

BRAMFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE LORAINÉ PARISH ROOM, BRAMFORD ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT: Mrs M Brand, C Bush, B Earthy, J Gardiner, W Holton, J Hooker, G Key, P Kingham, Mrs C Mobbs

1.10 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions forthcoming. Representatives for the outline planning application (item 8) present.

2.10 TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS FROM THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Verbal report from District Councillor Welsby, including biodiversity concerns regarding Item 8 on agenda and future use of BT phone boxes.

Verbal and written report from County Councillor Field, including update on devolution process.

3.10 APOLOGIES

None received

4.10 Declarations of interest appropriate to any item on the agenda

None received

5.10 MINUTES of meetings held on 19th and 29th September approved and signed.

6.10 ACTIONS OUTSTANDING

- a. Bramford Scout HQ – works to building – matter deferred to next meeting to allow for submission of additional estimates.

7.10 FINANCES

- a. Monthly payments – it was agreed to sign cheques to the value of £6059.69, including cheques to the value of £226.60, signed on 29th September.
- b. External audit – Councillors unanimously agreed that Cllr Holton review current internal controls policy in line with BDO recommendation.

8.10 PLANNING

- a. 2255/16 – Application for outline planning permission for the demolition of buildings and the change of use land from commercial nursery to land for residential development. Alterations of vehicular access and creation of pedestrian foot way – Former ByPass Nursery, Bramford Road.

Councillors considered this application and made the following observations;

The access to the proposed site is on a short distance of road that is currently the main transport

route into Ipswich. This stretch is already busy with vehicles often exceeding the 30mph speed limit and a number of existing hidden accesses. Councillors are concerned that adequate and safe visibility can't be obtained from the proposed access/exit point as a result of these issues.

The Parish Council are also concerned about the continued encroachment of the Ipswich outskirts and feel that the site offers an important visual separation from the growing town and Bramford village itself as a separate identity. This particular concern was raised by Bramford residents within a Parish Plan, updated in 2012, 'We are in danger of losing village identity and should resist at all costs becoming part of Ipswich'.

In fact one of the two guiding principles of all the recommendations made in the Village Design Statement at the time was that '...Bramford should not come to look like a suburb of Ipswich'.

Thirdly, Councillors are concerned about the biodiversity of the area which has, in effect, become a wildlife haven with little information of what species are currently thriving on the site. Local knowledge indicates a range of snakes and lizards having been sighted and Councillors feel an independent inspection take place to ensure the natural habits of certain protected species are not destroyed unnecessarily.

The Parish Council are aware that MSDC does not have a five year plan relating to suitable building land and that this may well be the only factor considered when deciding upon this outline application, but would request that the objections recorded here be considered appropriately.

9.10 ONE SUFFOLK WEBSITE

Councillors agreed unanimously to transfer the Council's website hosting and back-up facilities to Suffolk Cloud at a cost of £100 per annum.

10.10 BRAMFORD OPEN SPACES

Cllr Hooker stated that should any outdoor property, bought using a grant supplied by SUEZ, be vandalised/intentionally damaged B.O.S. would be responsible for the return of the grant, thereby restricting insurance options available, and a request was made for BPC to underwrite any relevant claim that may arise. Although concern was raised as to the terms of the grant, councillors agreed risk acceptable in the circumstances.

Councillors agreed, 8 – 1, to financially support B.O.S. in the event of any relevant claim from SUEZ.

11.10 ALLOTMENTS

Councillors considered costs of proposed pest control procedures too costly in comparison with allotment rent income and agreed unanimously to leave current procedure in place, with an option to review at a later date.

8.35pm Meeting closed

Chairman

Date