

BRADFIELD ST. GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD
AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER 2022

Present: Cllrs P Squirrell (Chairman), T Wright, G Mulley, C Stainer, C Croot & J Peck.
C Hibbert (clerk). S C Cllr K Soons & WS Cllr S Mildmay-White; ten members of
the public.

The meeting opened at 5.00pm

The Chairman noted that this was the first Council meeting since the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II; he offered the condolences of the village to the Royal Family and good wishes to the new Monarch, HM King Charles III.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr AT.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

The agent of the applicant in relation to the consultation at item 6.2 below, set out the background to this application and explained that the applicant sought to provide a safe means of access to the barns to the rear of Freewood Street by addressing comments made by SCC highways in relation to a previous application for planning permission affecting the site. Residents raised concerns about the following matters; (i) there is insufficient space to achieve the vision splays described in the application documents and any access created here would therefore be unsafe; (ii) there is no existing vehicular route over the proposed route of the new access (simply track-lines used by crop sprayers) – its use by residential traffic will create light pollution/ security issues/ loss of privacy for the existing neighbouring properties; (iii) there is no need for the creation of the new access – the existing access has been used without incident by agricultural traffic for years; (iv) no consideration has been given to the environmental impact of the proposals on local ecology/flora/fauna; (v) there are discrepancies in the application documents as to whether the new access is intended to support the existing agricultural use or new residential use (outwith this application) – the proposed gravel track is incompatible with use by agricultural vehicles; (vi) the development of a new residential access would create a prominent, detrimental visual impact on the open, attractive countryside surrounding the application site.

End of public forum.

Item 6.2 DC/22/1293/FUL Proposal Planning application - creation of gravel access road and improvement works to existing field access at Land Off Freewood Street Bradfield St George Suffolk (taken out of turn)

It was noted that Council's response to this consultation must be confined to the development described by the current application, namely the creation of an access, rather than any development which may be proposed in relation to the barns in the future.

The Council unanimously resolved to **OBJECT** to the proposals on grounds that; (a) there is insufficient space to achieve the access layout described in the application documents and that the proposed new access would therefore be unsafe; (ii) there is no existing vehicular route over the proposed route of the new access (simply track-lines used by crop sprayers) and therefore its use by residential traffic will create light pollution/ security issues/ loss of privacy for the existing neighbouring properties; (iii) there is no need for the creation of the new access; the existing access has been used without incident by agricultural traffic for years; (iv) no consideration has been given to the environmental impact of the proposals on local ecology/flora/fauna; (v) there are discrepancies in the application documents as to whether the new access is intended to support the existing agricultural use/ new residential use – the proposed gravel finish is incompatible with use by agricultural vehicles; (vi) the development of a new residential access would create a prominent,

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detrimental visual impact on the open, attractive countryside surrounding the application site and lead to undesirable and urbanising change to the local landscape character- contrary to local plan policies DM2, DM5, DM13 of the Joint Development Management Policies 2015.

3. INTERESTS

3.1 GM, CC and CS declared an interest in items 5.3 and 8.3 as Trustees of the VHMC. CC declared an interest in item 7.4 as an allotment holder.

3.2 No dispensation applications were received.

4. MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATED 13th JULY 2022. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th July 2022 were **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** and signed as a true and accurate record.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Suffolk County Council report. S C Cllr Soons presented her report, a copy of which will be uploaded onto the website. Councillors raised concerns about specific highway issues, including the carriage way levels over the bridge at Little Whelnetham and unclear diversion/closure signage affecting the locality and it was noted that details of these should be registered on the SCC website and the relevant email trail forwarded to KS for her attention.

5.2 West Suffolk Council report. WS Cllr S Mildmay-White presented her report, a copy of which will be uploaded onto the website. SMW expressed support in principle for the proposal at item 7.3 below – locality grant may be available. SMW offered her support in helping any local residents affected by the cost of living crisis to navigate their way through available grant processes.

