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**MINUTES**

**BRANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday 03 July 2019, 7.30pm held at Brantham Village Hall

**PRESENT:** Cllrs V Abrahams, M Aherne, C Elliott, J Heywood, E Osben, C Phillips, P Saward. Cllr Bissett joined the meeting at 8.17pm.

**CHAIRPERSON:** Cllr A McCraw

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Keys (Clerk), 4 members of the public, Rachel Parker (An Ethical Life) and Gareth Thornton (SFG).

**PC 07.19.01 OPENING**

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 07.19.02 APOLOGIES**

Cllr P Revell

**PC 07.19.03 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 07.19.04 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The Council considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 05 June. Cllr McCraw requested that the minutes were amended at PC 06.19.06 to read "...concerns had been raised with SCC about the trees along New Village.....the trees are now higher than the telephone wires. SCC will be consulting with BT about this." The Council then aif that these were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**PC 07.19.05 PUBLIC SESSION**

A written report had been submitted from Cllr. Wood (available as Appendix B).

Cllr McCraw updated the Council on the following issues:

- The application for Land South of Brooklands Road was approved by the Planning Committee at BDC on 19 June 2019. The Permission was granted of the detail of the plans for a mix of properties, road layouts and boundary lines. A further 10 conditions were attached to the permissions. Cllr McCraw informed the Council that he will continue to work with Taylor Wimpey to ensure the best interests of the village.



- The New stage of consultation on the Joint Local Plan for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils is now underway. This will be a full public consultation over 10 weeks. The new plan will have to conform to the NPPF.

The following questions/comments were received from the public:

- Roger Dann raised highlighted a conversation held between himself and the agent responsible for the work on the new pumping station. The agent had stated that a survey will be undertaken to see if it will be possible for the pipes to be buried. More information is expected once the survey has been completed.
- A resident raised concerns about a cracked drain cover at the end of Birch Drive. This has been reported to SCC.

#### **PC 07.19.06 FINANCE REPORT**

- a) To note the balance of accounts - The Clerk reported the following balances as at 30 June 2019:
  - Current Account - £5000.00
  - Deposit Account - £120,639.06
  - Salaries Account - £296.33
- b) The Council noted Appendix A; the accounts awaiting payment, the accounts paid since the last meeting and the receipts allocated since the last meeting. Cllr Aherne proposed that Appendix A was approved by the Council. This was seconded by Cllr McCraw and aif by the Council.

#### **PC 07.19.07 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES**

1. Finance Committee
  - a) To update on any actions since the last meeting – The Committee met on 26 June 2019 and Cllr Aherne reviewed the meeting. The Committee had reviewed the Internal Audit Report received from SALC and noted the recommendations. The Committee had considered the creation of Terms of Reference for the Committee and agreed that the Clerk would draw up draft ToR for consideration at the next meeting
  - b) To review and agree proposals for contributions – The Committee considered a request for funding from the Brantham Over 60s group but have requested further information before a decision can be made.
  - 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 – The new sub-committee had a short meeting on Monday 24 June. The Sub Committee discussed options for new equipment for the LPF and decided that a beginner-type skate ramp would be the most appropriate option for the area. It was agreed that Cllr Revell would investigate the cost of such equipment so that the figures could be submitted as part of a funding bid.
  - b) To consider/approve any actions or expenditure required – A further meeting will take place during the summer months at the LPF to discuss further options and possible positioning of the equipment.
3. Planning Committee
  - a) To note recommendations made by the Committee – no meeting in June 2019
  - b) To note the planning decisions received – see above  
Cllr McCraw suggested that the Committee may want to form part of a working group to consider and make comments on the Joint Local Plan from BDC and MSDC. Following



discussion it was agreed that the working group would be made up of Cllrs Saward, McCraw, Aherne and Osben.

4. Village Hall Management Committee
  - a) To update on actions since the last meeting –The Committee is due to hold an AGM on Monday 08 July 2019. The last film showed at the hall was Bohemian Rhapsody which had an audience of about 20 people. The next film will be Mama Mia 2 which will be shown on Wednesday 17 July. There will not be a film showing in August. Cllr Heywood informed the Council that she has been in touch with several plumbers/builders/kitchen fitters to get estimates for work to update the small kitchen and re-route the plumbing and to overhaul the gentleman and ladies toilets. To date no quotes have been received but these should be available soon.
5. Footpaths Sub Committee
  - a) To consider/agree any proposals presented by the Footpaths Sub-Committee – Cllr Phillips highlighted that the footpath across a field at the top of Sandy Lane has now been reinstated.
6. Services Sub Committee
  - a) To consider/agree any proposals presented by the Services Sub-Committee – Cllr McCraw highlighted that reports had been received that a number of the village bus shelters have been leaking and suggested that the Services Committee may want to review these and consider the repairs necessary. **ACTION:** Services committee to review bus shelters and present a report at next Parish Council meeting.
7. Legal Sub Committee
  - a) To consider/agree any proposals received from the Legal Sub Committee – Cllr McCraw informed the Council that the Deed of Easement received from UKPN in relation to work to take place at the LPF includes the Cinder Footpath as part of the Parish Council land. Cllr McCraw confirmed that since this footpath is not under the ownership of the Parish Council the documents cannot be signed until this has been amended. Cllr McCraw proposed the following:
    1. Title deeds for the area should be requested
    2. Once a document excluding the footpath has been received this should be signed by a representation of the Parish Council
    3. A copy of all legal documents relating to interests of the Parish Council should be requested, with recognition that this may incur costs.These proposals were seconded by Cllr Elliott and aif by the Council.
8. BLC Representative - Cllr Abrahams reported that the Licence for the Club has recently been changed from a members licence to a premises licence which will change the times that the club can be open Work to the fence between the LPF and BLC is now almost complete. Weed killing has been undertaken on the LPF. Cllr Abrahams confirmed that she will attend the next AGM at the Leisure Centre.
9. SALC Representative – nothing to report
10. SNT Representative – nothing to report

