

# **Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 in the Village Hall, Bramfield at 7pm.**

## **Minutes**

### **Present:**

Cllr. A. Thomas (Chairman); Cllr. A. Rozkalns (Vice Chairman); Cllr. A. Niven and Cllr. W. Shoote:

### **Also Present:**

County Cllr. M. Gower; Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and two parishioners:

#### **1) To elect a Chair for 2016 – 2017 and receive the Chair's Declaration of Acceptance of Office:**

Cllr. A. Thomas was unanimously elected.

Proposer: Cllr. P. Layfield                      Seconded: Cllr. A. Niven

#### **2) To elect a Vice-Chair for 2016 - 2017:**

Cllr. A. Rozkalns was unanimously elected.

Proposer: Cllr. W. Shoote                      Seconded: Cllr. P. Layfield

#### **3) To appoint a Responsible Finance Officer for 2016 - 2017:**

The Clerk was unanimously appointed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Rozkalns                      Seconded: Cllr. W. Shoote

#### **4) Apologies:**

Cllr. M. Bond; District Cllr. R. Catchpole:

#### **5) To receive Declarations of Interest and confirm all members have reviewed their Declarations of Interest Forms:**

Cllr. A. Rozkalns declared an interest in Bramfield Village Hall.

#### **6) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:**

County Councillor M. Gower reported that he was involved in a European Union Referendum Debate on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 at Wenhaston Village Hall at 7-30pm where he would be speaking for the 'Leave' view. He said that with UKIP winning a seat on the County Council from the Conservatives in a recent By-Election, the Council had become nominally 'Hung'. County Cllr. M. Gower also reported that Bramfield Primary School was looking to perhaps become an academy.

**7) Public Session:**

A parishioner thanked the council for the donation to the churchyard. They said that added to the money the church already holds, the church will be able to look after the churchyard for several years to come.

**8) To confirm the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2016 and the AGM held on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2015:**

The Minutes were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Rozkalns

Seconder: Cllr. W. Shoote

**9) Matters arising:**

Cllr. W. Shoote reported that the plot of land in Pitmans Grove that is currently unused had never left the land bundle applied for Blyth Rural District Council according to the records. Councillors therefore believe that they can assume that Suffolk Coastal District Council own the land and it was agreed to approach them when the proposals on how to use the land had been agreed.

It was also noted that the Railway Bridge near Brook Hall Farm on Edwards Lane was to have a three tonne maximum limit but it had not been posted yet.

**10) Traffic Report on A144:**

Cllr. A. Niven reported that the Police, Parish Council, County Councillor and Wenhaston representative had all met for a meeting with David Chenery from Suffolk County Council (SCC) Highways taking the Minutes. Eleven proposals in view of the map of accidents were discussed and taken back to be further reflected on for the next meeting. The eleven proposals are:

- 1) *Police to see if the Safecam van can be active on the A144 north of the village;*
- 2) *If it can, then Parish Council to ask SCC for camera warning signs (Parish Council to find funds);*
- 3) *Police to carry out further SDR speed checks in the village;*
- 4) *David Chenery to ask Sharon Payne (SCC HQ) for any scoring of the A144 safety risks;*
- 5) *David Chenery to check criteria for double solid lines in centre of road north of village to deter drivers cutting corners;*
- 6) *David Chenery to check criteria for a 50mph limit between Halesworth and Bramfield;*
- 7) *The Parish Council to consider asking SCC to extend the village 30mph northwards (and funding this at £5k+);*
- 8) *The Parish Council to consider asking SCC for a 40mph buffer limit prior to the 30mph at north of the village;*
- 9) *The Parish Council to consider asking SCC for a gateway and roundels on the north side of village (and funding this at £5k+). It was agreed to see if this is feasible as this might block visibility from accesses;*
- 10) *The Parish Council to consider asking SCC for a new footway going north out of the village. It was agreed that this may be very expensive and may need land;*
- 11) *The Parish Council to contact landowners about overhanging branches along the A144. This was agreed that this may have to be deferred until September as we are into bird nesting season:*

Cllr. A. Thomas suggested that a small group of councillors is formed to prioritise and circulate to other councillors the eleven proposals. There was some confusion over the fourth proposal so Cllr. A. Thomas said that she would ask for clarification from David Chenery. It was noted that the Speed Camera Van had been to Bramfield recently.

### **11) Defibrillator update:**

Cllr. W. Shoote said that he had the defibrillator and the cabinet. He said that Pearce and Kemp would install it and he had received the invoice for £1560.

