

Bramfield and Thorington Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held virtually via Zoom on Monday, September 21st 2020 at 7pm.

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. A. Rozkalns (Vice-Chairman); Cllr. D. Hughes; Cllr. S. Key; Cllr. A. Niven and Cllr. W. Shoote:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and County Cllr. R. Smith (left 7-35pm):

1) **Apologies:**

Cllr. M. Bond, Cllr. J. Key, Cllr. A. Thomas (Chairman) and District Cllr. N. Brooks:

2) **To receive Declarations of Interest:**

There were no Declarations of interest.

3) **Requests for dispensations:**

There were no requests for dispensation.

4) **To receive a report from the County Councillor and the District Councillor:**

The Clerk drew attention to District Cllr. N. Brooks' written report. County Cllr. R. Smith said that after five years he could not support the building of Sizewell C within the proposed current circumstances. He believed that the A12 would become particularly congested and he had major concerns for the A144 and A145 Junctions with the A12.

County Cllr. R. Smith was concerned too regarding the High Lodge proposal for 170 lodges and was interested in hearing the Parish Council's view. He said that the County Councillors had been briefed by the Director of Public Health, Stuart Keeble, which he had found very interesting. He said that the number of overall cases is down but amongst the 20-39 year olds it was rising. Stuart Keeble said that there were now very few people testing positive being admitted into hospital, needing a ventilator and dying from the disease. He said that there were now few cases in Care Homes but Public Health were closely monitoring schools and offices. He said that the current issue over getting a test was caused by more people than expected wanting tests and the laboratories not having the capacity to process them all. However there was more capacity coming on stream.

County Cllr. R. Smith reported that the 'track and trace' testing places were open from 8am until 8pm and Suffolk County Council had spent around £64.1million with only £52.8million coming from the Government. He said the rest would have to come from the Council's reserves. Whilst Suffolk County Council could cope with

this, County Cllr. R. Smith said that he knew of four Councils who may not be so fortunate.

Cllr. A. Niven asked what Suffolk County Council's attitude was to second home people coming to the area. County Cllr. R. Smith replied that the Suffolk County Council had no view except to follow the government's advice that movement should be kept to a minimum.

5) **Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda:**

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6) **To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, July 13th 2020:**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday, July 13th were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. S. Key:

Seconder: Cllr. D. Hughes:

7) **Sizewell C:**

Cllr. A. Niven said that he thought the cost of building Sizewell C was too high and with too much of the building work relying on the roads. County Cllr. R. Smith said that the cost is not considered by the Planning Inspectorate. Cllr. W. Shoote said that he thought that the building work would have a massive effect on Minsmere as there would be constant noise, light and traffic. He added that it would affect the local towns as well. Cllr. D. Hughes said that the environmental issues were huge with two reactors being built instead of one as previously. She said that there would be much more traffic requiring a new road across a water meadow and she was very worried about the Heritage coast. There was much agreement with Cllr. D. Hughes so she was asked to write a 500-word letter to the Planning Inspectorate. It was agreed that she would present her letter to the councillors by email.

8) **Traffic Report on A144:**

Cllr. A. Niven reported that the work on the 40mph 'buffer zone' speed limits was completed on July 24th. He wanted to thank County Cllr. R. Smith, the Parish Council and the Speedwatch team for all their hard work in securing this result. Cllr. A. Niven said that he will watch if it is effective as the data says that 85% of all the traffic through Bramfield exceeds the 30mph speed limit. Cllr. D. Hughes said that she thought that near the end of the 40mph limit, there was much harsher acceleration and noise levels were much higher. She believed that there needed to be a 50mph limit through to Halesworth and that there needed to be double white lines to the north of Bramfield.

9) **Parking in Bramfield Village:**

It was noted that the parking on the A144 and on Walpole Road is too much and traffic just cannot get through. Cllr. A. Niven wondered if the Village Hall Car Park could be made available but Councillors believed that the Car Park was too far away. It was noticed that the Car Parking on the Green beside the Bus Shelter had stopped. Councillors agreed to look into putting plants on the Green and wondered

if yellow lines could be painted on the A144. Cllr. A. Niven said that he would speak to the police who oversee Speedwatch and Cllr. D. Hughes would find out who looked after the Green.

10) **Village Hall:**

Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that the Village Hall had not reopened although the Pre-School had and was doing very well. He reported that the Village Hall Committee had met and had decided not to re-open the Village Hall because of Covid-19 and the insurance. He also reported that a new kitchen designed for today had been discussed.

