cllr Couchman and aif. ACTION – Clerk to inform RClark and invite her to the Annual Parish Meeting.

PC 04.22.14 INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- a) To receive an update on recent/forthcoming activity on Industrial and Greenfield site – nothing to report.
- b) To agree any other next steps as necessary – none.

PC 04.22.15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 04 May 2022, 7.30pm at Brantham Village Hall

The meeting closed to the public at 8.31pm.

SIGNED.....DATED.....



ACTIONS

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	WHO
Public Session – April	Ask Cllr McCraw what is currently happening with the BDC property at Corks Lane in Hadleigh	Clerk
PC 04.22.09	Write to DSmith and request that future bonfires are smaller than previous years and damage is repaired within three months	Clerk
PC 04.22.10	Ask local residents if parking signs could be put up on verges by their properties on Grove Road	Clerk
PC 04.22.10	Respond to local resident's queries re: planning and circus	Clerk
PC 04.22.13	Inform Ruth Clark of nomination for Parish Cup and invite her to the Annual Parish Meeting	Clerk



APPENDIX A

PC 04.22.08 FINANCE REPORT

ACCOUNTS TO BE AGREED FOR PAYMENT	Chq/Debit Card/SO	NET	VAT	TOTAL	Powers Used
HMRC (P30 Q4)	003409	£820.56		£820.56	LGA 1972
Suffolk County Council (Street Lighting costs 2021-22)	003410	£1004.23	£200.85	£1205.08	Parish councils Act 1957, s.3; Highways Act 1980, s.301
SALC (6 months payroll service to 31.03.22)	003411	£96.00	£19.20	£115.20	LGA 1972
SALC (ZOOM Councillor Training)	003411	£51.00	£10.20	£61.20	LGA 1972
SALC (2022-23 Membership subscription)	003411	£886.23		£886.23	LGA 1972
D. Childs (Invoice no. 1426 – Grounds Maintenance March 2022)	003412	£270.00		£270.00	Public Health Act 1875, s.164 Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
CommuniCorp (8 boxes of Jubilee mugs)	003413	£1679.20	£335.84	£2015.04	General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8
ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING	Chq/Debit Card/SO	NET	VAT	TOTAL	Powers Used
Parish Clerk – Salary	BACS	£1203.30		£1203.30	LGA 1972, s.112
Parish Clerk – Office	BACS	£20.00		£20.00	LGA 1972, s. 112
Parish Clerk – contribution to mobile phone	SO	£25.00		£25.00	LGA 1972, s.112
Phil Wainwright – Litter Picker	BACS	£210.56		£210.56	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
Tina Bird – Litter Picker	BACS	£253.23		£253.23	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
B.M.L Maintenance Payment	SO	£332.00		£332.00	Local Government (miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, s.19
Brantham Village Hall Maintenance Payment	SO	£250.00		£250.00	General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8
Microsoft 365 Apps for Business	DD	£7.90	£1.58	£9.48	LGA 1972
Notice Board Company (Notice board for Acacia Court)	DC	£521.00	£104.20	£625.20	General Power of Competence, Localism Act 2011, ss.1-8



BRANTHAM
Parish Council

Wybone (Dog Litter bin – opposite Birch Drive)	DC	£189.99	£31.70	£190.19	Litter Act 1983, ss.5,6
East of England Co-op (Stamps)	DC	£10.20		£10.20	LGA 1972
NEST (Clerk’s Pension – period 12)	DC	£59.57		£59.57	LGA 1972

RECEIPTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING	TOTAL
Bank Interest	£1.05
Babergh District Council (Recycling credit)	£195.84
HMRC (VAT Reclaim)	£1764.64
Highcliff Vets (Car Park Rent)	£1250.00
BMCIC (Leisure Centre quarterly rent)	£412.50



APPENDIX B

Report for April 2022 to the Parish Councils of Peninsula

International Women's Month, and Day 2022 – #BreaktheBias

In March, we celebrated International Women's Month 2022. This is a time to acknowledge and celebrate the amazing achievements of women and push further for equality around the world. This year's theme revolved around breaking the bias, focussing on a world free of bias, stereotypes and discrimination.

