

BROME and OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of Brome and Oakley Parish Council held at 7.30 pm on **Monday 16 January 2023** at Brome and Oakley Village Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Isobel Demanget (Chairperson), Roger Broughton, Charles Doe, Kelly Keeley, Tom Pace, John Parry, Mark Prior. Also in attendance the Clerk and County Councillor Jessica Fleming.

1. Apologies for absence – Apologies were received from Cllr Halton. District Councillor Burn had sent his apologies.

2. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests from members on any item to be discussed and requests for dispensations

Cllrs Broughton, Keeley, Pace, Parry, Prior, declared an interest in matters relating to the Village Hall. Cllr Keeley declared a pecuniary interest in planning application DC/22/06113.

3. Public Forum

Members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) reported on the need to close either Brome or Oakley church due to financial strains. The PCC had to consult all the people of Brome and Oakley and wanted the Parish Council to make suggestions on how to do this. Cllr Parry advised that previously the PCC had held an open meeting in the village hall. The Chair suggested that community Facebook page and the parish news, which was distributed to every household. Cllr Pace suggested attaching a letter to the parish news which would outline the options. Rev Watkins confirmed the options available as; full closure (handing the building over to another body), festival church (Christmas, Easter etc.), a Chapel of Ease used only when needed or diversification of the building, which the Church of England encourages, possibly to a heritage centre. The latter three would mean the PCC still had running and maintenance costs. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had no legal powers to offer financial support for the fabric of either church.

County Councillor Fleming updated on the progress of highways schemes for the Low Road, Oakley. Further to communication from District Councillor Burn the Parish Council had to assume that District Council locality funding was not available to support highways schemes. The Parish Council had resolved at the last meeting to proceed with the 40 mph buffer scheme which Cllr Fleming confirmed was now likely to cost £9,500. The Parish Council agreed to put £4,000 to the total project cost and Cllr Fleming would fund the balance. The Clerk would confirm in writing to Suffolk Highways that the Parish Council were happy with drawings and the proposed locations for the signage, as provided by Suffolk Highways, and wished to proceed with the scheme which would be subject to a period of consultation. Cllr Fleming informed the Parish Council that the faded repeater signs would be dealt with as part of the county wide highways maintenance programmes and discussions were underway with the County Councillor for the Hoxne ward to jointly fund the repainting of the white centre lines on the B1118 through both villages.

4. Minutes of the last meetings

a. The minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2022 were approved.

b. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2022

5. Planning

a. To consider the following planning applications:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/22/06113	Warren Hill Farms, Warren Hill, Oakley	Erection of farm shop and cafe
20.09 Cllr Keeley left the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the application. 20.11 Cllr Keeley returned to the meeting.		
DC/22/06214	Eye Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye Road, Brome	Erection of storage building
It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the application subject to the public right of way		

Signed Isobel Demanget Chairperson Mark Prior Clerk

Date 13-02-2023

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being signed, accessible and maintained and light pollution being mitigated as far as possible.

b. The following planning determination was noted:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/22/04677	Swanwick House, (The Swan), Norwich Road, Brome	Change of use of previous Public House workshop/ ancillary outbuilding and 26 car park area to Dog Daycare unit and play/exercise yard for a maximum of 10 dogs – planning permission had been granted.

c. The following planning recommendation made under delegated authority during winter recess was noted:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/22/06024	Brome Cottage, 30 Eye Road, Brome	Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity including those in breach of a planning condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Change of use of parcel of agricultural and to residential garden.

It was agreed there were no objections to this application.

d. Other planning matters – none.

6. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was noted as £19,662 in the current account and £3,957 in the business save account. Bank reconciliation from 1 April to 31 October 2022 had been completed by Cllr Broughton.

b. The budget for 2023/24 financial year was considered and agreed. It was further agreed to raise a precept of £8,000, a £500 increase on the 2022/23 financial year.

c. It was agreed to make the following payments.

Amount	Payee	Details
£1027.57	S Foote	Clerks salary January/February/March including statutory pay award from 1 April 2022
£376.98	HMRC	PAYE
£161.83	Trade UK (Screwfix)	Village Hall works
£143.53	CTS Building Supplies	Village Hall works
£340.87	Huws Gray	Village Hall works

d. It was noted that a payment of £250.87 had been paid to CTS Building Supplies and £2620 to C C Sheds during the winter recess for works relating to the Village Hall. Since payment had been made a refund of £120.00 had been received from Sheds.

7. Highways

a. An update on the implementation of Suffolk Highways traffic calming schemes for Low Road, Oakley – this item was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

Signed  Chairperson  Clerk

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8. Asset Management

a. Correspondence from a resident regarding rental of the allotment land was considered along with a legal note on the temporary use of allotment land (LTN 52) which detailed the power the Parish Council would have to let the allotment land on a temporary two year contract only. Whilst the Parish Council had committed to the concept of a Jubilee Garden on the unused allotment land, works for the garden had not progressed. Councillors considered the work needed and the ongoing maintenance and costs the garden would incur. It was agreed to contact the resident again and discuss further fencing and maintenance of the land and what the rental value might be.

c. Bird boxes - Cllr Prior had researched suitability of different bird boxes for different species and suggested that if he were to supply materials and templates a community event could be held to build and erect the boxes. Cllr Prior would provide a budget (materials and hall rental) to the next meeting for council approval. It was agreed that locations for the boxes would be visible from where people walk and the people making the boxes could chose the location, from a list, where their box could be installed.

d. Defibrillator – Cllr Pace felt that the Devil's Handbasin was the preferred location and the business was agreeable to it being installed there but there was concern that this was too remote from the centre of Brome. Cllr Prior committed to contacting both Renvale and The Oaksmere to discuss funding for defibrillators which it was hoped could be made publicly available on the outside of the buildings 24/7.

9. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Date	From	Subject
05.01.2023	Mid Suffolk District Council	NSIP and large-scale energy developments update January 2023
20.12.2022	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish liaison meeting – 7 February at Stowmarket
01.12.2022	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Update
22.11.2022	Brome and Oakley Parochial Church Council	Future opening of parish churches

10. Urgent Matters and matters for report – none.

11. Date of next meeting – Monday 13 February 2023.

Meeting closed: 21.10.

Signed  Chairperson  Clerk

Date 13-02-2023