11) **Internet Banking:**

Councillors discussed the option to add Internet Banking to the Barclays Community Account and whilst they were favourable to the idea, they agreed to defer the decision to the next Parish Council Meeting as the Chairman, Cllr. A. Thomas, was not present and they believed that as a signatory to the cheques she should be present for any decision.

12) **Planning Matters:**

Proposal: Addition of new classroom block to west of site; addition of new gym building with associated changing facilities with additional two classrooms; extension to D.T. Workshop; replacement of large garage with new motor workshop. Replaces lapsed Granted permission DC/15/1826/FUL.

Address: Bramfield House School, Walpole Road, Bramfield, Suffolk. IP19 9AB

Ref: DC/20/3141/FUL

The Parish Council had no objection to this planning application.

Proposal: Redevelopment of golf course and vacant paddock land for the siting of 170 holiday lodges, 3 tree houses, new Facilities Building, Maintenance and Housekeeping Building, car parking and associated highway works.

Address: High Lodge Leisure, Darsham Road, Hinton, Blythburgh, Saxmundham, Suffolk. IP17 3QT.

Ref: DC/20/3142/FUL

Councillors discussed this planning application at length noting the following points that the size of the proposed development would unduly disturb the local residents, there would be a considerable increase in traffic despite the improvements indicated within the proposals and that the wildlife would be disrupted unduly. Councillors also believed that the current water supply, sewage, drainage and power infrastructure was not enough to service the lodges and the amenities did not seem to be expanding to meet the extra numbers of guests.

Councillors asked the Clerk to put these points together for the next Parish Council Meeting.

DC/20/3620/FUL to be reviewed at a Planning Meeting to be arranged.

It was agreed to hold an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 29th 2020 at 7pm to discuss this planning application and to finalise the DC/20/3142/FUL planning application.

17) **Data Protection Fee 2020-2021:**

The Information Commissioner' Data Protection Fee costing £40-00 was agreed for 2020-2021

Proposer: Cllr. A. Niven: Seconder: Cllr. D. Hughes:

18) **Council Papers from Past Years:**

The Clerk said that he had papers for past years in storage in his house. He wondered if they could be held elsewhere. It was agreed to hold them at the Village Hall.

19) **Review of Standing Orders:**

The Council reviewed the Standing Orders and agreed to continue to adopt the National Association of Local Council's Template 2018 for England with the added amendments in 2018 and 2020 for the year 2020 - 2021. The 2020 amendment is as follows:-

Section 18 – Financial controls and Procurement (parts f and g)

f) A public contract regulated by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 with an estimated value in excess of £189,330 for a public service or supply contract or in excess of £4,733,252 for a public works contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which include advertising the contract opportunity on the Contracts Finder website and in OJEU.

g) A public contract in connection with the supply of gas, heat, electricity, drinking water, transport services, or postal services to the public; or the provision of a port or airport; or the exploration for or extraction of gas, oil or solid fuel with an estimated value in excess of £378,660 for a supply, services or design contract; or in excess of £4,733,252 for a works contract; or £663,540 for a social and other specific services contract (or other thresholds determined by the European Commission every two years and published in OJEU) shall comply with the relevant procurement procedures and other requirements in the Utilities Contracts Regulations 2016.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Rozkalns: Seconder: Cllr. W. Shoote:

20) **Review of Financial Standing Orders:**

The Council reviewed the Financial Regulations and agreed to continue to adopt the National Association of Local Council's Template 2019 for England with the added amendments in 2020 for the year 2020 - 2021. The 2020 amendment is as follows:-

Contracts - The footnotes should now read

*For public supply and public service contracts £189,330
For public works contracts £4,733,252*

The Council reviewed the Financial Regulations and agreed to adopt them for the year 2020-2021.

Proposer: Cllr. D. Hughes:

Seconder: Cllr. W. Shoote:

21) **To receive information and agenda items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday, October 12th 2020:**

Cllr. D. Hughes said that the refurbishment of the telephone box in Bramfield had been completed. It was agreed to pay Cllr. D. Hughes expenses of £17-46. Cllr. A. Rozkalns said that the annual donations to local churches for their graveyards needed to be paid. The payments were agreed but as Item 14 had been passed, it was decided to bring these payments to the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 29th 2020.

There were no items for the next meeting.

The Meeting ended at 9-30pm