**PC 07.19.08 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE/ACTION**

The Clerk reviewed the correspondence that had been received in June 2019 (copies had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting). Councillors noted the following:

1. An email from a local resident about updating of play areas in the village. The Recreation Committee will be taking this forward. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond to the resident informing him of work currently underway.



2. An email from KSturgeon re: roadworks along the A137. For information.
3. An email from a local resident about grass cutting at GPL play area. The Clerk has already responded and the area has been cut. Included for information.
4. An email from a local resident making a nomination for the Parish Cup. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond informing them that their nomination will be considered.
5. An email from a local resident making a nomination for the Parish Cup. **ACTION:** Clerk to respond informing them that their nomination will be considered.
6. An email from a local resident highlighting concerns about dangerous dogs in the area. **ACTION:** Following discussion it was agreed that a response should be sent to the resident informing her of the Parish Council's limited powers in this area and requesting that she writes to the Bugle independently and considers contacting the police should she experience any further issues.
7. An email from the leader of the local Rainbows group requesting permission to light a campfire on the LPF on Monday 15 July 2019. Cllr Phillips proposed that this request should be approved, this was seconded by Cllr Bissett and aif. **ACTION:** Clerk to inform the Rainbows leader of this request.

**PC 07.19.09 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE**

All miscellaneous correspondence by email had been forwarded to Councillors during the month. Cllr Phillips highlighted the information received about the Community Awards and suggested that the Village Hall should be nominated. **ACTION:** Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Phillips and Heywood would draft a nomination for submission.

**PC 07.19.10 INDUSTRIAL SITE UPDATE**

- a) To receive an update on recent/forthcoming activity on Industrial Site – Gareth Thornton from SFG gave the following update:
  - a. The Factory Lane works are progressing as per the program. The road is likely to re-open at the end of September. Concerns had been raised about speed and visibility on the new road and therefore Breheny had installed more speed bumps and cleared some vegetation to improve visibility. Work is currently underway to dig ponds that will aim to soften the face of Factory Lane and provide surface water drainage.
  - b. Anglian Water have now started construction of the new pump station following which the current pump station will be decommissioned.
  - c. Construction of the cycleway along the A137 has recommenced. These works are due to complete at the end of August.
  - d. In Oct/Nov there will be a night closure of the tunnel under the railway line.
  - e. Works continue at the Brookland Road access point.
  - f. The bridleway by ITW will be done once the roadworks are completed, along with a car park for Decoy Pond. This is likely to be done in Sept/Oct/Nov.
  - g. Work to create the Public open space will be done by Breheny.
- b) To agree any next steps as necessary – none

**PC 07.19.11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 04 September 2019, 7.30pm at Brantham Village Hall

The meeting closed to the public at 8.49pm



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



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**ACTIONS**

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Who</b>
Public Session	Discuss the issue of pollarding the trees along Brooklands Road with SCC and BDC	Clerk
Public Session	Draft letter for Manningtree Town Council offering support from Brantham Parish Council for keeping Manningtree Library open.	Clerk
PC 06.19.09	Send road names suggestions to Clerk	Councillors
PC 07.19.07	Review Brantham bus shelters and present a report on repairs necessary at next Parish Council meeting.	Services Committee
PC 07.19.08	Respond to resident with concerns about play areas in the village	Clerk
PC 07.19.08	Respond to residents thanking them for their nomination and informing them that this will be considered	Clerk
PC 07.19.08	Respond to local resident informing her of the Parish Council's limited powers in this area and requesting that she writes to the Bugle independently and considers contacting the police should she experience any further issues.	Clerk
PC 07.19.08	Inform Rainbows leader that the Council agreed a campfire on the LPF	Clerk
PC 07.19.09	Draft a nomination for the VH to the Community Awards Scheme	Cllrs Heywood and Phillips



