

EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of East Brent Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Monday 2nd December 2013 at 7.30pm, when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors; Cllr E. Champion, Cllr V. Rawles, Cllr A. Gilling, Cllr J. Webb, Cllr Y. Roscorla, Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones, Cllr W. Walker, Cllr S. McGreavy, Cllr J. Bowden, Cllr B. Woodward and Cllr B. Bees, together with the Clerk Mr M. Shobbrook.

The Chairman welcomed all who had attended and he thanked Cllr Val Rawles for providing the refreshments in the form of teas/coffees and Christmas mince pies.

Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

Apologies were received from Mr Bob Filmer.

Mr Martin Keegan attended the meeting and asked the Chairman if he could address the Committee with an update of the No Pilrow campaign strategy, for the planning appeal. The Chairman agreed and he suggested that item, **Minute14/13** on the Agenda, should be brought forward, since it was relevant to the meeting. At this point Cllr Gilling declared an interest in the topic of the debate, but remained present. The main part of the meeting had not yet been convened.

Mr Keegan advised the Committee that on the 12th November 2013 he had a meeting with SDC to discuss the Planning Appeal. He was informed that the Inspector who has been appointed to deal with the Appeal, is very keen to hear local views and local issues, together with details of the likely impact the wind farm might have on residents. There will be an eight day enquiry period starting on Tuesday 7th January 2014 at 10.00am at the Princess Hall in Burnham on Sea. The second four day period will commence on Tuesday 14th January 2014.

The Inspector will convene one evening meeting to enable those who are at work during the day to attend and make their representations to him. This will be on Wednesday 8th January 2014. If by chance the Princess Hall is not available (because of another booked function) then the meeting might be arranged to take place in the Village Hall at East Brent.

The Inspector will spend time on Thursday 16th January 2014 touring the area in order to familiarise himself and his staff with the topography of the area. On Friday 17th January 2014 he will be visiting local properties to assess for himself the impact the wind farm might have upon them. That trip will be funded by the Parish Council.

Mr Keegan told the Committee that the decision about the Huntspill wind farm will be made known on the 29th January 2014. The Inspector will not release any details of the Pilrow Appeal decision until after the Huntspill appeal had been finalised. This is to enable the local people to make any further representations to him in the light of the Huntspill decision. Only the Secretary of State's department will be aware of the result as it will remain confidential.

Mr Keegan said that other neighbouring Parishes had indicated their full support to the rejection of the appeal. These included Cheddar, Mark, and Chapel Allerton.

Four flag poles bearing florescent flags will be erected at the proposed site to resemble the turbines and make their location visible during the Inspectors visits around the area.

Mr Keegan urged local residents who oppose the appeal, to attend at the Princess hall especially on the first day of the appeal process. Otherwise, it will be assumed that there is little opposition to it. The Inspector has also ordered Broadview to prepare copies of all lodged objections to the wind farm for inspection by the public.

It was at this point that Cllr Gilling commented on a statement made by Mr Keegan during the last Committee meeting. Cllr Gilling referred to the appointment of Arup Plc. by both Broadview and SDC .as mentioned by Mr Keegan. Cllr Gilling said that his investigations had revealed that this was incorrect. Broadview has not instructed Arup Plc. Mr Keegan denied that he had made this statement previously. The Clerk, through the Chairman, intervened and supported Cllr Gilling by saying that his notes taken during the last meeting and then reported in the Minutes, recorded Mr Keegan as saying this. Mr Keegan repeated his denial of the accuracy of the Minutes and the Chairman immediately ordered that the Minutes be amended accordingly.

There were no questions raised with Mr Keegan and the Chairman therefore declared the formal part of the meeting to be open at 7.50pm.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 4th November 2013, were signed by the Chairman as being a true reflection of the business carried out by this Parish Council on that date, after the amendment referred to above had been corrected. In addition, Cllr Roscorla pointed out a typographical error made by the Clerk in Minute 15/13 where it should have been reported that Cllr Bowden was "unable" and not "able" to attend the last meeting.

