

Brede Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28th January 2020 at 7:30pm in the Brede Village Hall

Present: Councillors L Nottage (Chair), J Armstrong, J Johnson, S Hampson and M Wey and the Clerk.

Cllr Carl Maynard joined the meeting at 8pm

- 239 a) Declaration of Interests:** None.
b) Dispensation Requests: Cllr Nottage for the Village Hall

- 240 Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs J Allison and R Oliver.

Minutes of the following meetings were considered.

- 241 a) Planning Meeting 26th November 2019 – 199/19 – 204/19.** Cllr Armstrong proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Wey. All members present agreed.

a) Full Council Meeting 26th November 2019 – 205/19 – 234/19. Cllr Wey proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Armstrong. All members present agreed.

a) Planning Meeting 14th January 2020 – 235/19 – 238/19. Cllr Armstrong proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Wey. All members present agreed.

- 242 Matters arising from the above including Work in Progress:**

208/19 Recreation Ground - Cllr Nottage still awaiting a response from Fenland leisure

212/19 Boat still in situ. Cllr Nottage had contacted Julian Bone about removal but not had a response. To hasten removal, clerk to contact alternative company if needed.

224/19 Decorating Bus Shelters. Work has been booked, awaiting better weather before it proceeds.

226/19 Speed Testing. Cllr Nottage has a response yesterday about spend testing, but recent correspondence with Ian Johnson (ESCC highways) suggests waiting for a while as a change of arrangements is in hand which may save some costs.

227/19 Grass cutting for 2020 now contracted to Countrymans.

233/19 Rusty pole on the 30mph sign in Cackle Street reported to Highways during the recent walkaround.

Correspondence address for bank statements now changed to the new clerk but it is not possible to do online bank statement viewing without full online banking access. Mandates to be prepared and sent off to start this process.

New work in progress sheet circulated, and a request to add the minute number to it was made. To add Public Disclosure Notices for the recreation ground to it.

- 243 Finance**

- a) Accounts to end of November and December 2019**

The clerk presented a new format of the short nook for each month, having rewritten all the accounts from April 2019. All now balances and reconciles with the bank statements.

- 244 Report/observation of the District and County Councillor –**
District Councillor J Johnson reported about the ongoing saga of Reedswood Road. There had been no reply to the polite notice about enforcement so now the official enforcement notice has gone out and is awaiting response. It could be taken further and may take more than 12 months to sort out if it goes to court.
County Councillor C Maynard reported about the walk around that had taken place with him, Cllrs Nottage and Armstrong and Ian Johnson from ESCC highways. Some key issues were identified and some persistent problems, overgrown footways, blocked drains and gulleys, collapsing edges of the highway and potholes. The highways steward was to look at some areas that needed attention. Stubb Lane was mentioned to the steward regarding the overgrown hedgerows. There are still temporary repairs to potholes for now, permanent repairs cannot begin until the frosty weather has passed. It was a successful walkaround and Cllr Maynard would be happy to repeat it when the Parish Council feels there is a problem. Cllr Armstrong asked how often the drains are jetted following concerns about what the drainage system is in the area (Cllr Wey will try and find out the situation). The reply was usually once or twice a year, but there is so much work that needs to be done to bring them up to a better standard. The whole highway and drainage system in Sussex is substandard and would take 10's of millions to repair. There is an extra million for Highways next year which will be spent on dropped kerbs and white lining which is overdue. There is to be a programme of jet patching starting in April (the next financial year) and Cllr Maynard will try and find out if any parts of Brede Parish are to be done. There is to be a one off pot of funding for Adult Social care, but long term there needs to be an all party consensus on this. The current focus is on Adult Social Care and Children's Services.
- 245 Statements, questions and comments from the public.** A request had come in about setting up a local environment group for litter picking from a young person in the village who was present at the meeting. There was the intention of finding a few like minded people to litter pick once a fortnight or month. They asked if the Council could offer support by purchasing the grabbers, hi vis vests, hoops and bags. Following discussion, it was agreed that the council would fund up to £200 of equipment for their use. If it develops then council will look for further funding to support this venture. Cllr Wey offered to help with getting rid of the collected rubbish to start with, until it is seen how much will be produced.
- Proceedings and reports of committees and working parties**
- 246 Recreation Ground:** Boat to come down. Awaiting response from Kompan and Fenland Leisure regarding new equipment.
- 247 Village Hall:** Following the Village Hall meeting in January there is now no Chairman or Vice Chairman. Their constitution states that these roles can be filled at each meeting. Mrs Bannister continues as Booking Clerk and treasurer. Cllr Nottage stated he does not wish to become the next Chairman or Vice Chairman. The position for volunteers needs to be circulated via social media and the Parish Council needs to put out an advert for support. Cllr Hampson voiced concerns about the Parish Councils responsibilities and they are the guardian trustees, although there should be an elected committee to run it. To see what happens at the next Village Hall meeting, the date of which is still to be confirmed. The expectation and responsibilities of the Parish Council are to be discussed at the next council meeting. To ask for advice on legal responsibilities from SSALC and RALC.
- 248 Footpaths:** No report
- 249 Seats, trees, bus shelters and bins:** No report
- 250 Community Hall:** At the last meeting there was a discussion about just pulling it down but if that happened then it is harder to find funding to build a new one as it will be deemed there is no requirement for it. Therefore it is better to keep it going while possible.
- 251 Function on Recreation Ground:** No report
- 252 Police Report:** No report

