

EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the East Brent Parish Council held at the Village Hall on 11th June 2012 and commenced at 7.30pm, when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillor Cllr E. Champion, Cllr J. Bowden, Cllr W. Walker, Cllr A. Gilling, Cllr J. Webb, Cllr B. Woodward, Cllr V. Clapp, Cllr S McGreavy and the newly appointed Clerk to the Council, Mr Martin Shobbrook; in the public area Mr Martin Keegan, Mr Graham Cole, Mrs Fletcher and two other members of the public.

"Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal opportunities (race gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability) Crime disorder and Human Rights"

There were representations made from the Public at this meeting; the first of which was made by Mr Martin Keegan who was permitted by the Chairman to address him. Mr Keegan said that he was uncertain of the status of the planning application being made by the Isaacs family at "The Stables", Rooksbridge in that it contained no design statement. He therefore suggested that the Parish Council should defer giving its official response to S.D.C. until there has been clarification of the exact intent and purpose of the application. The Committee was advised by Councillor Judith Webb, that the appointed members of the sub-committee (including herself, Cllr. Champion and Cllr. A. Gilling) had made a site visit earlier that day to establish the latest position. Mr Keegan stated that he had written to S.D.C. objecting to the development of a 6m x 5m room at the site. He further stated that he felt the Committee should reject the planning application, as nothing had changed since the Appeal logged 2 years ago. The Inspector had then ruled that a day room would be detrimental to the site. He said that there is no evidence that the site development plan had been adhered to.

Mr Graham Cole said that he had spoken to the Planning Officer, Mr Graham Arnold at S.D.C. and had been told that the plans had been approved. Mr Cole said he wanted to visit the site to check the measurements, but had been told that he could not do so. Nevertheless he visited the site and got as close to it as he could. He said that in his opinion the plans are definitely wrong. He said he would like to see a surveyor visit the site to verify the appropriate measurements. He further stated that an Ariel photograph he has, suggests that the site is much larger than it really is. The area around the static caravan should be 18m, but is actually 24m.

Mrs Fletcher said that she is a neighbour of the applicants and the ditch at the front of the site is waterlogged. In her opinion, the fact that it is deliberately not being maintained is an attempt to force a sale of additional land, to the applicants. The hedge is very large and thick and is hiding the true number of static caravans being kept thereon. There should be two, but there are actually more than this, on the site.

At this point the Chairman intervened and decided to bring forward item 4 on the agenda, so that the members of the public present could hear the comments of the Committee members. He therefore addressed item 4 on the agenda relating to planning matters.

He asked Councillor Judith Webb for her comments on the application in question.

Councillor Webb said that the site is very tidy and is well maintained. She reminded the committee that it's' duty is to address any aspect which concerns the Parish Council. She had spoken with Mr Graham Arnold S.D.C. and as a result, she could advise that on the questions of impact and road usage, there were no issues. However, it is outside the normal development boundary and does have an effect on the landscape. There is also an issue with the local development boundary. On this basis, she would not be able to recommend to the committee that approval is given to the application. The general consensus of opinion from all the Committee members was that they were not in favour of recommending to S.C.C. that approval for this planning application is given. A proposal was made by Cllr J. Bowden and seconded by Cllr. B. Woodward that the application should be rejected by the Parish Council. The motion was unanimously passed by the Committee.

Councillor A. Gilling then said that the more letters S.D.C. receives from the public regarding this application, the better it will be for democracy. S.D.C. should receive a balanced view from the community, he added.

Councillor Gilling advised the committee that S.D.C. was under no obligation to advise the public generally, nor the immediate neighbours of the site, of changes to the original planning application. The applicants must nevertheless ensure that all applications are exhibited at the site for the public to see. When the Inspector had originally adjudicated on the application, he had decided to separate the application for a static caravan from the application for the new building.

01/12: TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received and accepted from Mr R. Filmer. and Cllr. V. Roscorla

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

04/12: The minutes of the meetings held at the school on 16th April and 3rd May were signed as a true reflection of the meetings held by this Parish Council.

ONGOING ISSUES

03/12: Young People Representative : This election was intended to be deferred until the next meeting in June for consideration, but it was generally thought that it should be resolved as quickly as possible as it had been outstanding for a long while.