**APPENDIX A**

**PC 06.19.07 FINANCE REPORT**

<b>ACCOUNTS AGREED FOR PAYMENT</b>	<b>Chq/Debit Card/SO</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Powers Used</b>
Parish Clerk – Salary	BACS	£965.88		£965.88	LGA 1972, s.112
Parish Clerk – Office	BACS	£20.00		£20.00	LGA 1972, s. 112
Phil Wainwright – Litter Picker	BACS	£183.20		£183.20	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
Tina Bird – Litter Picker (August 2018)	BACS	£220.19		£220.19	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 Cricket Club (Contribution as per PC	3297	£120.00		£120.00	General Power of Competence
SALC (Internal Audit 2018-19)	3293	£267.00	£53.40	£320.40	LGA 1972
Paul Brackley (Grounds Maintenance)	3295	£995.00		£995.00	Open Spaces Act 1906
S. Fisher (6 months email usage)	3296	£159.17			

<b>ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING</b>	<b>Chq/Debit Card/SO</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Powers Used</b>
O2 (Clerk's mobile phone)	DD	£	£	£21.10	LGA 1972
NEST (Clerk's pension payments – April, May, June 2019)	Debit Card	£117.96		£117.96	LGA 1972

<b>RECEIPTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Bank Interest	£5.26
Highcliff Veterinary Surgery (Lease Payment)	£1250.00
Highcliff Veterinary Surgery (Car Park Lease 1)	£437.50
Highcliff Veterinary Surgery (Car Park Lease 2)	£687.50



## APPENDIX B

### **Parish Report July 2019**

**Councillor**  
David Wood

Triangle  
Ipswich Road  
Tattingstone, Ipswich  
IP9 2NN



#### **Suffolk County Council announces funding cuts to subsidised bus routes**

Suffolk County Council has announced that 23 subsidised bus routes will no longer receive funding from the council, in a bid to save £340,000. This means that over a third of subsidised bus routes in the county will lose their funding.

The decision to cut £340,000 from the subsidised buses budget was made in February, when the Council agreed on the budget for the current financial year. I spoke against this cut at the time, as well as other cuts that will affect bus users such as the decision to no longer print bus timetables.

More details of which routes will be affected can be found at: <http://www.suffolkonboard.com/>

The council say that they will be engaging with bus operators to determine whether the routes can continue to run without council funding. I will keep you updated if there are any further developments.

#### **Cross-party call for independent inquiry into SEND services**

On 14 June I signed a cross-party letter to the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council, asking her to establish an independent inquiry into the provision of SEND services in Suffolk.

This follows the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission reinspection earlier this year, when Suffolk County Council's SEND services were deemed to have made insufficient improvement.

#### **Reports that health visitor numbers will be cut**

It was reported in the Guardian and Observer that Suffolk County Council is planning to dramatically reduce the number of health visitors in Suffolk in order to make savings.

These plans have not been shared with councillors or the public yet, however the media claim to have seen internal SCC documents showing that the number of health visitors will be reduced by 25% through redundancies in order to save £1m. Health visitors would also have a reduced





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workload and only focus on the most vulnerable families, rather than all families in Suffolk. The rest of their current workload would need to be picked up by nurses or social workers.

### **Final Council overspend on 2018-19 budget**

The final outturn figures for the 2018-19 budget have been published, showing that Suffolk County Council overspent by £4.5m (0.88% of the budget). Key areas of overspend included:

- Home to School Transport (£1.7m), due to the increasing demand for out-of-county SEND transport arrangements;
- Adult Care Purchasing Budget (£4m);
- Early Help and Specialist Services (£4.8m), due to the increasing number of children in care, especially those requiring specialist placements.

These areas of overspend were mitigated by underspends in other directorates.

### **SCC releases breakdown of Upper Orwell Crossing spend**

The final costs of the abandoned Upper Orwell Crossings project have been released, and show that Suffolk County Council spent a total of £8.1m before deciding to not build the Crossings. Of this, over £4m was paid in fees to consultants.

More detail can be found at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/assets/Roads-and-transport/public-transport-and-transport-planning/Upper-Orwell-Crossing-Final-Report-on-Project-Costs.pdf>

### **Department for Transport refuses funding for four village bypass**

The Department for Transport has decided to not support the proposal for a £133m four village bypass in Suffolk, also known as the Suffolk Energy Gateway. The key reasons for the government's decision were:

- It is concerned about the overall value for money of the project;
- It felt the council had not provided enough money for it and neither had EDF as part of the case to build Sizewell C;
- There are concerns about the environmental impact of the road.

### **SCC misses children's care plan targets in 75% of cases**

The Department for Education has published figures showing that Suffolk County Council exceeded the legal time limit of 20 weeks for issuing new education, health and care plans (EHCPs) in 75% of cases in 2018. This means that hundreds of children were left waiting for the appropriate support and is a significant increase compared to 2017, when 53% of cases went beyond the legal time limit.



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Suffolk County Council has admitted that there needs to be rapid improvements to this process, and in the last few months it has managed to increase the proportion of EHCPs completed within the legal time limit to 42.5%.