Our group was immensely supportive of this celebration. Suffolk GLI's Spokesperson for Women, Cllr Caroline Page, called for the flag for Women's History Month to be flown high next year at Endeavour House. Suffolk County Council agreed this was an important step forward.

Celebrate women's achievement. Raise awareness against bias. Take action for equality.

Cabinet 1st March

The Cabinet met to vote on the disapproval of the current plans by Sunnica to build the country's largest solar farm in Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire. Suffolk County Council have asked the Government to reject the plans in its current form, arguing the application fails to properly mitigate the impacts of such a large project.

In addition, the Cabinet voted on approving the National Grid's project to scale up its energy infrastructure from Bramford to Twinstead, as part of the Government's Net-Zero plan to increase low-carbon energy in the UK. Our Group, while we approve of the increased capacity for low-carbon energy, argue that this rush into large projects is a result of decades of inaction from Government. This means it is now a lot harder to develop a coordinated plan with regards to energy supply, disruption, and sufficient mitigation.

Both were voted for by the Cabinet unanimously.

Full Council 24th March

Full Council presented a rare opportunity of solidarity between Councillors, as our Group and the Conservatives shared a single motion in support of Ukraine. Our Group recommended a motion condemning the actions of the Russian government, as well as commitment to supporting and welcoming refugees as they become a part of our Suffolk communities. The Conservatives supported our idea and together we showed how politics can be put aside through difficult times.

Cabinet 29th March

The Cabinet met to vote on a plan to establish 'Freeport East'. This is part of a national strategy to create freeports across the country, in an attempt to generate economic activity through tax incentives. Felixstowe Port, Harwich Port, and Stowmarket's 'Gateway 14' Business Park are set to become part of Freeport East. Our Group is very concerned about this project, as foreign direct investment is being prioritised over local businesses, many of which will now not be able to compete with the foreign businesses receiving tax relief.

This will effectively be an 'Onshore Tax Haven' that will benefit big business rather than local people.

The project poses many other issues, such as increase in corruption and money laundering, a lack of clear strategy towards net-zero, and a risk of high-skilled jobs being imported, excluding the Suffolk workforce.



The Cabinet also voted on the Enhanced Partnership between SCC and bus operators, in line with the new 'Bus Back Better' strategy, aimed at improving services across Suffolk. The improvement plan was voted for in October 2021, and this partnership outlines how the various stakeholders will interact with one another during the implementation of the improvement plan. Our Group have concerns on the Government's promise of funding, as no funding has yet been confirmed by the Department for Transport and it looks as if the promises to fund electric buses have already been removed.

Roadworks on A12 and diversions on A137

I attended a presentation by National Highways (who are responsible for the major routes).

They are planning roadworks to replace barriers and resurface A12 between Colchester and Dedham and one of the diversions planned is the A137 from Colchester to Wherstead which will have a major impact on my Division. They assure me these will be night-time roadworks only and will avoid weekends and bank holidays.

Southbound roadworks are planned 4-8 April; 8-15 July; 21 July to 25 Aug

Northbound roadworks are planned 11-14 April; 26 June to 8 July; 15-21 July; 25 Aug – 2 September

Both north and southbound: 19/4/22-26/4/22

I have emphasised the existing problems of congestion on A137 and unsuitability as a route for heavy traffic and also conveyed the complaints I have had about the recent very poor signage about roadworks at Junction 56 of A14 (Wherstead) and they have promised to improve communications and signage. They also promise that the diversions will not take place at the same time as the junction slipway closures at J56 of A14 as that will clearly lead to even more problems for drivers.

Please let me know if there are any more concerns about these works, or you can contact National Highways Customer Contact Centre:

National Highways Contact Details:

Email: info@nationalhighways.co.uk

Telephone: 0300 123 5000

Website: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-work/east/>