ONGOING ISSUES

Minute 04/13 : Review of the funding of the Parish Magazine. Cllr McGreavy said that he had met with Mrs Molly Richards to discuss the Parish Magazine. She had provided him with some of the details of the cost of producing the Magazine. It is currently costing £350 per issue. She receives £1,600 from annual advertising revenue, but this is likely to go down with the reduction of 10 to 6 editions in 2014, which is due to her work and other personal commitments. Therefore, the Parish Council would need to consider meeting the shortfall between income and production costs to enable the Magazine to continue. This may mean increasing the existing financial contribution being made by the Parish Council.

Mrs. Richards is prepared to continue with her editorials of the Magazine but she is finding the production and delivery schedules too demanding on her available time. She is prepared to accept help with the production of the Magazine, but if the Parish Council wishes to have ten issues released each year, then the printing would need to be outsourced.

Cllr Webb commented that the Parish Council has still not been given a full breakdown of the production costs, nor the actual or potential income to be raised from advertising revenue. Cllr Woodward agreed with this.

Cllr Lloyd-Jones said that Mrs Richard's production costs were competitive. He had had experience of a similar publication and it was only because Mrs. Richards gives her time for free, that the present production costs are as low as they are.

Cllr Rawles said that the village of Mark, have a rota for residents to assist in the production of their Magazine, so could East Brent consider following this example. She added that East Brent's December edition of the Magazine was not yet out. News of some of the Festive events (e.g. the Christingle service) may not be made known to the public until after they had occurred. Cllr Lloyd-Jones said that the editorial element of the Magazine was quite difficult and time consuming, so it needs to be carried out by someone who has experience of undertaking this activity and is ideally local to the area.

Cllr McGreavy said that it was likely the Parish Council would be asked to contribute around £1,000 towards the production costs for the 2014 six editions.

Cllr Gilling asked if Cllr Webb could investigate the possibility of a different method of production of the Magazine by another person or body, but retain Mrs. Richards as Editor. Cllr Webb agreed to get a quotation for putting together the Magazine, its printing and circulation costs. She will present these figures at the next Committee meeting.

The Chairman, after receiving a proposal to this effect from Cllr Gilling and being seconded by Cllr Rawles, said that this matter would be held in abeyance for a while and a formal response will be given to Mrs. Richards after the next meeting.

In the meantime, Cllr McGreavy will find out from Mrs. Richards to see if help can be organised for the distribution of the Magazine and find out the areas which are causing her the most difficulty.

The topic will be placed on next month's Agenda for review.

Minute 24/12 : Defibrillator Equipment . Cllr Webb addressed the meeting and said that the paint required to redecorate the telephone kiosk had been received. It was hoped that on Sunday 8th December 2013, work will be concluded in preparing the kiosk, ready for repainting. A water supply and power supply (to run the power washer) is needed. Thereafter, it is hoped that the second defibrillator unit can be installed within a short while.

Cllr Gilling confirmed that permission to place a notice telling the public of the position of the defibrillators had been given by the Methodist Church. Signs will therefore be commissioned and placed on the Church's notice board.

Cllr Webb told the Committee that she had received a letter from Tessa Munt MP saying that East Brent had not been successful in its bid to receive a free defibrillator from the Plymouth Brethren Church. Another Parish had been successful, but which one this was, had not been revealed.

Minute 08/13 : Playing Field Project at Pill Road, Rooksbridge: Cllr Gilling declared his interest in the land in question. Cllr Lloyd-Jones addressed the meeting and said that good progress has been made, as the RLT3 grant application was supported at the Coastal Cluster meeting on 20th November and it will be on the agenda of the Grants meeting on 3rd December for hopefully, final approval. As for planning, the application will be presented to the planning committee on December 17th containing a recommendation of approval by the planning officer handling the application. The matter of the Nuttall Trust was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Lloyd-Jones will now make an application for this project to this Trust requesting an amount of £2,500. Finally, Cllr Lloyd-Jones said he is keeping other people connected to the project at S.D.C and at the Housing Society informed as to the progress being made.

