

## EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of East Brent Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Monday 3rd February 2014 at 7.30pm, when the following business was transacted.

### **Present**

Councillors; Cllr E. Champion, (Chairman) Cllr V. Rawles, Cllr A. Gilling, Cllr J. Webb, Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones, Cllr S. McGreavy, Cllr J. Bowden, Cllr B. Woodward and Cllr B. Bees, together with the Clerk Mr M. Shobbrook.

In the public section was Mr Neil Richards representing his wife, Mrs. Molly Richards.

### **Apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies were received from Cllr Y. Roscorla, and from Mr Bob Filmer.

Declarations of interest were made by Cllr Gilling in relation to all Planning matters on the Agenda (in view of his position on the Development Committee at SDC) and in relation to items 08/13 and 14/13 on the Agenda. Cllr Webb declared an interest in Planning matter 24/14/00001.

### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 6th January 2014, were signed by the Chairman as being a true reflection of the business carried out by this Parish Council on that date, following minor corrections made by Cllrs. Bees Walker and Webb.

### **ONGOING ISSUES**

**Minute 04/13 : Review of the funding of the Parish Magazine** - The Chairman allowed Mr Neil Richards to address the meeting on behalf of his wife, Mrs. Molly Richards who was incapacitated with flu. Mr. Richards explained that his wife was prepared to continue to edit and produce the Village Magazine. He handed out a summary of the production costs of the Magazine, together with a series of options available to the Parish Council.

In summary, the options for 6 or 10 annual editions were discussed and on reviewing the production and income information, it would appear that if there is no significant reduction in advertising, then it should be viable to have 10 editions this year. There will be a contribution from the Parish Council, which at the previous month's meeting, had been agreed to be one thousand pounds. This according to the figures presented, should be adequate to cover the annual production budget.

It appears that the outsourcing of the printing is now a good option to implement, as it will significantly free up the amount of time Mrs Richards is having to spend overseeing printing in excess of 500 magazines. This can take her a large number of days to achieve. There may need to be some compromises resulting from outsourcing the printing of the magazine; for example on the use of colour inserts, but overall the feeling was that having 10 editions as opposed to 6, was of greater benefit to the community.

A proposal that the Parish Council continues to sponsor the Magazine for ten editions per year was made by Cllr Bowden and seconded by Cllr Rawles. In addition, the printing should be outsourced and the Parish Council should continue to liaise closely with Mrs. Richards on matters concerning its production, with a particular focus on advertising income. This was passed unanimously by the whole Committee. Cllr Bowden thanked Mr. Richards for attending and asked him to express the Council's thanks to his wife for all that she does for the Magazine.

**Minute 24/12 : Defibrillator Equipment** - Cllr Webb addressed the meeting and said that she had endeavoured to arrange for an electricity supply to be re-connected to the telephone kiosk, but this has proved to be a difficult task. It necessitates applying for an NPAM number, so that an unmetered electricity supply can be connected. She had received the appropriate contracts relating to this from Western Power Plc. and said that the registered office for the PC on this agreement was shown as the Clerk's home address. She asked that the Clerk should take over the administration of contracts from her. It was agreed that the Clerk would be authorised to sign the contracts on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to do this. Cllr Webb will continue to try to get a supply company to give the electricity used to run the Defibrillator, free of charge. She also said that the repainting of the kiosk has continued to be delayed because of the atrocious weather conditions currently prevailing. She reminded the Councillors that there was to be a training session for the use of the Defibrillator equipment on Wednesday 5th February 2014 in the Village Hall at 2.00pm. As many people as possible should be encouraged to attend and participate in the training course. It is provided free of charge by the CHB (The Community HeartBeat Trust).

Lastly, Cllr Webb said that she had again approached District Councillor John Denbee in order to receive the donation of £1,500 he had promised to give to the Parish Council, many months ago. Updates on the training session and installation of the second Defibrillator in the old telephone kiosk, will be given at the next Committee meeting.

**Minute 30/12: The completion of the pavements adjacent to the building site at The Laurels, Old Bristol Road, East Brent** - Cllr Walker addressed the Committee and he read out a series of emails he had sent to and received from Dave Crowle and Ian McWilliams regarding the ongoing problems at the development. He highlighted the fact that neither of their departments seemed prepared to take responsibility for implementing the enforcement of the planning regulations imposed upon the developer. He asked that Cllr Gilling should take over this matter as a District Councillor with SDC; as he would know how to take this matter to a conclusion. Cllr Gilling agreed to do so, and he will approach the relevant people within both SDC and the Highways dept. at SCC and report to the next meeting.

