

EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of East Brent Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Monday 7th July 2014 at 7.30pm, when the following business was transacted.

Present

Councillors:- Cllr V. Rawles (Chairperson), Cllr A.Gilling, Cllr W. Walker, Cllr J. Bowden, Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones, Cllr J. Webb, Cllr Y. Roscorla and Cllr B. Bees, together with the Clerk Mr M. Shobbrook.

Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Mr Bob Filmer, Cllr S. McGreavy, Cllr B. Woodward and Cllr E. Champion.

A declaration of interest was made by Cllr Gilling in relation to the Planning matter on the Agenda (in view of his position on the Development Committee at SDC) and in relation to the Planning application number 24/14/0007 by Brilliant Harvest 009 Ltd..

As Mr J. Sloan of Pendene, Church Road, East Brent was in the public section, The Chairperson decided to bring forward on the Agenda the planning applications to be considered during the meeting. This would enable Mr Sloan to answer any questions the Councillors may have had in relation to his planning application and he could then withdraw from the meeting.

PLANNING MATTERS

The following new applications were discussed:-

Application No: 24/14/00021

Type: Full Planning permission

Applicant: Mr J. Sloan

Location: Pendene, Church Road, East Brent TA9 4HZ

Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to rear (south) elevation, partly on site of conservatory (to be demolished)

Case Officer: Sharon Houlet

Cllrs Lloyd-Jones, Webb and McGreavy visited the site. Cllr Lloyd-Jones explained the nature of the application in detail and after some discussion Cllr Webb proposed, with Cllr Lloyd-Jones seconding, that the application be approved by EBPC. The proposal was voted upon and agreed unanimously.

Application No: 24/14/00016

Type: Full Planning permission

Applicant: Mr G. Cole

Location: Woodland, Burton Row, East Brent, TA9 4DA

Proposal: Erection of Conservatory

Case Officer: Sharon Houlet

Cllrs Lloyd-Jones, Webb and McGreavy visited the site. Cllr Lloyd-Jones explained the nature of the application in detail and after some discussion Cllr Lloyd-Jones proposed, with Cllr Webb seconding, that the application be approved by EBPC. The proposal was voted upon and agreed unanimously.

Application No: 24/14/00015

Type: Full Planning permission

Applicant: Mr P. Brace

Location: Poplar Farm, Eastertown, Lympsham BS24 0HY

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension to rear (SW) elevation

Case Officer: Sharon Houlet

Cllrs Lloyd-Jones, Webb and McGreavy visited the site. Cllr Webb explained the nature of the application in detail and after some discussion Cllr Lloyd-Jones proposed, with Cllr Bowden seconding, that the application be approved by EBPC. The proposal was voted upon and agreed unanimously.

Application No: 24/14/00012

Type: Cert. of Lawfulness for proposed use/dev.

Applicant: Mrs Pleydell-Pearse

Location: Daisy Cottage, Chapel Road, Rooksbridge, BS26 2AT

Case Officer: Liam Evans

The Clerk advised the Chairperson that following communications he had made with SDC about this matter, the Parish Council was not expected to make any comments upon it and the whole application would be considered by the Case Officer in charge.

No further debate regarding this application therefore followed.

Application No: 24/14/00013

Type: Full Planning permission

Applicant: Ms K. Low

Location: 10 The Chantry, Rookbridge, BS24 2TR

Case Officer: Liam Evans

Cllrs Lloyd-Jones, Webb and McGreavy visited the site. Cllr Lloyd-Jones explained the nature of the application in detail and after some discussion Cllr Lloyd-Jones proposed, with Cllr Roscorla seconding, that the application be approved by EBPC. The proposal was voted upon and agreed unanimously.

Application No: 24/14/00017

Type: Full Planning permission

Applicant: Brilliant Harvest 009 Ltd.

Location: Land at Ash Lawn Farm, Pill Road, Rooksbridge BS26

Cllr Gilling withdrew from the meeting in view of his interest in the application and played no part in the discussions. The Chairperson read out the details of the application and Cllr Walker explained the difference in the wording between the original grant of permission and the proposed new conditional wording. After clarifying exactly what the effect of the new wording would be, the whole Committee unanimously agreed to accept the proposal.

Finally, the Chairperson read out the decision of Planning No: 24/14/00011 made by SDC in granting full planning permission to the applicant, Mr D. Maund.

The Chairperson then invited WPC Esther Lawson and Community Police officer Pauline Dixon (both of whom had arrived at the meeting at 8.00pm) to address the Committee on various Policing issues affecting the Village community.

WPC Lawson told the Committee that she had made an arrest in Brent Road, of a man who has frequently committed public nuisance offences. She is in consultation with the CPS to obtain the 50 supporting statements necessary to pursue charges against him. He is bailed to appear before Magistrates on the 17th July 2014. She warned that he might commit further offences before then and asked the Councillors to be vigilant and report any incidents they see.

