

Minutes of the BRUISYARD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Tuesday, 13th May 2008, at 7.00pm in the Vestry St Peter's Church, Bruisyard.

Apologies for absence:- apologies were received from Margaret West and Jeremy Holland-Howes apologised for being late.

Shirley Smith proposed that the minutes of Bruisyard Annual Parish Meeting for 2007 be accepted as a true record. Eleanor Berwick seconded the proposal and all agreed.

1) Chairman's Report:-

The Chairman, Mr Peter Robinson, welcomed those present and introduced the serving councillors. If there are any Parish problems the public are invited to contact any of the Council Members or the Clerk.

a) Housing Needs Survey: The Council carried out a housing needs survey with the help and backing of Suffolk ACRE in February. The report on the villages housing needs was received in mid March and the conclusion was that 2 properties for rent or shared ownership were required with the probability of a third property being required. This is insufficient numbers for a housing association to proceed any further as they wish to build a minimum of 3 houses and there has to be interest from at least twice this number of applicants for them to consider a project.

b) Charity Donations: The Council makes donations to those charities that are able to help any resident in the village. This year support was given to Air Ambulance, Suffolk Accident Rescue Service, the CAB and the Disability Advice Service. They have also made a donation to Age Concern as the housing need survey highlighted the higher than average number of residents over the retirement age.

c) Signs on Low Road: The Council requested signs 'Unsuitable for HGV's' for Low Road from the Highways Department as an increasing number of large vehicles were using the road. These have now been erected at both ends of the road.

d) Postal Service: There has been a change in the time the post is collected from the two boxes in the village. The collection from Bruisyard Church is at 9:00 am and from Bruisyard Street at 10:30. Bruisyard has now been designated as a deep rural community by the Post Office and therefore there is a limited collection and delivery service.

e) Potential Location of Strategic Housing Growth Consultation: Members of the Council responded to this consultation document put out by Suffolk Coastal District Council. The purpose of the exercise was to identify the most suitable green field site to develop a new community to meet the growing housing need in the area.

f) Rural Coffee Caravan: There was a visit from the Rural Coffee Caravan in June last year which had a good attendance. There will be a visit on 10th June this year which will be advertised on posters around the village and the recycling bus will be on the park at the same time to give more information about the recycling scheme.

g) Litter Pick: A litter pick was carried out by the Members of the Council around the village in April and Suffolk Coastal removed and disposed of the rubbish.

h) Social Amenities Committee: they held a Halloween and a Christmas party in Bruisyard Hall courtesy of Robert Rous. There was an award of £1000 from the County

Councillors locality budget to purchase tableware and cutlery. A Midsummer Car Boot Sale will be held in the Park on 21st June between 1 and 5 pm with refreshments being served.

i) Precept: the Council has increased the precept by £1100 this year to £1300 to cover the increasing costs and responsibility of the Council.

j) The Vestry: the PCC were thanked for the use of the Vestry for meetings

2) Big Lottery Award and Village Hall Project: The chairman asked David Smith, the secretary to the village hall committee to update the meeting on the progress of the project.

a) Funding: To build and equip the village hall £219,518 is required and so far the Parish Council has been awarded:

- Big Lottery Community Buildings programme: £187,218
- Parish Council: £300
- Bruisyard Social Amenities Committee: £1000
- SCC Locality Budget: £1000

A further grant of £10,000 has been applied for from the District Council and a further award of £20,000 will be applied for in June from the Corporate Regeneration Fund run by the County Council. If necessary further funding will be sort from other bodies such as the Carbon Trust covering the green features of the building and the Garfield Westfield Foundation.

b) Project Plan: The Architect will put the building out to tender on 1st August and a contractor selected with construction starting on 1st December but it is hoped to bring this date forward, if possible, in order to get the foundations constructed before the worst of the winter weather. Building is projected to take 32 weeks and so will be completed in September 2009.

c) Project Outcomes:

- Improve social networks in the village
- Increase in participation in Parish council Meetings
- Create new services in the form of new clubs
- Create education facilities for IT and any others required by the community.
- Construct a building with an energy efficiency rating of A
- Ensure viability of the project by having low running costs to encourage use

of the building

The Village Hall Committee is looking for increased participation by other resident to form clubs and create uses for the hall, for which there are grants from various sources.