**Minute 03/13: The Horse Chestnut Trees on the "Village Green"** - Cllr Lloyd-Jones updated the Committee saying that he is in contact with Janette Burton of SDC and that she has been committed to the Wind Farm planning inquiry, for most of January. Therefore, he will now contact her again, to set-up a possible site meeting to discuss the situation and potential options for this particular area in the village.

**Minute 08/13 : Playing Field Project at Pill Road, Rooksbridge** - Cllr Gilling had previously declared his interest in the land in question. Cllr Lloyd-Jones addressed the meeting and gave an update, saying that he has submitted an updated application to the Nuttall Trust and the Trustees meeting is due to take place this month. We have received the RLT3 agreement from SDC, Cllrs Rawles, Walker and the Clerk have reviewed the agreement and are comfortable that it can be signed and returned to SDC. Cllr Lloyd-Jones will now do this. It should result in the grant being paid into the Parish Council's bank account. Phil Yorke of the Housing Society, has put forward a type of fencing he feels would be appropriate. It will be a 4ft high, stock-proof wire fence with timber posts. The Councillors, including Mr Gilling, were satisfied with this fencing option. Cllr Lloyd-Jones showed a layout of the area, which indicated 2 small or one large goalpost options. It is currently felt that the single large goal post option would best suit the area. Cllr Lloyd-Jones will continue to work with Harley Cook at SDC on the required planning consent conditions. Also, Cllr Gilling mentioned that his legal representative is working to produce a draft lease which will be presented to the Parish Council for review, once it is ready.

**Minute 12/13: Community Warden Scheme** - Cllr Gilling addressed the meeting and said that he had attended a meeting with the other Parish Councils who had expressed an interest in the scheme. He said that the parish of West Huntspill might agree to join the existing four Parishes who were currently negotiating. SCC has awarded £3,000 towards the setting up costs of the scheme as long as there are at least four Parishes within the scheme. It was thought that the scheme might enable a trade off of the grass cutting costs of the member Parishes. Some doubts were expressed about the fees to be charged by the self-employed contractors who will undertake the work, as they cannot do it for merely the minimum wage costs, as they have to fund some if not all of their own equipment, fuel costs, transport and insurance premiums. The general consensus was that the scheme might be benefit to the Parish Council and Cllr Gilling will report back to the Committee following the next proposed meeting on the 27th March 2014.

**Minute 14/13: Planning Appeal relating to the Pilrow Wind Farm** - Cllr Walker addressed the meeting and advised that the Planning Appeal Inquiry had been adjourned. All three parties have been ordered to exchange further documents and the recommendations made by the Inspector so far, were being immediately implemented. When this has been concluded, the Appeal will be closed and the Inspector will then made his final recommendations to the Government Minister. Cllr Walker said that the final closing statement made by Mr Martin Keegan is available to be read on the Parish Council's website. The Chairman again acknowledged the hard work put into this matter on behalf of the Parish Council by Cllr Walker, the co-ordination between the No Pilrow Group and the Council was fundamentally due to Cllr Walker. The Chairman then read out a letter he had prepared to send to Mr Martin Keegan, thanking him for all his efforts on behalf of the Parish. He invited fellow Councillors to co-sign it as an endorsement of their thanks as well.

**Minute 16/13: The Village War Memorial** - The Clerk advised the Committee that he had sent the Contractors obligation forms to Wells Cathedral Stonemasons, immediately after the last meeting. Regrettably, he was still awaiting their return before being able to send all the necessary contracts back to the War Memorial Trust. He agreed to chase these outstanding documents as they are currently holding up the implementation of the restoration works at the War Memorial. An update of the progress being made will be given during the next meeting.

Cllr Webb asked if the Council had any plans to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of World War One. It was agreed that such plans will be discussed later in the year when hopefully, the restoration work will be finished. Cllr Walker agreed to contact the Village History Group to ensure that all possible information about the "fallen" during the two wars, will be available on the PC's website.

Cllr Webb asked if the PC was prepared to promote the continuance of the British Legion contingent within the village and ensure the retention of the "standard". She said that Brent Knoll had indicated a willingness to join with East Brent, providing the "standard" was handed over. The Chairman said that whilst he was personally very happy to promote membership of the British Legion, he did not feel that the Parish Council was the right platform with which to do this. Membership of the British Legion is available to anyone, not just to armed forces service personnel. Cllr Webb agreed to find out more about membership costs.

### **PLANNING MATTERS**

Before any debate commenced on planning matters, Cllr Gilling left the hall, as did Cllr Webb. The Chairman went through the decided planning applications listed on the Agenda and no questions were subsequently raised upon them.

