

## **BRAMFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN THE PARISH ROOM, BRAMFORD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019**

**PRESENT:** Mrs M Brand, B Earthy, J Gardiner, P Heal, A Horn, K Key, P Kingham

#### **1.3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Councillors were advised that the Co-op store in The Street was to change its opening hours by one hour at the start and end of the day, making opening hours 6am to 11pm, from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Residents expressed concerns over potential public order problems with alcohol being sold late into the evening, and the potential increase in vehicles since the closure of the Tesco Express on Bramford Road. Councillors requested that the Clerk write to the Co-op to establish further details and express concerns raised by residents.

A resident expressed concerns over the number, and condition, of horses on land bordering the public footpath linking Acton Road with Paper Mill Lane. Councillors requested that the Clerk write to the relevant agencies and organisations to report this situation.

County Councillor John Field advised the Council that he would also write to the relevant agencies and organisations.

A resident expressed concerns over the state of the footpaths along Bramford Road, from ‘Gables Corner’ to the River Hills Health Club.

#### **2.3 TO RECEIVE THE REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Verbal report from County Councillor John Field regarding recent District meeting, strategies on homelessness and elderly care facilities and changes to the CIL funding bidding system.

#### **3.3 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Wayne Holton’s apology was accepted by the Council.

#### **4.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELEVANT TO THE AGENDA**

None received

#### **5.3 MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February approved and signed.

#### **6.3 STATUTORY BUSINESS**

None to consider.

#### **7.3 ACTION PLAN**

- a. Works to Council building – external windows and woodwork- contractor details supplied by scout leader group being contacted for quotes.
- b. Works to Council building – clearance of gutter and ground weeds – gutters completed, ground weeds to be cleared in near future.

- c. Works to Council building – repair of decorative memorial stone – still no response from potential repairer, further potential stonemasons to be identified.
- d. Cemetery – additional pathway to cremation plots – no new updates.
- e. Cemetery – Field adjacent to cemetery, maintenance – existing contract to be presented to legal representative for suitable update.
- f. Cemetery – Unauthorised structure – grave plots 589, 590 and 591 – Clerk to continue enquiries with ICCM in first instance.
- g. Cemetery – Location of remains – cremation plots 606 and 611 – remains located in plot 611, funeral director area manager to continue enquiries regarding error.
- h. Speed Indicator Signs – purchase update – order confirmed with approximate delivery time of six weeks.
- i. Office – Replacement computer – Clerk to delay purchase until after end-of-year accounts completed, due to requirement for separate upload of financial software.

### **8.3 FINANCE**

- a. Monthly Payments – Councillors agreed to sign cheques to the value of £1,784.02
- b. Grass cutting invoice 2019/20 – Councillors agreed to accept the costs for grass cutting as £971.72 in 2019/20, as per the invoice supplied.

### **9.3 PLANNING**

- a. DC/19/00798 – Erection of a single storey side/rear extension – Braeside, Hibbard Road  
  
Councillors offered no comment regarding this application.
- b. DC/19/00815 – Erection of 3no retail units with vehicular access and parking – Part of Suffolk Water Park, Loraine Way.  
  
Councillors offered no comment regarding this application.
- c. DC/19/00413 – Outline planning application (some matters reserved) – Erection of 2no detached dwellings and creation of new access and passing place – Land adjacent to Rosehaven, Hibbard Road.  
  
Councillors offered no comment regarding this application.
- d. DC/19/00855 – Creation of a new vehicular access – 13 Loraine Way.  
  
Councillors offered no comment regarding this application.
- e. DC/18/00233 – Outline Application (with access and all other matters reserved) – Residential development of up to 195 homes, including affordable homes, pre-school facility, with areas of landscaping and public open space, new access from Loraine Way and pedestrian and cycle links (Revised Application) – Reason for re-consultation: Revised layout to include pre-school, supporting information including ecology and landscaping – Land east of The Street and Loraine Way.

Councillors considered this revised application and wish to reiterate their earlier comments regarding the suitability of pedestrian and cycle links to ensure the 'inclusion' of residents and safe access to amenities. They continue to regard the single access onto Loraine Way as an issue when considered alongside other significant developments currently underway, or with planning approval to do so at some point in the near future. Councillors also wished consideration to be made as to the impact on the existing pre-school in Duckamere and how, if at all, both are likely to compare/compete.

- f. DC/19/00870 – Hybrid Planning Application – Outline application (some matters reserved) for up to 15no dwellings and access (including up to 5no affordable dwellings) – Full planning Application – Creation of 46 additional parking spaces for the River Hills Health Club – Land adjacent to Clarice House Leisure Club, Bramford Road.

Councillors considered this application and agreed to challenge the Highway statement regarding pedestrian provision along this stretch of Bramford Road.

They wish to make continued representation about previously expressed safety concerns in submission to the Joint Local Plan Consultation and another planning application for development (By-Pass Nurseries where a new foot-way is proposed but only along its frontage) and the state of the paths was a recent agenda in its own right.