Residents will be asked to volunteer to help with the painting of the hall and the landscaping of the car park.

The Secretary suggested it would be an interesting idea to put a time capsule in the hall during construction to include photos and recordings of older residents' memories of the village and the changes that have occurred in the village in their lifetime.

3) Unitary Councils in Suffolk: The District and County Councillor Colin Hart covered this item in his address to the meeting.

4) Questions from the floor: Christine Goode suggested that the Suffolk Foundation should be applied to for small grants to help set clubs and activities in the village. She was thanked for this information.

Winifred Higgins asked if noise cut-out system could be installed in the village hall to protect its neighbours from excessive noise. It was agreed this was a good idea and would be looked into. She also suggested drawing up a contract for the hiring of the hall which

included taking a cheque deposit for the hiring of the hall at a rate of £50 for residents and £200 for outsiders. These cheques would only be cashed if damage was done to the hall during the hiring. These measures are working well at Brandeston's new hall. She will get a copy of their contract as an example. This was also viewed as a good proposal.

The District and County Councillor Colin Hart was invited to address the meeting:

- a) **Council Tax:** There was an increase by just under 4%, the lowest for a few years, achieved by continuing to make savings and efficiencies. The County Council is undergoing major organisational changes to reduce administrative costs. There will be a virtual freeze in government grants over the next two years.
- b) **Waste Management:** The three bin system is being rolled out across the District resulting in meeting the recycling targets. This is expensive and will mean a tough job to close the budget gap in future. The County Council has in principle decided to pursue an energy from waste policy, building an incinerator to burn everything that cannot be recycled to get energy, which is classed by government as renewable energy. A potential site is the County Councils highway maintenance depot at Great Blakenham but other sites will be considered. It is not due to be in operation until 2014.
- c) **Parham Wind Farm:** Following a legal challenge to the decision taken by officers to approve the latest turbines being put forward by the developer, the application is now due to go before the Development Control Committee on 28th May.
- d) **East of England Regional Assembly:** This body will be abolished in 2010 and major strategic decisions on transport, planning and housing will transfer to the East of England Development Agency. The Assembly was mostly made up of elected councillors of local authorities but the Development Agency's board members are appointed and not accountable to an electorate.
- e) **Portfolio:** This last year Colin Hart has been the portfolio holder for Economic Development and Tourism working to bring private and public investment to the District through various bodies.
- f) **Local Government Review:** Following the failure of Ipswich's bid for unitary status, the Government has sent in the Boundary Committee to review local government across the county. This could mean unitary councils with an East/West/Ipswich split; an East/West split or a single council for the whole of Suffolk. There is also the possibility of a cross-border unitary authority including Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth (Yarftoft). The Boundary Committee has been specifically asked to examine that latter option. The Boundary Commission will put forward proposals for consultation in July. In turn they will put proposals to the Secretary of State, Hazel Blears at the end of December with her decision given in February and the new authority/ authorities coming into being in 2010. The Boundary Commission will not consider any variation on the current two tier system but the proposals need to meet the five criteria of affordability, cross section support, strong leadership, neighbourhood empowerment and value for money. Colin Hart's personal preference is for the East/West/Ipswich split creating authorities large enough to deliver services but small enough to preserve local accountability.
- g) **Locality Budget:** He has assisted in a broad range of projects from his County Councillor's locality budget. He still has funds available if a village organisation has any proposals.

The Chairman thanked Colin Hart for coming to the meeting and for all the help he has given the village in the last year.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:05pm