

**MEETING OF
BROCKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
12 NOVEMBER 2015, THE VILLAGE HALL, BROCKLEY**

PRESENT: Cllr A English, Cllr R Jones, Cllr K Fisk, Cllr D Boreham, Cllr U Hardy, Mr R Double, 1 member of the public and Mrs J Brookman.

Cllr English chaired the meeting.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Stones and Cllr P Stevens.

2 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS:

No requests had been received.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr English declared a non-pecuniary interest in item no 12 relating to the Vertas tree survey report and Cllr Boreham declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 14 and 15 relating to the ditch opposite Lt Maple and hedge trimming from the Old School House towards Bury St Edmunds.

The Clerk asked Cllr Double if he had any declarations of interest to declare in respect of any items on the agenda and none were declared.

Cllr R Jones joined the meeting at 7.32 pm.

4 COUNTY COUNTELLOR'S REPORT:

Cllr Evans reported the following:-

Suffolk Roadsafe Board

Approval has been given to purchase a smaller speedcam van for use especially on rural roads. It will be deployed shortly and given that speeding is such a major problem in the Brockley area Cllr Evans has contacted the Road Safety Officer to discuss where and how it can be used in this area.

VAS

It was confirmed that Brockley is on the list for the county VAS machine, exact timing to be confirmed.

Culvert by the Cricket Club

Confirmation has been received from SCC Highways that funding will be found to fix the culvert by the cricket ground despite overspends on other projects.

Mobile Infrastructure Project

This Government run project aimed to build 11 mobile telephone masts in notspot areas by spring 2016 across the county has foundered. The masts planned for this area in Hartest, Assington Green and Dalham will not now go ahead. The scheme ran out of time to deliver by the deadline so only those masts with planning permission in place will be completed. Cllr Evans took the issue up with the local MPs and Mr James Cartlidge raised it in a debate in the House of Commons but there will be no extension of the scheme. The Government is saying that the new joint working initiative between the mobile companies will see more than 95% of the country with mobile coverage by the end of 2017.

County Wide

SCC is facing significant reductions in government grant funding and so is looking to be more innovative and behave in more commercial ways to

**Action
by**

address revenue shortfalls while addressing local issues. SCC is combining with SEBC and FHDC to set up a housing development company. It will be a limited company with SCC taking a 50% stake and the other parties the other half. The rationale is that SCC has surplus land which could, subject to satisfying property disposal requirements, be made available to a jointly owned commercial housing company. Based on current analysis, establishing a housing development company would contribute towards generating revenue and capital income at a greater level than simply selling the surplus land assets. The proposal is subject to decision by the SCC cabinet on 17 November 2015.

SCC is looking to save £1m from the annual £22m budget on the fire service. The proposal is to:-

- Reduce the number of fire engines in Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft
- Replace the second fire engine at Sudbury with a rapid response fire vehicle
- Close Wrentham fire station

The fire stations in the immediate area – Wickhambrook and Clare are not directly affected by the proposals.

There will be a public consultation on the plan but Cllr Evans emphasised that it had been drawn up after careful analysis of the fire service operations over the past few years. Although the population and traffic levels have increased, 999 calls to the fire service have reduced by more than 30% over the past 10 years.

5 PUBLIC FORUM:

Mrs Val Hill reported that the street light at Mill Road was out, Clerk to report and the guttering at the village hall was overflowing, Trustees to be notified. Mrs Hill also requested that the Parish Council organise a trip to the Recycling Plant at Gt Blakenham; Clerk to make enquiries regarding visits and it was proposed this may be something that could be organised by the Community Council.

Clerk

Clerk

6 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

No report received.

Cllr English convened the meeting.

7 MINUTES:

Cllr Double proposed that the minutes of 1 October 2015 were a true record; seconded by Cllr Jones. All in favour.

8 MATTERS ARISING:

Flooding at Woodcrofts Close

It was confirmed that SCC Highways have allocated a job number and would be investigating the matter. Cllr Evans asked to be notified if there was anything she could do to help.

Cllr Evans left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Community Speed Watch Volunteers

Cllr Hardy confirmed that Cllr Double and two other parishioners had volunteered to date. Six volunteers are required to make the scheme viable.

UH

9 FINANCE REPORT/CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL PRECEPT:

Cllr Jones had circulated copies of the financial report (copy attached to the file copy of these minutes); Cllr Double reconciled the bank balance with the bank statement.

Cllr English proposed that the following payments should be approved and made; seconded by Cllr Fisk.

