



MINUTES

BRANTHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Wednesday 03 March 2021, 7.30pm held via ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllrs M Aherne, M Bridgeman, J Heywood, E Osben, P Revell

CHAIRPERSON: Cllr A McCraw

IN ATTENDANCE: S Keys (Clerk), 6 members of the public, Cllr Wood

PC 03.21.01 OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 7.45 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 03.21.02 APOLOGIES

Cllrs V Abrahams, C Elliott, GRasch and P Saward. Cllr Bridgeman proposed that these apologies were accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Osben and aif.

PC 03.21.03 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 03.21.04 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 03 February 2021. Cllr Heywood proposed that the minutes were updated with Councillor initials in minute number PC 02.21.02 and then approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Osben. Four Councillors voted in favour of the proposal, two Councillors abstained from the vote. The motion was therefore carried. The Council agreed that the minutes would be formally signed at the next available opportunity for the Council to meet in person.

PC 03.21.05 ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	Ongoing/ Dismissed
PC 12.20.10	Inform local resident that a request for a snooker club should be made to the landowner <i>The Clerk confirmed that she had again tried to telephone with no response. It was agreed to remove this action from future actions.</i>	Dismissed
PC 02.21.09	Inform contractor to go ahead with fencing at Merriam Close play area	Dismissed



	<i>Completed</i>	
PC 02.21.09	Inform Dave Childs that he has been appointed as BPC Grounds Maintenance Contractor <i>Completed</i>	Dismissed
PC 02.21.09	Email the VHMC and request agreement to funding electrical testing at the hall. Once received to instruct the electrician to go ahead. <i>Completed</i>	Dismissed
PC 02.21.10	Send contact details for Martin Scambler to local resident with queries about a footpath along the peninsula <i>Completed</i>	Dismissed
Pc 02.21.10	Respond to request to pollard willow tree at Lower Playing Field <i>Completed</i>	Dismissed

PC 03.21.06 PUBLIC SESSION

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

- Free Port status has been granted to Felixstowe and Harwich

Cllr McCraw gave a report on the following issues:

- Increase in the District Council's portion of Council tax – details included in the In Touch Magazine
- Car parking charges in Sudbury
- A District Council access point will be added to the Sudbury Library

The following questions/comments were received from the public:

- Roger Dann queried on behalf of the local Scout Group whether the Scout Hut gate keys had been able to be retrieved from the previous Grounds Maintenance Contractor. The Clerk confirmed these had not been received to date. RDann agreed to provide another key for the new contractor.
- A local resident queried whether SIDs were on the agenda for discussion. The Clerk confirmed that they were.
- A local resident queried whether the issues he had highlighted with Cllr Osben would be discussed. Cllr Osben confirmed these would be discussed in his report.
- The Conservative candidate for the SCC elections, Mary McLaren introduced herself to the Council and the public present. She highlighted the Conservative Party promise to 'Build back better, build back stronger, build back greener.'

PC 03.21.07 COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

- a) To consider any applications for Co-option to the Parish Council – none received
- b) To approve new Councillor if appropriate – not applicable

PC 03.21.08 FINANCE REPORT

- a) To note and approve the balance of accounts as at 28 February 2020 - The Clerk reported the following balances:
 - Current account: £5000.00
 - Deposit Account: £127,287.48
 - Salaries Account: £31.50



Cllr Heywood proposed that the balance of accounts were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Aherne and aif. The Clerk highlighted that due to an increase in Salary payments it is now necessary to increase the Standing Order to the salaries account from £1500.00 to £1700.00. Cllr McCraw proposed that the bank should be notified of this increase, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood and aif. **ACTION** – Clerk to notify Lloyds Bank.

- 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 Aherne proposed that Appendix A was approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Osben and aif.

PC 03.21.09 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

1. Finance Committee

- a) To update on any actions since the last meeting – Cllr McCraw confirmed that the Committee had met on 24 February 2021. Cllr McCraw gave an overview of the meeting which included discussion on approval of salary payments, an update on Gravel Pit Lane Fencing and a review of BPC Policy documents as circulated by the Clerk, including Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Controls and Risk Register. Cllr McCraw proposed that these documents should be approved by the Council, this was seconded by Cllr Heywood and aif. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Aherne would undertake a line-by-line review of these documents and that the Finance Committee would do a deep review of the documents at the next available face-to-face meeting.
- b) To consider/agree proposals for contributions from the Finance Committee – None received.
- c) To consider/agree any other proposals presented by the Finance Committee – Cllr McCraw informed the Council that it was now necessary to update the Clerk's electronic equipment and a total budget of £1500.00 had been agreed by the Committee for this purpose.

