

Bromeswell Parish Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday 25 September 2023 at 7 p.m.at the Village Hall



25/09/23.6	to email Cllr AR for involvement in the plans at Wilford Bridge Mini Holland Feasibility	Clerk/VB
25/09/23.7	to contact CAS request further quotation for insurance premium	Clerk
25/09/23.8	amend Asset List for grit bins	Clerk
25/09/23.9c	monitor ENF/23/0235/USE Shipping Containers	VD
25/09/23.11	to contact landowner re ditch in Summer Lane, also reflective posts query	TJ/Clerk
25/09/23.11	to investigate with One Suffolk query re rejecting cookies	IA
25/09/23/11	safety of A1152 - to respond to Josh White and agree speed test	IA
25/09/23.13a	to call Lloyds Bank and discuss options for switching	Clerk
25/09/23.13b	to set up donation of £50 to SARS as agreed	Clerk
25/09/23.13c	to set up donation of £50 to CAB as agreed	Clerk

Payments received since last meeting:

04/09/23	Bank interest	£17.76
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Payments made/to be authorised since previous meeting:

08/08/23	Election Invoice 777028868	£78.54
11/08/23	VHMC Inv 84 July hire	£12.00

Attendance: Chair Verity Brown (VB), Tim Johnson (TJ) Vice Chair, Ian Abbott (IA), Tracy Rogers (TR), Rory Burrow (RB), Verity Danziger (VD), ESC Cllr James Mallinder, 3 members of public, Jenny Lloyd (Clerk)

1.	Welcome
2.	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> SCC Cllr Andrew Reid, Sue Todd on holiday - accepted
3.	<b>To receive any Declarations of Interest from Councillors on agenda items</b> VB - Item 9c ENF/23/0235/USE, TJ - Item 9c ENF/23/0235/USE
4.	<b>To receive Reports</b> SCC Cllr Reid's Report distributed to Cllrs and is available on the website - no comments raised ESC Cllr Mallinder's Newsletter was distributed to Cllrs and is available on the website Cllr JM presented his report mentioning the footpath on Sutton Road has been cleared, working with Eyke with 65 houses development, and donated £1,000 towards upgrade to bus shelter. Received a formal complaint from Sutton Heath regarding bonfires behind Holistic Woods - monitoring carefully. Bawdsey have completed the improved parking system to be able to enforce. JM has written to Water Companies and stakeholders re quality of water in River Deben and monitoring this issue. JM is focussing on support for residents and elderly with funding for community events, i.e. Christmas lunches if BPC has any ideas.
5.	<b>Public Session :</b>