Councillor Alan Gilling proposed that Councillor Steve Mcgreavy be nominated as the Young Person's representative. It was seconded by Councillor John Bowden and as Councillor Mcgreavy agreed to accept the appointment, the motion was carried.

10/12: Appointment of new Clerk: The Chairman advised that following the decision made by the interview committee, (Cllr V Clapp, Cllr E Champion, Cllr A Gilling and Cllr John Bowden) the position of Clerk to the Parish Council, had been offered to Mr Martin Shobbrook and he had accepted this invitation. The Chairman then proceeded to formally appoint Mr Martin Shobbrook as Clerk to the Council and welcomed him cordially.

Mr Shobbrook responded through the chair, that he was honoured to receive the appointment and that he would do his best to serve the Parish Council to the best

of his ability at all times. He thanked in particular, the kind and gracious welcome Councillor Barbara Woodward had given all the applicants for the position, on the evening of the interviews. He asked for the forbearance of the committee regarding the transfer of the appointment to him, as a large number of the Parish Council papers and documents were currently still with the former Clerk, Mr Bob Strachan.

Finally, Mr Shobbrook gave his contact details to the committee (telephone 01278 421210 and email, martin@shobbrook.co.uk)

07/12: Village Sign: This matter deferred until the Chairman has taken up the progression of this with the Clerk and will be a subject for next meeting in June. It was thought that it should contain reference to the recent celebrations of the Royal Jubilee.

16/12: Play Area next to the village Green: RLT3 Funding available currently in the sum of £ 29,000 the scheme needs drawing up and a business plan produced. It was decided that Harley Cook of Sedgemoor District Council should be consulted on the way forward. The Clerk will liaise with him.

17/12: Pond Adjacent to Rossholme: This matter is on going and will be further reported on in June. The Chairman will investigate further and will report at the next committee meeting.

21/12: An Issue on the green regarding wires at the Village Green.

The Clerk will clarify with S.D.C. the status of the Village Green so that an approach can be made to B.T. regarding the telephone wires which are repeatedly damaged by the trees.

22/12: Owner of Butchers shop issue with lorry.

The Chairman will speak with Mr Owen Cullwick (the acting Clerk) to find out what progress has been made to resolve this matter.

23/12 Bus Stop Location issues

The Chairman will speak with Mr Owen Cullwick (the acting Clerk) to find out what progress has been made to resolve this matter.

24/12: Defibrillator idea for telephone Kiosk

It has been established that the cost of obtaining the necessary kit will be £1195.00 + vat. If full instruction/tuition is given to 8 people, the cost will be £1695.00 + vat.

The Chairman recommended that in order to be effective, the location of the equipment should be at a point which is immediately accessible. The village shop; pub; doctor's surgery would be suitable locations.

It was proposed by Councillor John Bowden and seconded by Councillor Judith Webb that this matter should be re-minuted for further discussion at the next committee meeting.

2225 Strimmer Project

It was decided that Councillor Judith Webb will approach Mr Roger Collins to see if he will be willing to attend this course. Training must be given to the machine operative before the equipment can be used. Ideally, there should be two volunteers. The committee members will “spread the word” generally in the hope that another person will come forward.

PLANNING

Decisions from previous planning applications are given as follows:

Ref. No. 24/12/00013/DRT

Proposal: Formation of all weather turn-out.

Location: Land at, The Old Manor, Bristol Road, Rooksbridge, Axbridge, BS26 2TG

Granted conditional planning permission

Ref. No. 24/12/00016/LE

Proposal: Change of use of former piggery to joinery workshop

Location: Land at, Riverside, Gills Lane, Rooksbridge, Axbridge

Granted conditional planning permission

No further applications have been received.

FINANCIAL MATTERS AND TO APPROVE PAYMENTS

A copy of the receipts and payments until 31st May 2012 was issued to all Parish Councillors present. The balances in the Bank Accounts were reconciled and signed as being correct.