### **12) Planning Matters:**

The Clerk reported that there were no Planning Applications

### **13) Clerk's Report and Correspondence:**

The Clerk said that he had received Submission Documents – Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies from Waveney District Council, the 'Suffolk View' Magazine from the Suffolk Preservation Society and 'Help Plan our Future' Options for the new Waveney Local Plan. The Clerk also circulated the annual report from Therese Coffey MP and reported that Community Action Suffolk was offering free membership.

It was agreed to apply for free membership of Community Action Suffolk.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Niven:    Second: Cllr. W. Shoote:

The Clerk said that he had also received an email from Chris Collins regarding Bramfield in Bloom and Litter-Picking. The Clerk said that Chris Collins thinks it would be a good idea to brighten Bramfield up with some planters, in the same way that Halesworth in Bloom has brightened up Halesworth. The Clerk said that he suggests that to start with we get a couple of planters made by the Halesworth Men's Shed and place them in suitable positions such as the bus shelter triangle, near the "sharp end" (perhaps under the Bramfield sign on the tall post) and one on the grass opposite the garage, possibly in the front corner next to the pub (where there is already a paving slab). The Clerk said that Chris Collins has said that he will make sure that the planters and plants are well maintained and hopes that there will be no objections from the grass-cutting team.

He asks whether the parish council would consider funding this? He said that prices of around £16 each were mentioned by the Men's Shed and compost and the plants themselves would be extra. I believe that both these sites belong to the District Council and I would appreciate help in approaching them if we will need permission to install the planters.

It was agreed to contribute up to £100 to meet the costs of the proposals above.

Proposer: Cllr. P. Layfield    Second: Cllr. A. Niven

The Clerk said that Chris Collins had also reported that he and other litter pickers had recently collected something between 60 and 70 bags of rubbish along Bramfield's roads and that they intend to make this once again an annual event. He said that this year the District Council had provided them with a kit of litter-picking sticks, bags, gloves and bag holders on a loan basis. The Clerk said that they wish to operate more independently and arrange litter picking as and when convenient so Chris Collins has approached the Parish Council to fund the purchase of our own sticks and bag holders, together with a supply of bags and gloves. The Clerk said that he says there are already 3 litter pickers and another 5 would mean we could have several teams out at the same time.

The Clerk reported that Chris Collins had said that the best prices he had found for the same equipment as that supplied by the council are: 5 x litter pickers - £49.95; 6 x bag holders - £55.90 or a total of £105.85. Gloves would be around £16 for 6 pairs each of 3 sizes. The Clerk said that Chris also mentioned that cheaper litter pickers are available on Ebay, etc. but they are not as long and may well be of lower quality and that he had not priced bags at this stage.

The Councillors were very supportive of the litter-pickers and wished to thank them for all their hard work. However Councillors wondered if reflective jackets also needed to be purchased and felt that there needed to be a further breakdown of costs. When the answers to these questions were received then the Council would return to the issue.

#### **14) Financial Report:**

##### **(a) Balances at the Bank on April 30th 2016:**

Business Community Account	£9 300-17
Business Savings Account	£6 594.94

The Clerk reported that there are no outstanding cheques. He said that the first Precept Payment has been paid into the Account of £2 732-57 which accounts for the increase in the Bank Community Account.

##### **(b) Cheques for payment:**

Chq. No. 101001 Clerk's Salary for April	£180-58
Chq. No. 101002 The 'Community Heartbeat Trust' for Defibrillator	£1560-00
Chq. No. 101003 A. Hewitt	£260-00
Chq. No. 101004 Village Hall – Queen's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration	£239-50

Proposer: Cllr. P. Layfield:                      Seconder: Cllr. A. Niven:

##### **(c) To review Internal Audit Report for the year ending March 31<sup>st</sup> 2016:**

The Clerk went through the Internal Auditors Report. It was agreed to implement the recommendations and to review and renew the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations at a future meeting.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Thomas:                      Seconder: Cllr. A. Rozkalns:

#### **15) Matters of Information from Members:**

It was noted that the telephone box needed painting. Cllr. A. Thomas suggested asking Community Payback. It was agreed to approach Community Payback.

#### **16) To receive agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday, June 13th 2016:**

It was agreed to put the Traffic Report on A144 on every agenda until further notice and Pitman's Grove Land on the next agenda.

**The Meeting ended at 9-04pm:**