- 253 Newsletter:** It was noted that the clerk should be the last person to see the newsletter after corrections were made and before it was sent to the printers. Clerk to email Cllr Oliver about the proof reading. Cllrs Johnson and Maynard would like to put a report in for District and County in future issues.
- 254 Resilience Planning:** No further yet
- 255 Website:** The clerk had made some enquires about Rother hosting the website. There would be no costs for set up or hosting. Several other parish councils use the Rother hosting package. The clerk to research these websites for content and accessibility,
- 256 Speed Watch:** Last month 117 cars were checked. The fastest was going over 50 miles an hour. The speed watch group are looking at a penalty system depending on speed for the letters that are sent out, in the past two weeks 33 and 42 respectively were caught speeding on a Saturday morning.
At the recent RALC speed watch meeting other parish councils were very negative about it all. Only one other council were booking to have official speed data collected.

Items for discussion

- 257 Cobblestones on the Village Green** – Several have now been knocked out. After the recent walk round the highways steward said he would get it done, as it was ESCC's responsibility. The council may consider reinstating the white post and chain link fence to deter further damage.
- 258 New Internal Auditor** – the Clerk and Cllr Nottage had been in discussion with Keith Robertson about taking over this role. This was proposed by Cllr Hampson and seconded by Cllr Wey, all in favour.
- 259 Precept** – Final adjustments to the precept were discussed and made. Cllr Wey proposed it was accepted. Cllr Hampson seconded, All in favour.
- 260 Pension for New Clerk** – The new clerk requested that the council offered a pension after the probation period ended. Having researched it was decided that NEST pension would be suitable. Council percentage would start at the minimum required 3% and be reviewed yearly. Proposed Cllr Armstrong Seconded Cllr Johnson. All in favour.
- 261 Parish Assembly 2020** – Speaker confirmed. Clerk to contact the police regards attending. Clerk to collect the shields/plaques back from last years winners in time for engraving. Notice to be added in the Newsletter about the community awards and how to nominate.
- 262 New clerks training day** – This is booked for 19th February at a cost of £110 with SSALC
- 263 AGM date** – Tuesday 12th May 2020 at 7.30pm was agreed. Clerk to book the Village Hall.

Routine Business:

- 264 Hedges:** No report
- 265 Signing of cheques.**
- 266 Any other business:** None.
- 267 Date of next meeting:**
Brede Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 25th February 2020 in Brede Village Hall at 7.30pm

With no further business, the meeting closed at 9.33 pm.