A single 0.6m footway is not 'good existing pedestrian provision' and results in pedestrians having to walk in the roadway, invariably occupied by speeding vehicles, to get past each other, mobility scooters, pushchairs and wheelchairs, etc. Local residents are extremely concerned for their safety and, with Suffolk Highways refusing to maintain this foot-way to its designed width, have resorted to creating 'passing bays' and have had to cut back the overhanging vegetation themselves.

Some time ago the Parish Council was consulted regarding Footpath 30A and agreed with the Public Rights of Way team that it was rarely used, primarily because of the danger when crossing the A14, and it need not be maintained – it is currently blocked by a fallen tree.

Councillors don't believe Footpath 31 has been maintained for some years, to the point that it's difficult to identify the exact route to its A14 crossing point. Access to this footpath, from Gable's Farm, is now physically impossible due to barbed wire and other barriers, the forestation of the roadside bank and the deterioration of the steps along its course.

In any event, as can be seen in Figure 4: Footpath Links, these footpaths fail to 'enable wider connectivity' as they no longer cross the A14.

Although Footpath 32 does provide an alternative walking route from Bramford Road (by the site's southern access) alongside the railway line towards Bramford, Councillors consider this to be inaccessible to motor scooters, pushchairs, wheelchairs or other less able-bodied pedestrians.

Finally, the Parish Council would like to express their concerns over reports that despite the footpath along Bramford Road being assessed as a 'route to and from school' a subsequent assessment has declared the route 'unsafe' resulting in at least one child being taxied to and from school at the expense of SCC Highway's department.

- g. Dc/19/01041 – Erection of a new rear pitched roof, installation of fenestration and internal arrangements – Greys, 2 Limes Avenue.

Councillors offered no comment regarding this application.

- h. DC/19/00378 – Application for Listed Building Consent – Replace 5no windows like-for-like – Thornbush Hall.

Councillors offered no comment regarding this application.

- i. DC/19/01074 – Erection of part two storey, part single storey annexed accommodation together with single storey rear extension to existing dwelling. Demolition of garage – 5 Paper Mill Lane.

Councillors considered this application and, whilst accepting this development is to be constructed within the boundary of the existing property, expressed concerns for the regular flooding issues to the land adjacent to the property boundary. They therefore request that any decision takes flooding issues into consideration.

- j. DC/19/00567 – Hybrid Application comprising Outline Planning Application (Access to be considered) Erection of up to 114no dwellings, including 13 self-build/custom build plots, affordable housing, open space including village green, land for B1(a) offices and D1 nursery, provision of land to extend grounds of Wild Man Public House, village allotments, paddocks and caravan storage. Full planning application for spine road and associated highway works – Land north of Burstall Lane, Sproughton.

Councillors considered this application at a recent meeting due to its proximity to Bramford's parish boundary and other potential planning applications relevant to encroachment of the land currently separating the villages of Sproughton and Bramford, with the Local Plan (2012) identifying the desire by residents to keep the unique identity of Bramford separate from other parishes.

Councillors are under the impression that Babergh District Council, in the absence of an up-to-date Local Plan, can demonstrate a suitable five year housing land supply in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and can, therefore, demonstrate suitable housing provision in the absence of this proposed development, and would urge the District Council to decline this application as a result.

Councillors are concerned that suitable consideration is not being given to the cumulative effects of developments in the wider area and their subsequent effect on local infrastructure, services and amenities. Bramford residents are reliant on access to major transport routes (A14 and A12) and essential shopping requirements, through the village of Sproughton, along a road that often narrows to a single lane due to the width of the road and on-road parking, further reducing traffic flow to a stand-still at key times.

Councillors are unable to identify a suitable solution to these traffic issues due to the proximity of houses to the road-side preventing any road-widening options and the lack of alternative parking provisions for affected Sproughton residents.

They therefore feel that an addition to the number of traffic movements as a result of this proposed development could further isolate Bramford residents from key services and major transport routes.

They also dispute the figures supplied with regard to vehicular movements on and off the proposed development and request that the Highways department make suitable disclosure as to the calculations used to reach these figures for further scrutiny.

### **10.3 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND RELEVANT GROUPS**

- a. Bramford Playing Field – Cllr Gardiner stated new play equipment was due to be in place around May
- b. Loraine Victory Hall – Cllr Horn stated some long-term, outstanding room-hire invoices had now been paid by the Ipswich Hospital.
- c. Bramford Open Spaces – nothing to report.
- d. Councillor’s Report – i) Cllr Gardiner advised the Council of training in Allotment Management at SALC  
ii) No issues raised.

### **11.3 CLERK’S REPORT**

The Clerk advised Councillors that she had been successful in her application for the role of Clerk and RFO to Sproughton Parish Council and would be undertaking this role along with her role as Clerk and RFO for Bramford Parish Council.

She also advised Councillors about accompanying a member of MSDC Planning as part of attempts to be better informed as to local processes.

### **12.3 ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Cllr Gardiner requested an update regarding responsibilities for grass-cutting and river clearance in Fraser Road.

Draft End-of-Year accounts.

9pm Meeting closed.

CHAIR

DATE