2. Recreation Sub-Committee

- a) To update on any general actions since the last meeting – Cllr Heywood confirmed that due to COVID restrictions there have been no meetings of the sub-committee - nevertheless work continues. The picnic table and bench sets have been assembled by Dan Orman and installed at Gravel Pit Lane and Merriam Close play areas. The work to repair the fencing at Gravel Pit Lane is due to start next week.
- b) To consider/approve any actions or expenditure as required - Cllr Heywood confirmed that she has received three quotes for the replacement parts for the play equipment:
- | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Playquip - | £1,502.56 + VAT (£300.51) = | £1,803.07 |
| Wicksteed - | £1,389.20 + VAT (£277.84) = | £1,667.04 |
| Action Play & Leisure - | £1,464.00 + VAT (£292.80) = | £1,756.80 |
- Cllr Heywood proposed that the quote from Wicksteed was approved by the Council. This was seconded by Cllr McCraw and aif. **ACTION** – Cllr Heywood to confirm with Wicksteed and arrange for work to begin.

3. Planning Committee

- a) To note recommendations made by the Committee – Cllr Bridgeman reviewed the meeting held on 24 February 2021. For details of recommendations from the Committee please see the minutes of that meeting.
- b) To note the planning decisions received – please see the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting.

4. Village Hall Management Committee



- a) To update on actions since the last meeting – Cllr Heywood confirmed that there had been no meeting of the VHMC. An email was sent to BHMC members requesting their approval of the committee spending some of the grant money recently received to fund a full test of the electrics at the hall as proposed by Cllr Heywood at the last Parish Council meeting. Most of the committee members have responded and have agreed to the proposal.
Cllr Heywood has contracted Darren Hicks, the Electrical Engineer, to gauge his availability to carry out this work. He is very busy but would be able to do our work early in April.
 - b) To consider/agree any actions/expenditure necessary – None
 - c) To receive an update from the VH working Group – nothing to report.
 - d) To consider/agree any proposals made by the VH Working Group – nothing to report
 - e) To consider/agree next steps as necessary – nothing to report.
5. Footpaths Sub Committee
- a) To consider/agree any proposals presented by the Footpaths Sub Committee – Cllr Osben informed the Council that the sub-committee had not had a meeting. He confirmed that he had walked some footpaths in the village with a local resident to highlight areas of concern. The following issues had been identified:
 - Sandy Lane crossing point – current difficult to cross because of visibility issues caused by hedging. Cllr Osben queried the possibility of a refuge in the middle of the road. Following discussion it was noted that this was not likely due to the width of the road and the number of large vehicles that use the road. Hedging was identified as the responsibility of SCC and Cllr Osben agreed to highlight this on the SCC reporting tool.
 - Cinder Path – barriers at the end of the path need to be turned to slow cyclists. There was general consensus that the Parish Council would undertake this work if permission was granted. **ACTION** – Clerk to contact SCC to find out how to get permission to do this work.
 - Coastal Path on the peninsula – Cllr Osben informed the Council that requests have been received by the Council to have a footpath created along this area however he confirmed that on pursuing this possibility further it became apparent that this would be opposed by the landowner, the Environment Agency and the RSPB in addition to access to this area being difficult. Cllr Osben confirmed that although some villagers would like to see a path in this area, in view of the access issues and opposition from interested parties this would not be pursued further.
 - Path to railway crossing alongside the factory – Cllr Osben confirmed that this path is in a bad state of repair and should be highlighted on the SCC reporting tool. In addition he highlighted that this path should be highlighted with some footpath signs. **ACTION** – Clerk to report footpath and request footpath signs.
- Cllr McCraw confirmed that he would be working with interested parties to improve the advisory path by the bungalow on Poppy Field in the near future.
6. Services Sub Committee
- a) To consider/agree any proposals presented by the Services Sub Committee – nothing to report
7. Legal Sub Committee
- a) To consider/agree any proposals received from the Legal Sub Committee – nothing to report



8. SALC Representative – nothing to report
9. BLC Representative – Cllr Abrahams not present
10. SNT Representative – Cllr Rasch not present

PC 03.21.10 CORRESPONDENCE TO NOTE/ACTION

The Clerk reviewed the correspondence that had been received in January 2021 (copies had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting). Councillors noted the following:

- An email of thanks from Brantham Bowls Club for donation
- An Email from SGroom at SARS notifying Council of circulation of report. Cllr Bridgeman highlighted that the letter included a request for further funding. **ACTION** – Clerk to send the Contributions request form to SARS.
- An email from employee at ITW highlighting concerns about dog fouling in Brantham. The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to this email.
- An email from Babergh District Council with details of proposed works at Bridge Place included for information
- An email from local resident raising queries following previous Parish Council meeting. The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to the email and included additional items on the agenda where necessary.
- An email from Stutton resident with queries about play area funding. The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to this email with information and advice.
- An email from local resident with queries about Industrial Site War Memorial plaques. The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to the resident informing them that the plaques are currently stored by St Michael's Church.