He then addressed the current application shown on the Agenda (matters 24/14/00001-Mrs. J. Webb and 24/14/00002-Mr. A. Grant) and invited Cllr McGreavy to advise the Committee on his findings following site meetings which he and Cllrs. Woodward and Bees, had made to the addresses shown. He outlined the details of both the applications and concluded by saying that they could find no reasons why the applications could not receive the support of the Parish Council, after reviewing the criteria the Council must follow. Cllr McGreavy therefore recommended approval of the applications should be sent to SDC. A proposal of support was then made by Cllr Woodward and seconded by Cllr Rawles in relation to the first matter; and proposal by Cllr McGreavy and seconded by Cllr Walker, was made in relation to the second matter. A unanimous vote in favour of both then followed. The Clerk was directed to pass these to SDC.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Clerk highlighted the receipt of the incomes shown on the Agenda and then referred to the proposed payments listed on the Agenda. No questions were raised and a proposal for payment of them all was made by Cllr Woodward and seconded by Cllr Bowden.

A unanimous vote was carried by the whole Committee to pay these items and cheques were subsequently signed by the Chairman and Cllrs Rawles and Walker.

Cllr Lloyd-Jones, in his capacity as Finance Officer for the Council, presented to the Committee, a budget for the spending costs for the remainder of the financial year. He distributed a spread sheet itemising the expenditure so far, together with the projected payments until the financial year-end on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March. One item raised was that the Clerk's salary should be reviewed and this will be discussed between the Chairman, Cllrs Rawles and Lloyd-Jones before the next meeting, so that a recommendation can be brought to the next meeting and discussed. The Clerk emphasised that he was not personally seeking an increase in salary, despite the fact that the Clerk's salary has not been reviewed since April 2012. However, in the interest of keeping the Clerk's salary in line with other Parishes and to facilitate the easier replacement of the Clerk (whenever that might be necessary) by offering a commensurate salary, a review was sensible.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None had been received since the last circularisation of mail at the end of the previous week.

### **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Rawles told the Committee about the serious motor car accident she and her husband had recently attended in Edingworth Road. It was caused by icy conditions on the road surface and had resulted in a car containing two parents, a young child and a baby being stuck in a drainage channel. The father had to be cut free from the car by Fire Officers. All three emergency services had been called to the scene. Cllr Rawles asked that the Parish Council contacted the Highways Dept. to request that during icy conditions, Edingworth Road to its junction with the A370, is treated with salt in the same way as major roads are. There is a strong need for this to be done, as the road becomes very dangerous during such weather conditions and a repeat of a similar accident is highly possible.

Cllr Gilling referred to a letter sent by a Parish Councillor to SDC in relation to the No Pilrow Inquiry Appeal. He said that he had been asked to explain to East Brent Councillors that training was available for all, in order to ensure that they have a full knowledge of planning matters. The Planning Officers at SDC had felt that the letter had been sent partly as a result of a lack of planning law knowledge. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform all the Councillors of the dates, times and venues of various courses being run by SDC, for the benefit of and training of Parish Councillors generally.

Cllr Bowden recommended that there should be a review of the contact details of all Councillors. He felt that this should be undertaken every year, since addresses and telephone numbers change from time to time. The Clerk agreed to undertake this task and he will update and circulate a new spread sheet with all relevant contact details upon it.

Cllr Woodward raised problems being caused by vehicles being parked along Brent Road in front of the doctor's surgery. Recently, near accidents have occurred when cars leave the surgery. Their drivers' view of other traffic using Brent Road is being impaired by the parked vehicles. It was decided that Cllr Woodward would approach Police Woman Pauline Dixon to discuss what can be done to alleviate the problem, as there is little that the PC can do, since it is public highway and outside the control of the PC. Discussions followed between the Councillors on the legal position of cars being parked on or near white lines, marked upon the road surface. It was felt that technically, property owners in Brent Road who park their cars on the road, or cross the white line to enter their own drives, may possibly be committing an offence.

Cllr Walker said that he had placed the advert advising that the position of Village Agent had become available, on the PC's website. News of the resignation of Christine Stephens from that position after 15 months in office, had been circulated earlier that day. He also made reference to the worrying practice of youths "sniffing" gasses from small canisters. He and his wife have spotted empty containers on the footpaths in Old Bristol Road. The Police are aware of this problem and are patrolling accordingly. He asked all Councillors to be vigilant about this practice, in an attempt to stop it.

Cllr Lloyd-Jones mentioned that the rhyne running through East Brent, past the old butchers is a lot lower than in previous years. The Burton Row water diversion work does appear to be significantly helping in keeping the water level low. This also benefits the amount of water coming down from the stilling pond in Rectory Close. He will still pursue SDC about repairing the old goal posts in the playing area on Brent Road. Also he mentioned the SALC training sessions; these cover a good range of subjects and as the PC is a member, it will pay reduced attendance fees and so details of the courses are to be circulated to all Councillors.

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 3rd March 2014 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**