

Bredfield Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Bredfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall on 25th September 2023

Parish Councillors present: Nik Bestow; Vince Buckman; Hilary Harker; Anne Henderson, David Hepper, Lynn Taylor, Tony Richardson; together with County Councillor Elaine Bryce & District Councillor Colin Hedgley
There were 6 members of the public present.

1/250923 Apologies and approvals of absence

None.

2/250923 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

None

3/250923 Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings of the Parish Council held on 24th July, 16th August & 23rd August 2023

All were approved and signed by the Chair.

4/250923 Members of the public are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda. Reports may be received from the District and County Councillors

Reports had been received from County Cllr Bryce & District Councillor Hedgley. These had been circulated to all Councillors and are available to view on our website.

Cllr Bryce highlighted the National Care Awards, the 1.3m Suffolk Fire & Rescue Training Centre at Wattisham and LionLink energy proposals which SCC fear may harm Suffolk's coastline. She also confirmed she had filed her objection to the Forge planning application. Cllr Bestow suggested that the LionLink proposal should be further highlighted. Cllr Henderson mentioned the damaged 30mph sign coming into the village along Woodbridge Road which had been reported to Highways months/years ago and the Lorry signs which were either faded or missing. Cllr Bryce will take this up with Highways and she advised the meeting that there may be more funding available for local signage.

Cllr Hedgley advised that he and District Cllr Clery would be splitting the ward for parish meeting attendance and confirmed he would be coming to our meetings until August 2024. He highlighted the nitrous oxide issues from his report. He also confirmed that he had requested, if the Case Officer was minded to approve the Forge planning application, that it be passed to the Referral Panel, and should then go to the Planning Committee. If this occurs, the PC with a parish representative, would have the opportunity to speak at this meeting.

A member of the public expressed their thanks to both County & District Councillors for supporting our objections to the Forge planning application. It was also noted that Hasketon Parish Council had requested to see a copy of the pre-application advice, but this had been only been obtained after a FOI request.

5/250923 To consider any current planning matters, including:

Previous applications, decisions still outstanding:

DC/22/2707/FUL - Creation of vehicular access - The Old Rectory, The Street, Bredfield - **Awaiting decision: discussed at meeting August 2022**

DC/23/2693/FUL - Demolition of the existing commercial buildings on site and the erection of 7no dwellings and 14no commercial units on land of the former forge site - The Forge, Woodbridge Road, Bredfield – **Awaiting decision: discussed at meeting on 16th August.**

DC/23/2650/VOC - Variation of Condition No. 2 on application DC/18/3474/FUL - Proposed removal of existing dwelling and erection of new dwelling on same location - The plot has a new owner who would like an amended layout of the proposed dwelling. The changes include slightly different proportions to

the dwelling, revised internal layout, and revised external changes to suit new layout, Wyndways, Dallinghoo Road, Bredfield – **Awaiting decision**: discussed at meeting on 23rd August. There were no new applications.

6/250923 To discuss a proposition to utilise sonic mole deterrent devices on the Green

The following two-part proposal had been received from the BWF group:

- End the £400 pa contract to trap and kill moles on the village green.
- Work with others to find alternative solutions that will help maintain the required appearance of the village green.

This was discussed in depth, and it was agreed that the mole eradication contract would not be renewed and to examine alternative methods of deterrence. It was noted that proposed sonic deterrents may not be effective. The BWF group undertook to work with those parishioners who mow the green, and to agree a plan for the maintenance of the green. Cllr Bestow would liaise with the group. Clerk to cancel the mole contract.

7/250923 To discuss email from East Suffolk Planning Alliance in connection with The Forge planning application

This was noted but as discussed at a previous meeting we would not join this group at the present time.

8/250923 To receive an update on the Jubilee Meadow and Orchard including finances

The following report had been received from Stewart Bellfield\;

1. Meadow mown by SWT at start of September (later than usual, for reasons beyond our control)
2. Repairs to shelter carried out (excellently) by Max Brown.
3. Annual Juicing Day cancelled this year, due to a reported sparsity of apples locally.
4. Some concern over a couple of messages on Woodbridge Community Facebook, that Bredfield Meadow and Orchard is an “excellent place to take your dog and let it run free”! Jo Belfield has made replies to try to correct this. Might be time for a ‘big sign’ at the entrance!

Cllr Hepper advised that some residents had raised concerns that the meadow hedges and tree surrounds had become overgrown, and the fruit trees needed pruning and new guards installed. If more help was needed, MailChimp could be used, and Cllr Henderson suggested that it may be time to do some more fundraising which would help raise the profile of the orchard to new residents. This was noted by representatives of the BJMO group.

The grass cutting invoice had been received - £120.00. There would be a further invoice for the mower service and future costs may include more permanent labelling and posts etc for tree guards. It was pointed out that the BJMO had £2328.41 in their reserve account which is available to spend.

