

## Bredfield Parish Council

### Minutes of the Meeting of Bredfield Parish Council held at the Village Hall

on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7:30pm

*Parish Councillors present:* Nik Bestow; Vince Buckman; Hilary Harker; Anne Henderson, David Hepper (Chair); Tony Richardson; Lynn Taylor together with District Councillor Hedgley & County Councillor Bryce. There were 9 members of the public present

#### **1/251124 Apologies and approvals of absence**

There were no apologies.

#### **2/251124 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation**

None.

#### **3/251124 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes from the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

These Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

#### **4/251124 Reports may be received from the District and County Councillors**

District Cllr Hedgley and County Cllr Bryce had forwarded reports and these are available to view on the PC website.

County Cllr Bryce had been investigating the issues Cllr Richardson had raised when trying to report problems with the pathways in Pump Close. It was now confirmed that it is Highways responsibility. They confirmed that they were inspected by one of their officers on 29<sup>th</sup> October and deemed that no action was necessary as it does not meet their intervention levels.

*Cllr Bryce will take this further as it was agreed that the pathways were dangerous.*

The next Community Partnership Forum will be held in Bredfield Village Hall pm Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm.

#### **5/251124 To discuss any possible projects to be funded from District Cllr Hedgley's Enabling Communities Budget**

District Cllr Hedgley confirmed he still had funds available to sponsor small projects this year and that any request should be sent direct to him. No definite projects were put forward. It was suggested to the BJMO that they could also apply for funding from this budget.

#### **6/251124 Members of the public are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on the agenda, to include correspondence from residents**

An email had been received from a resident supporting the Bus Proposal (Item 13 on Agenda). They had seen it in the Hasketon Parish News and had a comment on the timings which was noted, A resident requested confirmation of when Highways had last carried out drain flushing following the flooding in October 2023.

*Cllr Hepper will contact Highways for details of when drain flushing will be carried out in Bredfield.*

#### **7/251124 Actions brought forward from previous meetings**

**Item 5/300924 – Representation to Cabinet Minister for Highways regarding safety issues at A12 junction – Cllr Hepper** – A reply had been received from Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Paul West as follows:

“Suffolk County Council (SCC) is aware that it is a difficult junction to turn in and out for, similar to many junctions on the A12 and other A class roads, due to the nature of the traffic volume, so caution is required, particularly in dull conditions and the winter months.

Police records indicate that there have been 3 injury collisions in the last 5 years, and following the Police reports it appears that the road layout was not at fault in these, rather they were attributed to driver error. Due to the nature of the local environment, previous speed limit adjustments have been considered, but they have not met SCC's speed limit policy or received support from the Police. At this time, I would advise you to make contact with your County Councillor, who may wish to support and fund a thorough review of the junction including a Speed Limit Report, which would be assessed against our policy to consider any change in the speed restriction". County Cllr Bryce is aware of the response and confirmed she is checking into costs for a review of safety and is waiting for clarification from Cllr West on this and whether Sizewell C Funding was available. She will continue to monitor. It was pointed out that in the short term the white lines need remarking – *Clerk/Chair to report this.*

**Item 6/300924 – Litter Pick – Cllr Bestow** – A Village Litter Pick had taken place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October and 14 residents collected rubbish including paint cans using the litter pickers and bag holders provided by East Suffolk Community Partnership. The pickers etc are now stored in the Church Room. Cllr Bestow will investigate obtaining fluorescent jackets for the future. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Bestow and Paul Cannard for organising. Thanks were also expressed to Cllr Harker who cleaned the Pump and signs on the same day.

**8/251124 To note progress on the following planning matters:**

- **DC/24/3295/FUL - Single storey rear extension to replace existing; Willow Cottage, Boulge Road, Bredfield** – Application permitted.
- **DC/24/2459/FUL - Retrospective Application - Replacement of the previous 2.75 metres high chain link wire fence with a new 2.5 metres high twin wire welded mesh fence: The Playing Field , Bredfield Village Hall** – Pending Decision

**9/251124 The Forge Development DC/23/2693/FUL**

– **To discuss the formal refusal** – It was felt that the refusal letter was very comprehensive and covered all the concerns the PC and residents had raised. It should be noted that the applicant may either submit an Appeal or a new application. We will be notified if it goes to appeal and the Appeal Planning Officer would have to see all documents regarding the application and refusal including the Delegated Report.

It was noted that the site is currently fenced off and it was pointed out that should the applicant wish to demolish the existing buildings, due to their size, planning permission is required. The site will be monitored.

- **To note the response received regarding our complaint to Highways and discuss next steps** – The proposal put forward by Cllr Bestow following Highways response to our complaint was discussed and agreed to be unsatisfactory. It was agreed to proceed with referring our complaint to the SCC Complaints Team on the grounds noted.