Cllr Webb (who's property has been visited by the man) asked if Social Services had been consulted to assist the man. WPC Lawson replied that he had been offered accommodation, but he has refused help, on occasions he has "thrown money away" as he feels he does not need it. He lives by taking any food he finds from food recycling bins and public refuse bins. WPC Lawson said that at the forthcoming court hearing, she will try to arrange for the offender to be given rehabilitation treatment to dissuade him for re-offending.

WPC Lawson also reported that there have been further issues regarding parking at or near the Village school. Parents of children are parking their cars all over the place and causing blockages, obstructions and danger to children walking to and from the school. When she visits the area in a Police Car, parents obey the law and she sees not offences. However, once the Police leave, the problem resumes. Other than Police the area everyday (which is impossible due to the lack of resources) the problem will continue.

Similar problems with car parking have occurred outside the Brent House Restaurant. After visiting the area, WPC Lawson said that no criminal offences were being committed if the owners allow their patrons to park on the grass area adjoining the main road. As long as vehicles do not cause an obstruction onto the highway, or block a clear view of motorists leaving the restaurant, no action can be taken.

Finally, WPC Lawson told the Committee that she has been transferred to Bridgwater Police Station and she will be leaving the area very soon. She confirmed that Community Police Officer Pauline Dixon will remain at East Brent.

The Chairperson formally declared the meeting open at 8.10pm

2. Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting on Monday 2nd June 2014.

The Minutes of this meeting were signed by the Chairperson as being a true and accurate reflection of the business carried out by this Parish Council on that date.

3. Matters Arising:-

Minute 30/12 : Pavements adjacent to the building site at The Laurels, Old Bristol Road, East Brent - Cllr Walker told the Committee that he had visited the site with District Councillor John Denbee. The "top dressing" of the pavement still needs to be completed and a large amount of overgrown foliage needs to be cut back in order to make the pavement safe for pedestrians to use. Cllr Denbee told Cllr Walker that the problem involved legal issues which both SDC and SCC still needed to resolve. It was generally felt by all the Committee that this matter has been allowed to drag on for too long and it must be concluded. It appeared to the Councillors that as there has clearly been a breach of the Planning consent given by SDC; that Council, or the Highways department at SCC, could and should, take enforcement action against the Developer (who is believed to be still trading). The Clerk was directed to compose a letter containing all salient points of complaint that EBPC has over this matter, to the Legal Department at SDC. The matter will be reviewed again during the September meeting of the PC.

Minute 04/13 : Parish Magazine - The Chairperson asked if any Committee member had spoken with Molly Richards about the EB magazine since the last meeting. Cllr Lloyd-Jones said that he had been in contact with Mrs Richards about how the magazine production was going, "wearing his financial hat" on behalf of the PC. He had asked for a budget update of production costs, which was not immediately available, but would be worked on by Mrs Richards. He was informed that Mrs Richards was happy with the 3rd party being used to print the magazine and she was working on getting more advertisers. The Chairperson commented that she has not seen an edition of the magazine since May and she was concerned that with the onset of the Harvest Home celebrations coming up, it was vital that Parishioners should be given all the details of this in the magazine. Councillors have been told by Parishioners, that they felt the PC should be doing more to ensure the financial support it is providing, is being spent wisely. After some more discussion it was decided that Cllr Lloyd-Jones together with the Chairperson, will aim to meet Mrs Richards to gain an update on the production/costs of the magazine and report back at the next meeting.

Minute 24/12 : Defibrillator Equipment - Cllr Webb told the meeting that Cllr McGreavy will be positioning the second Defibrillator at the surgery on Thursday 10th July. It will be commissioned immediately thereafter. The Councillors were en mass, disappointed that the promised donation of £1500 from funds at SCC was still outstanding from Cllr Denbee. Cllr Webb will again contact him, to try to obtain this payment. Cllr Webb asked that a cheque for £100.00, to pay for the VET cost of a training session to be held on Monday 8th September 2014 at 7.00pm, should be added to the Agenda for the September meeting.

Minute 03/13 : Horse Chestnut Trees on the "Village Green" (phone box) - Cllr Lloyd-Jones gave an update including; he has been in contact with Paul Elson of Wessex who confirmed the location of the sewage pipe, which houses that section services and it is now on a 6 month camera monitor schedule, plus he will aim to provide incident information. There is also the issue of the BT lines, some of which run half way through the trees. The main concern seems to be that of ownership, as the trees are located on land which appears to have no specific owners. Cllr Lloyd-Jones will contact SDC about the situation. It was also pointed out that attention needs to be given, to ensure that the PC does not take on liability for the trees. He will also continue to follow up with the SDC department that offered to trim some of the lower branches and remove one large dead branch which seems quite secure, higher up.