9/250923 To note any developments regarding the ditch and footpath at the new Woods Meadow Development

Cllr Hepper had been in contact with Chapel Homes who still have responsibility for this development and had been advised that a rail will be installed along the path and weeds removed. We will be kept in the loop.

10/250923 To receive an update on the signage at Potash Corner

An email had been received from Jonathan King at Potash Corner regarding the new prominent signage on this corner. This is the result of recommendations made by the coroner following the unfortunate recent accident and death. It was noted that the Council’s stated reasons for not previously updating the signage, i.e., insufficient funding and no longer national policy, were overruled by the coroner. Mr King has confirmed he will trim the hedge in order to prevent obstruction of the signs. The PC would like to express our thanks to Mr King for all his efforts in this matter.

11/250923 To note that East Suffolk Council have re-filled the Grit Bins

A communication had been received from Suffolk Highways confirming that all Grit Bins would be refilled by the end of August. Cllr Harker has checked our two and at present there has been no new grit installed but they are half full. Cllr Harker will monitor the situation.

120923 To receive an update on the recent Road Safety Forum

Cllr Hepper had been unable to attend the latest Road Safety Forum and no Minutes have been received at present.

13/250923 To receive any updates from the Community Partnership Forum

Cllr Bestow confirmed there had been no further meetings since July and that the October meeting had been cancelled. No future dates at present.

14/250923 To discuss progress and any further actions from the Audit Report 2022/23

All actions had been completed.

15/250923 To discuss the 2024/25 Budget

A draft proposed budget for 2024/25 had been circulated to all Councillors by Cllr Bestow showing fixed costs of around £7148.00. This was discussed and it was proposed that the Precept would need to be increased to cover these costs, possibly 3%. Discussion took place regarding asset maintenance costs and it was suggested that a 5 year plan for maintenance/repairs should be agreed. The defibrillator pads and batteries need to be renewed in 2024 – grants available for new defibrillators if parts for existing ones are prohibitive. Speed signs could be funded from CIL monies. The budget figure for 2024/25 will be confirmed at the November meeting when the Precept is agreed.

16/250923 Finances

A bank reconciliation had been circulated to all Councillors showing a balance of £23872.26

Community	4428.35		
Parish Reserve	17081.60		
BJMO Reserve	2328.41		
Total	23838.36		
Petty Cash (BJMO) held	33.90	TOTAL	£23872.26

Invoices paid since last meeting and approved on 24th July and 23rd August

Date	Payee	Net	VAT	For	Cost Centre	Authorised
09/05	V Buckman	10.40	2.08	Material for Coronation post	Community	Cllr Hepper
17/07	L Buckman	3.96	0.79	Printing paper	Supplies	Cllr Hepper
31/07	L Buckman	241.11		Clerk Pay: July	Wages	Cllr Hepper
31/07	HMRC	5.20		Clerk PAYE	Wages	Cllr Hepper
29/07	ICO	35.00		Data Protection Registration	Supplies/Web	Cllr Hepper
31/07	ESC	67.32		Election nomination papers	Supplies/Web	Cllr Hepper
26/07	Village Hall	10,000.00		Grant: Roof repairs	C I L	Cllr Hepper
26/07	ES Services	256.69	51.34	Quarter 2 Waste collection	Waste	Cllr Hepper
29/08	L Buckman	241.11		Clerk Pay: August	Wages	Cllr Hepper
29/08	HMRC	5.20		Clerk PAYE	Wages	Cllr Hepper

Invoices to be paid

Date	Payee	Net	VAT	For	Cost centre
11/09	SWT	120.00	24.00	BJMO mowing	Meadow
31/07	Bredfield VH	40.00		Hall Hire	Community
30/09	L Buckman	240.91		Clerk Pay September	Wages
30/09	HMRC	5.40		Clerk PAYE	Wages
01/10	One Suffolk	50.00	10.00	Website Hosting	Supplies/Web

All of these invoices were approved for payment.

Breakdown of Income received since last meeting:

17/08 £85.56 Waste Shop

21/08 £85.56 Waste Village Hall

Progress with Change of Bank Signatory

The Mandate has finally been approved and a confirmation letter received by the Clerk. Cllr Harker has been in contact with Barclays Bank and is now set up for online banking.

No additional applications for CIL funding had been received at the present time.

17/250923 Correspondence, and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

Invitation for Councillors to attend a briefing and discussion on the current status of the various energy projects proposed for East Suffolk on 4th October – advise Clerk if you wish to attend.

Invitation to attend pre-engagement session on the future of the Suffolk Library Service on 26th September. Cllr Bestow has updated the Website to make it clearer how to contact the PC following a communication received from a resident.

Cllr Hepper thanked Cllr Bestow for his input into the Lantern magazine on behalf of the PC.

Cllr Buckman will investigate works happening on land opposite the gas building on Woodbridge Road near Potash Corner.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.40.

Next meeting Monday 27th November at 7.30pm in Village Hall.