PC 03.21.11 MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

All miscellaneous correspondence by email had been forwarded to Councillors during the month. Cllr McCraw highlighted a survey on the impact of COVID on leisure activities in the local area and queried if the recreation sub-committee could work on a response. **ACTION** – Cllr Heywood to lead a response to this consultation.

PC 03.21.12 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES

- a) To review current placements of SIDs in the village – The Chair gave an overview of the current placement of the two SIDs in the village and highlighted that it may be a good idea to move their locations in the near future so that drivers do not become complacent.
- b) To consider/agree future placements – following discussion Cllr Osben proposed that the current SID on the approach to Birch Drive from Ipswich should remain in place. The second SID should be re-sited on the carriageway heading north opposite Coronation Villas approaching Birch Drive. This was seconded by Cllr Aherne. One Cllr abstained from the vote and five Cllrs voted in favour of the proposal. The motion was therefore carried. **ACTION** – Clerk to order two additional brackets for the SID and then Cllr Aherne to re-site it.

PC 03.21.13 INDUSTRIAL SITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

- a) To receive an update on recent/forthcoming activity on Industrial and Greenfield site – The Chair confirmed that there had been some issues with community engagement on site and he had been working to resolve this with residents and developers. The Chair confirmed that he hoped there would be more community engagement going forward.



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The Chair confirmed that he hoped work on the bridleway to Decoy Pond would begin to happen soon.

Cllr Aherne queried whether there were currently any plans for use of the Brownfield site at this point in time. The Chair confirmed that this area had been developed and was ready for occupancy but not arrangements had been confirmed so far.

- b) To agree any other next steps as necessary – none.

PC 03.21.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 07 April 2021, 7.30pm via Zoom or at Brantham Village Hall

The meeting closed to the public at 9.08pm

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



ACTIONS

MINUTE NO.	ACTION	WHO
PC 03.21.08	Inform Lloyds Bank of increase of standing order from £1500.00 to £1700.00	Clerk
PC 03.21.09 (2)	Arrange for updated equipment to be installed by Wicksteed	Cllr Heywood
PC 03.21.09 (5)	Report concerns about footpath to railway crossing to SCC and request a footpath sign for this path	Clerk
PC 03.21.10	Send contribution request form to SARS	Clerk
PC 03.21.11	Respond to survey on impact of COVID on leisure activities locally	Cllr Heywood
PC 03.21.12	Order two additional brackets for the SID and then re-site it	Clerk Cllr Aherne



APPENDIX A

PC 02.21.08 FINANCE REPORT

ACCOUNTS TO BE AGREED FOR PAYMENT	Chq/Debit Card/SO	NET	VAT	TOTAL	Powers Used
S.Keys – additional salary which could not be paid by BACS	003354	£151.50		£151.50	LGA 1972, s.112

ACCOUNTS PAID SINCE THE LAST MEETING	Chq/Debit Card/SO	NET	VAT	TOTAL	Powers Used
Parish Clerk – Salary	BACS	£1050.00		£1050.00	LGA 1972, s.112
Parish Clerk – Office	BACS	£20.00		£20.00	LGA 1972, s. 112
Phil Wainwright – Litter Picker	BACS	£206.40		£206.40	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
Tina Bird – Litter Picker	BACS	£248.08		£248.08	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
O2 (Clerk's mobile phone)	DD	£18.05	£3.61	£21.66	LGA 1972
ZOOM Video Communications Inc (Online Meetings package)	DD	£11.99	£2.40	£14.39	The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020

RECEIPTS RECEIVED SINCE THE LAST MEETING	TOTAL
HMRC (VAT Claim)	£6380.80
Bank Interest	£1.01
Babergh District Council (recycling credit)	£199.75



APPENDIX B

Parish Report March 2021

Councillor

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Suffolk County Council Budget

The Suffolk County Council Budget was voted through Full Council on February 11th. This year's budget is based on a 12-month financial settlement from government, rather than the 3 or 4 year agreement which is usually offered. Key points include:

- A council tax rise of 3.99% (1.99% basic council tax and 2% Social Care Precept), representing an increase of £53.55 for a Band D property, from £1,343.61 in 2020-21 to £1,397.16 in 2021-22.
- A council tax shortfall of £7.9m less than expected, to be met by using reserves.
- Planned spending is £597.9m, 7.4% more than 2021-21.
- £15.3m of spending to address ongoing COVID-19 costs.
- No proposed reductions in council services or personnel.