Chq no 22199	Brockley Village Hall hire – 1 October 2015	£7.00
Chq no 22200	Mrs J Brookman, Clerk pay & travelling October 2015	£110.00
Chq no 22201	Mr Oliver Cornish, grass cutting, top soil and infill of ruts at goals, hedge cutting and fencing	£540.00

Cllr Jones also circulated copies of the proposed Application for Grant & Precept for 2016/17. Clerk to contact SEBC for the date when the tax base will be announced. **Clerk**

10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

DC/15/2017/HH 4 Drury Cottages, Bury Road, Brockley. Householder planning application – first floor side and rear extension together with single storey front extension. The Parish Council supported this application.

11 TREE WORKS IDENTIFIED BY THE TREE SURVEY:

Cllr Jones confirmed that he had cut down tree no 29 and cut the ivy back as identified in the survey.

Cllr Double agreed to cut the ivy back on all the remaining trees.

At the last meeting the Parish Council approved a spend of up to £150 for the remaining tree works to tree nos 19, 20 and 25 to be carried out by Bradnams Tree Services; quote received for £130, Clerk had instructed works to be done.

12 GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT FOR 2016:

A letter had been received from Mr Oliver Cornish thanking the council for their acknowledgement of the quality and timings of the grass cutting work on The Green. His two year contract is now drawing to a close and welcomed the opportunity to quote for the coming year.

- To cut and strim as in previous years in addition to spray the gravel around the village hall and cut the hedge alongside the B1066 would be £450.00 (four hundred and fifty pounds).

The Clerk was asked to obtain further quotes from VERTAS and SEBC for 8/10 cuts per season, trimming of the hedge and spraying the gravel as above. **Clerk**

13 CLEARANCE OF DITCH OPPOSITE LITTLE MAPLE:

Cllr Double reported that a ditch on the opposite side of the B1066 to his property, Little Maple, needed digging out to stop the water back flowing along a ditch into his garden. Cllr Boreham confirmed that he was responsible for the ditch beside the B1066 and that he had put the field down to grass and would be digging out the ditch to drain the field.

14 HEDGE TRIMMING FROM THE OLD SCHOOL HOUSE TO THE END OF FOOTPATH TOWARDS BURY ST EDMUNDS:

Cllr Double reported that the hedge above was overgrown and asked if the Parish Council had a policy regarding hedges. It was confirmed that hedges were the responsibility of the land owner and was not a matter that required the parish council to have a policy.

After the discussion, Councillors questioned the non declaration of interest relating to agenda items 14 and 15 (minute nos 13 and 14) by Cllr Double. The Clerk confirmed it is the responsibility of the Councillor to declare an interest either under the specific agenda item for declarations or during the specific item concerned as soon as they are aware of a conflict of interest. The clerk advised as the discussion had been completed and Cllr Double had made no declaration, this could not be done retrospectively.

15 CLERK'S REPORT:

SEBC play equipment months inspection report – no new matters to report

Update of on-going matters

- UKPN/BTS – trees at the edge of The Green – works still outstanding but the ground is now saturated and unsuitable for the works to be carried out.
- Football goals – rust areas to be treated and painted when the weather improved.

AE

16 CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerks & Councils Direct November 2015, Issue 102 – circulated to Councillors

Suffolk View, Suffolk Preservation Society publication – emailed to Councillors

November Newsletter from LCPAS – emailed to Councillors

Email received from Mr Vic Hill regarding damaged wire causing a trip hazard on the footbridge on the Clare to Bury walk just off Rede Road/Cooks Lane. Cllrs Jones and Boreham agreed to carry out necessary repairs.

RJ/DB

Email from Mr Oliver Cornish apologising for not being able to attend the meeting in person but wishing to notify the Parish Council that following favourable consultations with the local planning authorities and listed building department Mr & Mrs Oliver Cornish have decided to reapply for the lapsed planning in the field adjacent to Chapel Lane. They have appointed a planning consultant/architect and have decided to apply for two single storey dwellings, which will be designed to be aesthetically sympathetic in style to the surroundings. The purpose of this information is to notify the Parish Council of their intentions before the formal planning process starts.

Email from PCSO Anthony Welford informing the Parish Council that as part of the changes within Suffolk Constabulary a new system has been installed to record crimes; with this new system it will be a lot harder to issue crime reports for a specific area as the system is less user friendly and more difficult to produce reports details down to village level. He confirmed that they will still let the council know of any trending crimes such as the lead theft from churches and burglaries. They will also keep the council up to date with work they are doing in the community and any figures from speed checks and will look to attend any meetings they can depending on the policing demand on the day and would still welcome being made aware of

any issues or concern and of any local events in the village.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Police Commissioner **Clerk** confirming that the parish values the crime reports and would like to know when crimes have taken place and consider this to be a retrograde step which they find very disappointing and would like the matter resolved so that they can continue to receive information relevant to the parish.

17 PARISH MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

No matters were raised.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the second Thursday in January 2016 and subsequent meetings would be on the first Thursday in the month (excluding May, August and December).

The meeting was closed at 8.40 pm.