Minute 15.13 : Arrangements for the Village Christmas Tree 2013.

The Chairman announced that the Christmas tree would be collected from Cllr Gilling's residence on Thursday 5th December 2013 and erected at the Village Hall car park at approx. 2.00pm. The party undertaking this project will be, Cllrs Bowden, Bees, McGreavy and Walker together with the Chairman. It is hoped that this work will be concluded that afternoon so that the lights can be immediately switched on.

Minute 16/13 : Setting the Precept figure for 2014-15.

Cllr Lloyd-Jones addressed the meeting and distributed a synopsis of the projected expenditure of the Parish Council for the next financial year. He explained the few updates to the version that had been provided at the previous meeting. In summary, the expenditure is expected to be some 3.4% higher than the current year. The main item influencing the budget is the Playing Field project at Rooksbridge, as there are likely to be some set-up and then running costs that will need to be covered by the Parish. The costs for this project are felt worthwhile in order to provide a much needed play space for local children. The budget was unanimously agreed by the whole Committee and the Precept Request will now be submitted to S.D.C.

Minute 17/13 : A review of the Dog Bin emptying schedule.

Cllr Walker addressed the Committee and reported that once again, the dog bin at Stowlands, East Brent, has been found to be over-flowing with waste. It is thought that this follows the improper use of the bin by a local dog kennel proprietor. A particularly large amount of excrement had been placed in the bin, clearly all from the same location and it was assumed that this was in an attempt to avoid collection charges being incurred by the kennels in question. It was considered very difficult to track down the culprit without round the clock surveillance of the bin, or by the use of cameras to monitor this. Cllr Walker suggested that a reorganisation of the emptying schedule with SDC would possibly resolve this problem. If the bin at Stowlands was emptied more frequently and the bin at Bristol Road was emptied less frequently, any continuing unlawful usage of the Stowlands bin, could be catered for by this arrangement. The Chairman added that the fees the Parish Council pays to SDC for this service, represents a large proportion of the annual budget and every effort should be made to avoid increasing this. The Clerk will contact SDC to rearrange the emptying schedule.

PLANNING MATTERS

The Chairman read out the list of decided applications shown on the Agenda. He then addressed the current applications:

(No. 24/13/00024 Beck Lodge, Wickham Way East Brent) by Mr. Mrs. S. Court for conversion of part of a garage to residential accommodation):

(No. 24/13/00026 Mill Batch Farm, East Brent) by Mr. Mrs. R. Collins for erection of a light industrial building: and

(No.24/13/00025 Mill Batch Farm Industrial Estate, East Brent) by Mr. Mrs. R. Collins for erection of an agricultural building.

He invited Cllr McGreavy to address the meeting. Cllr McGreavy said that he and Cllrs Rawles and Webb had visited the sites. He outlined the details of the applications and concluded by saying that they could find no reasons why the application could not receive the support of the Parish Council, after reviewing the criteria the Council must follow. Cllr McGreavy therefore proposed that recommendations of approval of the applications, should be sent to S.D.C. This was seconded by Cllrs Webb and Rawles in relation to all three applications and unanimously passed by the whole Committee.