5.3 Village Hall report. A copy of the VHMC report was received and is attached to these minutes.

6. PLANNING AND APPEALS

6.1 To receive planning notifications. The meeting **NOTED** the following;

Householder planning application - Installation of solar panels to rear roof of central barn - Smallwood Farm House Smallwood Green Bradfield St George Suffolk IP30 0AJ

Ref. No: DC/22/0609/HH | Status: Application Granted | Case Type: Planning Application

Application for listed building consent - Installation of solar panels to rear roof of central barn - Smallwood Farm House Smallwood Green Bradfield St George Suffolk IP30 0AJ

Ref. No: DC/22/0610/LB | Status: Application Granted | Case Type: Planning Application

7 TO CONSIDER

7.1 Option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements; it was **AGREED** that the Council should not opt out of the existing arrangements.

7.2 Insurance renewal; Quotes from BHIB (£398.49) and CAS (£384.76 pa) were received and reviewed. It was noted that the cover offered was comparable; the Council **AGREED** to proceed with whichever provider could offer any premium discount by way of long term undertaking.

7.3 Warm space proposal; a representative from the church has proposed use of the village hall as a warm space through the winter where residents can gather – say – a couple of times a week in a heated space with others. The Council expressed support in principle, subject to further details being worked through. The VHMC will provide a rough estimate of the likely heating costs; these will be shared with WS Cllr SMW; the clerk will investigate the powers available to the Council to support this initiative.

7.4 Allotment proposal. The allotment rents for 22/23 were considered and it was **AGREED** to hold the charges at the current rate until further review in Autumn 2023. Wood Monkey has recently requested use of a further three plots for their operation. It was **AGREED** that this request should be accepted on the basis that should further applicants for an allotment from within the parish come forward then priority should be given to them at the next available annual review. It was noted that the new tenancy agreements would be sent out before the next meeting. The

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meeting heard about a recent incident of fly tipping at the allotments in relation to which ongoing vigilance is required.

8. FINANCES

8.1 To receive and approve the bi-monthly financial summary for July-August 2022; received and **APPROVED**. It was **NOTED** that a generous anonymous donation of £500 has been received towards the costs of the phone kiosk refurbishment, for which many thanks. The Council will provide a letter of thanks.

8.3 To approve payments to be issued; The following online payments were **APPROVED**.

| Detail | Cheque no/online authorisation | Net (of VAT) | Vat | TOTAL |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|-------|--------|
| SALC | online | 52.00 | 10.40 | 62.40 |
| Plusnet | DD | 22.96 | 4.59 | 27.55 |
| Plusnet | DD | 22.96 | 4.59 | 27.55 |
| VHMC | online | 20.00 | | 0 |
| CH | wage | 463.80 | | 463.80 |
| HMRC | wage | 103.00 | | 103.00 |
| R Fernley | Phone kiosk | 795.70 | | 795.70 |
| Bus services at CAS | Insurance | 323.75 | | 323.75 |
| Suffolk cloud | Website hosting | 120.00 | | 120.00 |

9. CORRESPONDENCE AND CIRCULARS The following correspondence was received;-

- 9.1 SALC e bulletins July/August;
- 9.2. Connecting Communities information;
- 9.3 WSC info -Tackling Poverty Innovation Fund;
- 9.4 SARS annual report and appeal for funds;
- 9.5 WSC info on phase 1 and 2 discretionary Council Tax Rebate Grant;
- 9.6 WSC info on annual canvass of electorate;
- 9.7 various correspondence re death of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is on the **REVISED DATE** of Wednesday 16th November 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Attachment 5.3 Bradfield St George Village Hall - Chair’s report to the Parish Council: September 2022

There has been one event since the last report: namely the Beer Festival on the Saturday of August bank holiday weekend. This was an extremely successful event and enjoyed by many people from both within the village and further afield. It started at 5pm with a folk singer and a few people but as the evening wore on more and more people arrived. The BBQ along with pulled pork was well received along with the variety of beers and ciders. There was a bouncy castle and other activities for children (kingly funded by Karen’s locality budget) and ‘Twelfth Night’, a band from Felsham proved to be very popular with both older and younger people attending. The final figure for the event is yet to be announced.

The quiz night last weekend saw only 4 teams in attendance but those there had a good evening.

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The next Bradfield Night is scheduled for Friday October 7.

We have yet to hold September's committee meeting as it was postponed from the day the Queen died.

There appears to be positive news on the plumber front in that 1 had already submitted an estimate and another 2 are due to visit to take a look with a view to submitting an estimate.

Bookings continue much as usual and bookings for 2023 are starting to trickle in!

CS - Chairperson

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