	No issues raised
6.	<p><b>To discuss ‘Mini Holland’ Woodbridge and Melton Feasibility Study.</b>  The project Partnership is made up of Woodbridge Town Council, Melton PC, ESC, SCC, Bespoke Transport Consultants and WSP Consultants.  The aim is to make Woodbridge and Melton more pedestrian and cycle friendly  <a href="https://thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/WM_MiniHolland_FeasibilityStudy-FINAL-31-03-23.pdf">https://thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/WM_MiniHolland_FeasibilityStudy-FINAL-31-03-23.pdf</a>.</p> <p>Discussion followed regarding concerns about further overloading of our already crowded roads. BPC are outside the boundaries of the project, however will monitor particularly developments and safety concerns at Wilford Bridge, and the plans for cycle paths on each side of the road. Comments on the road and bend are too dangerous for cyclists, suggesting the tow path would be a safer route to Woodbridge.</p> <p><i>The Melton Neighbourhood Plan suggests that traffic congestion on Woods Lane and Wilford Bridge Road is a significant issue. Woods Lane is the main link to the A12 and bisects the village. Wilford Bridge is a narrow road that creates a pinch point, making two-way movement between larger vehicles not always possible. The Neighbourhood Plan also went on to identify specific issues around pedestrian safety and cyclists needs. Pedestrians feel unsafe due to inadequate footpath provision and narrow pavements. This is prominent on Woods Lane, The Street, Station Road, Melton Road and Yarmouth Road, as well as outside St Andrews Church. In addition, difficulties have been recorded by the Parish Council in pedestrians trying to cross Woods Lane in the vicinity of Bredfield Road (before the new development here was constructed in full). and references to both pedestrian and cyclist safety are mentioned throughout the document.</i></p> <p>BPC will continue to communicate with Melton PC and could request a presentation at the next PC meeting and/or request Cllr Andrew Reid to include Bromeswell PC on developments focusing on plans at Wilford Bridge. Action Clerk/VB to email Cllr AR our serious concerns. Cllr JM agreed to keep the PC informed.</p>
7.	<p><b>To discuss and agree PC insurance</b></p> <p>The policy for Bromeswell Parish Council is due for renewal on 1 October 2023. CAS have reviewed our Parish scheme, and have selected Ansvar Insurance as the new scheme insurer. First quote received £510.67 - (£210.67 last year) however if BPC have installed their VAS in a single, fixed location, or only move it between locations at a maximum of once per month, they can insure the VAS (and associated equipment) under Municipal Infrastructure and reduce the insurance policy renewal premium to £400. Zurich Insurance quote received - package £241.00 + Monuments, Memorials &amp; Statues All Risks £63.00 Total Premium quoted £304.00. Discussion followed. Agreed Action Clerk to contact CAS to request further options.</p>
8.	<p><b>Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Directional sign on Common Lane - still not completed. TR will continue to chase Highways</li> <li>- Quiet Lane signage on Common Lane/A1152 - reported to Highways with no result. IA kindly adjusted the signs and now x2 signs are parallel on post and facing the correct way. Thanks expressed to IA.</li> <li>- Wilford Bridge/MeltonPC speed reduction - Melton Parish Council has decided to proceed with the 30mph speed limit extension on Wilford Bridge Road.</li> </ul> <p><i>They also discussed the report that was shared with them regarding BPC’s concerns with the A1152. Melton Parish Council is supportive of BPC’s campaign and is happy to be acknowledged as such.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grit Bin refills</li> </ul>

	<p>It is BPC responsibility to manage and maintain approved highway grit bins within their parish. Thanks to all that have checked the bins, especially to TR for clearing the bins of foliage. It appears that the bin at the junction of Common Lane and A1152 is a green one - not yellow as on Asset List and that there are 7 bins not 6. Action Clerk to check with Highways to check how many they have on their route. Action Clerk to amend Asset List</p>
9.	<p><b>Planning Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) no Planning Applications received since last meeting</li> <li>b) Update on current Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DC/22/3233/TCA Tree - 4 School Lane - this has been completed however concerns were raised that it is already sprouting and still needs cutting back. Action IA offered to contact the homeowner.</li> <li>- DC/23/0203/FUL, DC/23/4775/FUL - 65 dwellings Eyke. It was agreed to send previous IA wording and VB comments in objection. Awaiting decision.</li> <li>- DC/23/2821/FUL - Heathlands, Sandy Lane: renovation and extension of dwelling. Permitted.</li> <li>- DC/23/2298/FUL -The Five Winds: demolition of existing 5-bedroom single storey dwelling and construction of 2-storey family home. Permitted.</li> <li>- DC/22/4798/FUL - Low Farm, Bridge Road - renewal of DC/19/1837/FUL for 12 caravans: Still awaiting decision.</li> <li>- <b>A1152 development Rendlesham</b> - ST attended the public consultation at Rendlesham VH on 26 July - derelict land with a few buildings in a poor state of repair, just off the A1152 on the right hand side as you go towards Snape. Access no plans to change layout apart from a potential pelican crossing to ensure safe crossing from Rendlesham to the site. Land to be developed into a multi use site - church, storage facilities and small business units. Traffic impact: surveys have been carried out, existing 40 mph to continue. Developers to submit plans to council. BPC to keep an eye out for Planning Application through the planning portal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>c) Update on Enforcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ENF/23/0193/USE use of land at Holistic Woods. BPC will continue to monitor any issues and will communicate with Sutton Heath. SCC are investigating the Byway Open to All Traffic track (under ref BOAT 31) and entrance.</li> <li>- ENF/23/0235/USE Shipping Containers on Land Owned by Drain Doctor adjacent to WRUFC - VD commented that there was a site inspection early August which confirmed there is no planning permission for the containers, given a period of time or go to Planning. Action VD will update BPC at the next meeting.</li> <li>- ENF/23/0252/USE - Mulligan House, Sutton Road - possible breach of control sub-division of property with creation of annexe used as a holiday let. Awaiting decision.</li> <li>- ENF/23/0253/COND - Hillbrook, Common Lane - possible breach of control change of use of outbuilding to holiday let - DC/21/1388/FUL A site visit by D.C Enforcement Officer revealed a self-contained accommodation with kitchen, bathroom, and bed. This would require planning permission, which currently has not been submitted and is therefore unauthorised. The owner has been given a period of time to cease the use, and remove the kitchen etc or submit a planning application to retain the use of the building</li> <li>- ENF/23/0251/STRUCT - The Curatage Orford Road - possible breach of control. Similar to Hillbrook as above.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.	<p><b>Communications received</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public Consultation on Custom and Self Build Housing - this Consultation, to which the BPC replied to in March this year, has now been extended to the general public for their comments. Copies of the leaflet instructing how to access and submit comments on the Consultation have been put up on both the Parish Notice boards</li> </ul> <p><b>Deben PC's Joint meeting held on 7 September</b></p>