The Clerk told the Committee that he had received details of another planning application (No. 24/13/00028) last Friday 29th November 2013, which meant it was not possible to be included in tonight's meeting. He told the Committee that he had applied to the planning officer in question, Colin Arnold, for an extension of time for the Parish Council to respond. That request has so far been declined and it may therefore be necessary for the Clerk to convene another meeting of the Committee before the 16th December 2013. He agreed to continue to try to get more time and he will communicate with Cllr McGreavy, about this.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Approval for the payment of all of the costs listed on the Agenda was proposed by Cllr Woodward and seconded by Cllr Rawles. A unanimous vote was carried by the whole Committee to pay these items and cheques were subsequently signed by the Chairman and Cllr Rawles.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk told the Committee that it was his desire to circulate any correspondence he receives to all Councillors, using email. The purpose of this is to save postage costs (where possible) and to avoid the previous circulation difficulties encountered when a plastic wallet containing all correspondence was given to one Councillor at a time. He also said that he will endeavour to limit the volume of papers he forwards to just those he feels the Councillors must see to fulfil their obligations and undertake their positions, correctly.

MATTERS OF REPORT

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had been asked to attend a meeting at William Haley Engineering Ltd. with representatives from SDC to discuss the ongoing problems of large vehicles negotiating the narrow road of East Brent. He will report to the Committee next year.

Cllr Rawles raised the ongoing issues of the Horse Chestnut trees on the Village Green. She said that she had seen from the emails exchanged between the Clerk and SDC, that this matter had not progressed at all. She felt that it was wrong that this problem continued to run on. She suggested that a meeting is arranged between Janette Burton and representatives of the Parish Council in an attempt to finally resolve the problems. Ideally, it was thought that the trees should be removed and replaced by a bench for the benefit of Parishioners. Cllr Lloyd-Jones said that if SDC assisted in the removal of the TPO's on the trees, then the Parish Council will support this and make a case to mitigate the damage currently being caused. The Clerk will contact Janette Burton to try to set up a meeting.

Cllr Rawles also mentioned the fact that a mobile home which is located at No.1A Stone Cottages, Whitehouse Lane is suspected of being used as permanent living accommodation. Lights have been seen on it during night time. It was thought that if this persists, an approach should be made to the planning enforcement officer at SDC.

Finally, Cllr Rawles said that a set of keys have been found at the play area in East Brent which had presumably been dropped by a school child when alighting from the school bus. Cllr McGreavy offered to communicate the finding of these keys to his sons, for them to tell other children, in the hope that they can be reunited with their owner.

Cllr Bowden said that he will withdraw from the forthcoming meeting regarding Haley Engineering, as he has an interest in adjoining land.

Cllr Walker said that he had been in contact with Ian McWilliams regarding the building site adjacent to the Knoll Inn at East Brent. He had been told that there was virtually nothing that the highways dept. can do to force the developer to complete the pavements. This is despite the fact that the original planning consent specifies that no dwelling is to be occupied before the roads and pavements have been completed to the satisfaction of the Highways dept and the adoption process commenced. It appears that SDC have overlooked this very important fact and it has led to the present situation. Cllr Gilling told the Committee that SDC currently only has one enforcement officer, Dave Crowle, and his overall boss is Claire Pearce. Attempts will be made to progress this matter, by Cllr Walker.

Cllr McGreavy told the Committee of a burglary which had taken place in a property near the Brent House restaurant recently. He asked all Councillors to be vigilant in looking out for suspicious behaviour.

Cllr Lloyd-Jones reported that the Burton Row diversion had been commenced and work was progressing well. Hopefully, it will be completed before the onset of heavy rain during the winter months to help avoid a repeat of the flooding which occurred earlier this year. Cllr Lloyd-Jones also reported that the goal posts on the playing fields in the Red House Road area were still in need of repair. He will continue to chase Dave Aggett about this. He and Cllr Walker had collected 20kg bags of salt from SDC in readiness for road use during the winter months and these had been distributed around the Village. The play equipment for children had been re-opened for use last Friday, following its renewal by SDC. The new equipment has proven to be very popular with young children and well received.

Finally, he asked if the experimental Action Point list, devised during the last meeting, had been favourably received by the Councillors. It was the general view that this method of reminding Councillors of their tasks to be carried out before the next meeting, should be formally adopted from now on. The Clerk will arrange for this.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

**The next meeting of the East Brent Parish Council will be on Monday 6th January 2014
at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**