LDGI Group Budget Amendment and Group Leader's Speech

The LDGI Group submitted a Budget Amendment to Full Council on February 11th alongside the administration's Budget. The amendment would have authorised the use of the full 3% social care precept to avoid impacting SCC's reserves and generate an extra £3.452m for social care at a cost of only £13.41 per year to a Band D household. The extra income would have provided funding for a wider service offer for Suffolk residents, including a new officer for the flooding team to unlock more government funding, and the re-enablement of concessionary bus passes on community transport. The amendment was unfortunately not passed.

Cllr Elfrede Brambley-Crawshaw, Leader of the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group and proposer of the motion, gave the following speech:

"After 13 years of cuts to local government, which has starved this council of government grant funding, this council is no fit state for the financial and environmental challenge it faces. Raising council tax is the least progressive form of taxation, but we are left with no choice. This Government cut taxes for the rich and then cut funding to local councils to pay for it. As leader of



the largest opposition group I can firmly say we, the Greens, Lib Dems, and Independents, had no part of this plan to tax the poor harder and give tax breaks to the rich. Everyone in this chamber today is being forced into a position by the government where we have no option but to vote for raising council tax.”

“Our amendment would have taken the full amount of precept allowed for social care, meaning that money is not being taken from general council funding. If we don’t take the extra 1% then we lose almost three and a half million for social care this year and every year into the future. That money will have to be made up by reducing services elsewhere.”

Suffolk & Norfolk County Council submit joint bid for £6m flood funding

Suffolk and Norfolk County Councils have submitted a joint bid to the £200 fund for Flood and Coastal Resilience, requesting £6m to invest in flood protection schemes across both counties. The proposed projects would also capture water for reuse. If the bid is successful town and parish councils will be encouraged to get involved through measures like permeable paving, water butts and ‘rain gardens’ that can cope with occasional flooding. These projects would be in place by 2027 if the bid is approved.

Consultation on proposed A12 improvements from A14 Seven Hills to A1152 Woods Lane

Suffolk County Council is currently consulting on proposed improvements to the A12 between A14 junction at 'Seven Hills' and A1152 at Woods Lane, with the aim of increasing highway capacity in the area and preventing future congestion. Government predictions suggest that traffic will increase by 25% in this area by 2040.

The improvements will include traffic lights on every roundabout but Seckford, and have an estimated cost of £60m. The lights would monitor congestion and use ‘intelligent flow’ to adapt to changing levels of traffic.

Cllr Caroline Page, speaking on behalf of the LDGI Group, gave the following quote:

“I am anxious about the number of roundabouts with traffic lights. This is the trunk road all the way to Lowestoft, are they going to make life more simple or easier for anyone doing this journey? It's going to cause people to stop and start. There are lots of areas on the A12 that are narrow and in need of improvement, so I would really question why it is so highly invested in the stretch here. These proposals are also at odds with the climate emergency declared by the Council. We are supposed to be reducing road traffic, but we seem to be enabling it here”.

The consultation is open from 9 February to 19 March 2021, and can be commented upon at the link below:

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/a12-improvements/>



LDGI Group opposes Government's last-minute approach to local authority grants

Suffolk County Council will receive £27m for highways repairs, maintenance and drainage in 2021-22, a reduction in from £31m the previous year. This has necessitated the use of £2m of reserves to top up the grant. In the view of my Group, these cuts in Government funding make it impossible to plan long-term for road maintenance and repair. Due to the uncertainty as to whether this grant would materialise at all, some vital work has already been postponed.

Cllr Stringer, speaking on behalf of the LDGI Group, gave the following quote:

"It's a bit like someone telling you that they're going to punch you twice in the face and then expecting you to be grateful if they only punch you once."

LDGI Group submits response to Post-16 Travel Policy consultation

The LDGI Group has submitted a joint response to Suffolk County Council's consultation on the Post-16 Transport Policy, which manages transport to schools and education for young people after the age of 16. The LDGI Group's views included:

- Support for the expansion of the post-16 travel eligibility criteria for sixth form students and adult learners aged 25 and under with EHC plans, reflecting the change in age range for compulsory school attendance.
- Support for keeping prices lower for SEND students.
- Use of buses and trains for school transport must be supported. The needs of students and the numbers currently forced to use taxis or private cars to reach their schools must be taken into account when considering public transport. Students should be steered towards buses first, and the school transport service should support our local bus network in maintaining services to rural areas.
- The Travel Training Scheme must be better funded, so that it can expand and promote its services.