	<p>attended by TR and Clerk. TR presented the BPC concerns re A1152 and highlighted the main findings in the hope of gaining the group's verbal support. Discussion followed regarding involving Deben PC's in the i.e. future planned Workshop re traffic concerns. The planned development of a large forestry Centre in Rendlesham forest (Tangham Woods area) was mentioned. It is believed to be the size of the Suffolk Punch Trust site but have not submitted plans as yet. BPC will monitor. This will again bring more traffic on the A1152. 3 of the 5 items on the agenda related to Highways issues - mud and sand from farm vehicles, flooding, lack of road maintenance and speeding. Cllr JM suggested that the Peninsula parishes write as a group to Paul West and ask for a copy of SCC Highways long term plan. HPC Cllr said he would take that on in October. Eyke was not represented at the meeting. Minutes of the meeting have been distributed to Cllrs and available upon request.</p> <p><b>Community Benefits for Electricity Transmission Network Infrastructure</b> - this is part of a countrywide initiative looking at all projects - wind farms, solar panels and how they are going to get the energy and storage. Benefits to communities i.e. discount. VB has slides and further information available and will keep an eye on any developments.</p> <p><b>Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Community Partnership meeting - 25 September</b> - VD will keep a watching eye on these meetings</p> <p><b>Letter to Minister Bowie</b> East Suffolk have written to PC's to sign a letter urging Minister Bowie to prioritise a revisit and make good on his commitment to engage more widely - the more that sign, the stronger the message that he must not neglect our communities. VB responded to notify you that BPC are happy to add its name to the list of signatories</p>
11.	<p><b>To review matters arising from meeting on 24 July 2023</b> - Safety of A1152 - thanks were expressed to AR and JM for their support and IA emailed (slightly amended to show the Sandlings Walk) copy of the statistics. The traffic accident data has been taken from <a href="http://www.crashmap.co.uk">www.crashmap.co.uk</a> but is not wholly accurate or up to date as the data only refers to collisions from 2000-2021. IA added the fatal collision from earlier this month to emphasise the danger but there will almost certainly be other serious and/or slight collisions since 2021. IA has sent a Freedom of Information request to Suffolk Constabulary for more accurate and reliable data and will forward the results when received. IA emailed Cllr Andrew Reid - please see Appendix A. <b>BPC agreed</b> IA to send an assessment to various stakeholders in SCC and ESC, including Tim Passmore - please see Appendix B. Further to various responses it was suggested to finalise date for a workshop to discuss traffic issues. A positive response from Joshua White (SCC) was received and circulated to Cllrs - please see Appendix C. A discussion was held for BPC to agree to pay for an initial speed test at £750.00, noting alterations could cost between £10k to £20k. This is an issue for all PC's in the area. Discussions followed regarding pedestrians and footpath issues. To note x5 times SLOW signs on this road and the chaos caused to Bromeswell when accidents occur.</p> <p><b>It was agreed that BPC</b> fund the speed limit initially and for IA to respond to Josh White. A discussion was suggested to include business' on A1152. Action to consider.</p> <p>Suggestion was made for Deben PC's to be involved in the Workshop - Action Clerk to request if this could be possible when the date is finalised.</p> <p><b>- Update on Holiday Lets</b> A concern was raised about air bnb's in the parish and if they had planning. (see Enforcements above) VB mentioned if you go to air bnb site they don't give the address until a booking and deposit is paid. Cllr JM mentioned proper commercial use and disposal of waste should be</p>