Minute 08/13 : Playing Field off Pill Road, Rooksbridge - Cllr Lloyd-Jones gave an update including; SDC have responded to a letter he sent re the 3 planning conditions and that these have now been discharged. The perimeter fence onto the field is now in place and a 3.5m section of fence panel is in place that can be when ready removed. Cllr Gilling said that he would wish to see a 2.5m gate and a kissing gate next to it and that he has discussed this with the Housing Association, who appear to be willing to contribute towards the cost of installing it.

However, the matter of access for disabled people was raised and this needs to be considered further, as that may impact upon the aforementioned gate option. The Housing Association will provide via their legal people, a Licence to Access their land, so that users can cross over the strip of their land to the playing field. Cllr Lloyd-Jones has updated Lights for Life as to the status of the project. He along with Cllr Walker plan to see PGC Contracting Services, on site, about the bank with lots of weeds in. The lease has been provided and has now been signed. The invoice for Mr Gilling's lawyer's fees has been submitted to the Clerk for payment. Finally, Cllr Lloyd-Jones highlighted a number of the future activities which will be required in the phase leading up to making this facility operational, so as much as a lot of very good progress has been made, there is still a reasonable list of "to do items".

Minute 14/13 : Planning Appeal relating to the Pilrow wind farm - Cllr Walker told the Committee that the Appeal by the applicant's in the West Huntspill wind farm application has been dismissed. It was therefore hoped that the Pilrow appeal will also be dismissed. More news will be given at the next meeting.

Minute 11/14 : Awarding of the new grass cutting contract for parts of East Brent - Cllr Lloyd-Jones gave an update including; contact was made with 3 possible contractors and quotes received, these were discussed with Cllrs Bowden, Champion and Walker and all agreed that PGC Contracting Services offered the best option for the required work at a base contract cost for this year will be £575. Cllr Lloyd-Jones communicated that to the PGC and he arranged that all the required areas, were to be attended to before the July meeting; which it is pleasing to say was achieved and these areas are now looking better. It was also agreed to increase the value of the contract by £95 to include hedge work opposite the Methodist Church and War Memorial.

Minute 12/14 : Updating of the Playing Field adjoining Brent Road - Cllr Lloyd-Jones gave an update including; the 2 old goals have been removed and the old worn goal mouths have been filled with earth. New goal posts are on order and the department at SDC handling this work have said they hope these will be installed during the next month; they will also order the 2 benches (Glasdon Phoenix recycled) which the PC has confirmed it will support the purchase and installation of one bench, at a cost of £500. Cllr Webb is following up on the option to use the remaining Jubilee money to pay for the bench. As for the work agreed with SDC, on the boarder at Brent Road; it is hoped that this will be commenced soon, together with certain tree works, when resources are available. Finally, Cllr Walker proposed thanks to Cllr Lloyd-Jones for the sustained work he has carried out on both playing field projects over the last year. His efforts have provided the children of both Villages with excellent playing facilities.

Minute 16/13 : The cleaning and restoration work to the Village War Memorial - Cllr Webb explained to the Committee that following her various conversations with most of the staff of Wells Cathedral Stone Masons, she had ascertained that it was not possible for them to clean the bottom step/plinth of the War Memorial, using a power washer. The methods of cleaning allowed by the War Memorial Trust (who are partly funding the cleaning costs) did not permit this. Therefore, an attempt to clean the step using a mild bleach solution will be tried. Otherwise, Cllr Webb felt that the invoice sent by WCSM, could now be paid. The Clerk will pursue efforts to obtain the 50% contribution from the War Memorial Trust.

Cllr Webb mentioned the research she has carried out regarding the names of three First World War soldiers who had lost their lives, but were not commemorated on the War Memorial. She has found out that two of the soldiers were either non East Brent residents, or they are remembered on War memorials elsewhere. The only name which should be added to the list of the fallen, is William Edward Babb. It was unanimously agreed that this should be rectified by the time of the 100 year remembrance service, later this year. Cllr Webb told the Committee that WCSM had indicated the cost of adding Mr Babb's name to the War Memorial would be £8.00 per letter. It was agreed that the name William Babb will be added. The approval of the War Graves Commission will also have to be obtained. Cllr Webb was authorised to proceed with these arrangements.

A further discussion followed, concerning the proposal (made by Cllr Lloyd-Jones) to add a commemorative plaque to the War Memorial, marking the 100th year anniversary of the outbreak of WW1. Cllr Webb was authorised to proceed with this and to source a suitable quality plaque. Full details will be presented to the Committee meeting in September.