18/12: Payments to be made

Somerset Playing Fields Association £10.00

Owen J Cullwick Acting Clerk Services APM £76.56

East Brent Village Hall Committee £379.00

East Brent & Rooksbridge Community News – 2nd Part of Donation £187.50

Jubilee Expenditure -

C Loader £147.15

P Coles £57.72

Griffin Toilet Hire £145.80

M Richards £35.15

East Brent & Rooksbridge Community News £45.20

St John Ambulance £50

M Crocker £64.60

19/12: It was unanimously agreed to make all of the above payments in full and cheques for these amounts were issued and signed by the Chairman and Councillor Val Clapp.

The transfer of £5,000 from the Capital Reserve to the Current Account was unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman and Councillor Val Clapp.

2222: CORRESPONDENCE:

SCC - Planned Works in Sedgemoor week commencing 21st 28th May 2012:
Circulated

RSN Online – 14th, 21st 28th May 2012: Circulated

Centre for Sustainable Energy, CSE Community Energy Update – May 2012:
Circulated

Audit Commission – Appointment of External Auditor: Circulated

SID Results A38 Edingworth – May 2012: Circulated

SCC, Rights of Way – (13) Modification Order 2010: To Notice Board and
Circulated

SDC – Affordable Housing Open Day 12th July 2012: Circulated

SDC – Another Step in the Hinkley Project, News Release 1st June 2012:
Circulated

Clerks & Councils Direct – May 2012: Circulated

Coast Communications and Marketing Ltd – Connecting Devon & Somerset
Broadband: Circulated

SDC – Adoption of Puriton Energy Park SPD: Circulated

SCC – 2012 ‘Guide to Buses’ Booklets: Circulated

SCC, Highway Lighting Group – E-mail 31st May 2012: Circulated

National Grid – Hinkley Point C Connection Update, 17th May 2012 (Briefings):
Alternative Undergrounding Route, letter from Mr Richard Parker dated 8th June
2012, was read out by the Chairman. The general consensus of opinion of the
committee was that the best route for the power cables was beneath the sea. It
was accepted however, that this will be 17 times more expensive than running
the cables overhead. In addition the committee accepted that there were
problems associated with putting the cables under ground. This would
necessitate a wide tranche of land (the width of a motorway) being adopted,
where the soil would become sterile because of the heat from the cables
radiating into the ground.

The Clerk was asked to draft a suitable letter in reply, including the views and
thoughts of the committee members.

Sedgemoor Citizens Advice Bureau – letter received from C.A.B. advising that
the Annual General Meeting will occur on 6th July 2012.

As the Parish Council has in the past made voluntary subscriptions to the C.A.B.
it was thought that receipt of this notification was because the council was on the
C.A.B.’s mailing list and that no further action was needed.

MATTERS OF REPORT:

RSN Online – Rural Opportunities Bulletin, June 2012: Circulated

Vans parked outside Broderick's shop. Raised by Councillor Val Clapp. The committee agreed that the highways authority should have implemented a one way system when the old Bristol Road was closed off. It was suggested that an approach should be made to the Highways Authority to turn the road into a one way system and to find out the procedure for doing this. The Clerk will undertake this and itemise the matter for further discussion at the next committee meeting.

The Parish Council's Website. Raised by Councillor Bill Walker. He read to the committee, a letter received from Mrs Molly Richards dated 11th June 2012. Councillor Walker expressed his surprise at its contents in the light of the initial response given to the proposed Website by Mrs Richards. Councillor Val Clapp said that she could understand Mrs Richard's reaction, as the circulation figures for the news paper will probably diminish if repeats the news given in the newspaper. The Website is dependent upon including the local news. Councillor Judith Webb said the accountancy of the newspaper needs to be looked into. She immediately emphasised that there was no question whatsoever being made, of any impropriety of the accounts prepared by Mrs Richards. Councillor Bill Walker suggested that there should be a meeting arranged with Mrs Richards to discuss this. The Parish Council has given £900.00 to the newspaper each year and needs to see that it is getting value for the donations it makes. Councillor John Bowden proposed that the sub committee members (Councillors Walker, Webb and Mcgreavy) should approach Mrs Richards to discuss this matter. If the matter is resolved soon, then the Website could go "live" within 3-4 weeks. The Chairman declared an interest in this topic, but as he had not addressed the committee, nor made any comments appertaining thereto, it was felt that there had been no infringement of the committee rules.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

The Next Parish Council Meeting planned for Monday 2nd July 2012 or earlier if a planning meeting is required