**10/251124 Bredfield Jubilee Meadow and Orchard**

- **To receive an update from the BJMO Committee including Minutes of any recent meetings and recommendations for the future** – The Chair of the BJMO had forwarded a report for November which had been circulated and this included current plans for the future. No meetings had taken place since our last PC meeting. Cllr Buckman requested that if there was any paperwork for the County Wildlife Site recognition award, this should be forwarded to the PC for them to retain. Cllr Buckman and residents of The Shingles confirmed that the owner of the land behind, which is also adjacent to the BJMO, has been carrying out ditch and hedge work which had allowed water to flow thus alleviating the risk of flooding in the future. Cllr Taylor suggested that it may be beneficial, in raising the profile of the BJMO, if they should consider having a table at the village Christmas Fair in the future.

Cllr Buckman was standing down as the PC representative on the BJMO committee due to family commitments. Cllr Harker very kindly agreed to take on this role.

*Cllr Bestow will update responsibilities on the website.*

- **To discuss the appointment of a Secretary for the BJMO Committee** – No applicants have expressed an interest for this position at present.
- **To discuss letter received from Valencia Communities Fund regarding removal of legal charge and restriction on the titles of the BJMO** – Cllr Hepper had been in contact with the Land Registry to ascertain how we should proceed and Cllr Bestow had obtained legal confirmation that it should be Valencia who completes the necessary forms to remove the charge. *The Clerk & Cllr Hepper will liaise with Valencia in order to proceed.*
- **To agree any BJMO expenditure required in the next two months** – There is likely to be some small expenses in the region of £200 for repairs to minor damage to the deer guard netting around the trees.

#### **11/251124 To receive an update on progress of the village Traffic Calming**

The proposal put forward for Traffic Calming was discussed and agreed with the addition of 30mph roundels at the Debach and A12 entrances to the village. It was also agreed that all these works will be funded from CIL. Cllr Hepper will contact Highways to confirm our proposal.

#### **12/251124 Neighbourhood Development Plan Full Review**

Cllr Hepper had been in contact with East Suffolk Council and he has arranged a virtual meeting with Laura Mundy, Planning Officer, to discuss updating the BDP. Any Councillor who wishes to attend should contact Cllr Hepper.

#### **13/251124 To receive an update on the outline proposal to submit a request for bus funding from the Enhanced Bus Partnership**

Cllr Bestow had submitted our application for bus funding with support from County Cllr Bryce. It was noted that the new Government has also announced funding for bus transport. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Bestow for all his work on this proposal.

#### **14/251124 To note the Clerk's National & Incremental Pay Rise for 2024/25**

The National Pay Award for Clerk's has now been agreed and Councillors approved the increase for the Bredfield Clerk to be backdated to April 2024. The Clerk has also received an annual assessment and an agreed spinal point was approved with effect from September 2024.

#### **15/251124 To note The Pensions Regulator re-enrolment**

Cllr Hepper has completed the three yearly legal duty to re-enrol with the Pensions Regulator confirming a pension scheme is not required by the Clerk. Confirmation has been received.

#### **16/251124 Review of the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan**

Cllr Hepper had forwarded an updated PIIP for discussion. This was approved by Councillors with a few minor amendments and Cllr Hepper will update it for uploading to the website.

#### **17/251124 To discuss email received from Melton Parish Council regarding possible proposal to investigate making Saddlemakers Lane/New Road a 'No through Road'**

The suggestion is that the bollards in this location will allow people to access the SWT at Foxburrow Farm, from the A12, but not carry on down Saddlemakers Lane. People needing to access homes and businesses along Saddlemakers Lane can do from The Street but cannot use this road to cut through to the A12. As part of this road is in the parish of Bredfield, Melton PC wished to gauge our views. Following discussion by Councillors the general feeling was not to support this proposal as we did not consider the existing access a problem and this would prevent access to SWT from Melton"

**18/251124 Finances – To note all payments recently made and to consider and approve future payments due**

All retrospective paid invoices were formally approved.

The Clerk's wages and tax due at the end of November have been amended as follows, due to a tax refund and this was formally approved for payment:

Wages £376.04 / PAYE Tax £0.00

The PC will now be in credit with HMRC to the sum of £112.40 which can be reclaimed in January 2025.

**19/251124 Finances - To consider the Bank Reconciliation and Finance Report**

The previously circulated report from Cllr Bestow was discussed and approved by all Councillors.

**20/251124 To discuss and approve the 2025/26 Budget & the 5 Year Plan**

Cllr Bestow had circulated a draft budget and a Medium Term Plan which were both discussed and approved.

**21/251124 To discuss and approve the Precept for 2025/26**

The Precept notification letter had been received from ESC. To support the 2025/26 budget the precept will need to increase by 5.26%. This would mean an increase on a band D property charge from £38.00 in 2024/25 to £40.00 for 2025/26.

*Clerk to forward our precept request to ESC by the deadline of 27.01.25.*

**22/251124 Actions taken under Delegated Powers**

None

Cllr Harker highlighted two recent emails received after our Agenda had been circulated which will be discussed further at our meeting in January. These were the DEFRA Property Flood Resilience Grant Fund for residents affected by Storm Babet and Suffolk's Community Thermal Imaging Project. Cllr Harker agreed to book the Thermal Imaging camera and to undertake the training.

Date of next meeting: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.