	<p>addressed.- there is no list of properties and they are not assessed for being suitable.Thanks expressed to VB for the investigation.</p> <p>- Overgrown Hedge School Lane - has been completed however concerns were raised regarding regrowth Action IA to contact resident and assist (resident present at the meeting offered his assistance).</p> <p>- Ditch in Summer Lane before holiday lets - TJ was going to contact landowner to consider making ditch more visible, and to check the culvert. Also to consider if Highways need to replace the appropriate reflective signs.- no update at this time Action TJ to follow up</p> <p>- AONB Volunteer Work Parties: TJ proposed a project to extend a permissive path around WRUFC to enable walkers and horse-riders to keep off the road - TJ has reported no response received from AONB so far.</p> <p>- the cookies pop up is simply to make people aware of the installation of cookies. The query was about rejecting them. Action IA to investigate with One Suffolk.</p>
12.	<p><b>Approval and signing of minutes 24 July 2023</b> Agreed and signed - available on website</p>
13.	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) To note closure of Barclays Bank in Woodbridge and to discuss options - it was agreed Action Clerk to discuss with Lloyds about possible switch</li> <li>b) To consider SARS request for donation - all agreed to donation of £50.00</li> <li>c) To consider Citizens Advice East Suffolk request for donation <a href="http://www.caes.org.uk">www.caes.org.uk</a> - all agreed to donation of £50</li> <li>d) To note authorised payments made since last meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Election Costs Inv 777028868 £78.54</li> <li>- VH hire July Inv 84 £12.00</li> </ul> </li> <li>e) to note any payments received since last meeting - none received</li> <li>f) to agree accounts as at 25 September 2023 - agreed and signed (for upload to website)</li> </ul>
14.	<p>Date of next PC meeting - 27 November</p> <p>Thanks expressed to everybody in attendance</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m..</p>

Signed ..... Chair      Date 27 November 2023

## **Appendix A**

*email sent to Cllr Andrew Reid*

*'as the SCC Councillor representing Bromeswell, you will know that improvements to road safety has and continues to be a key priority for Bromeswell's residents and its PC. This is reflected in our current and previous Parish Plans and the comments from residents at PC meetings. To date, Bromeswell PC with the support of yourself and James Mallinder has taken practical steps to address the concerns that are within its power to change. Examples include:*

- *A commitment to the Quiet Lanes initiative*
- *A 20mph zone covering School Lane, Summer Lane and the residential section of Common Lane.*
- *A VAS on the B1084 Orford Road*
- *Clearer signage on the B1083 Sutton Road*

*Whilst these steps have been a success, the major concern for residents is road safety on the A1152, particularly from the Wilford Bridge roundabout to the junction with the Eyke Road and B1084. This stretch of road is approx 0.8 miles but, in the last 23 years has seen at least 29 reported collisions (probably more) involving 55 vehicles and resulting in 4 deaths and 44 other casualties, some serious. Bromeswell's parish councillors are all aware of the dangers this road presents to Bromeswell's residents, visitors and those passing through. The data from crashmap shows reported incidents but there are many that go unreported. Of particular concern is the danger to children when crossing the A1152 to catch their school bus and the number of near misses at the A1152/B1084 (Eyke / Orford Rd junction).*

*It is unfortunate that Bromeswell was again the scene of a collision on July 2nd which resulted in the death of one motorcyclist and the hospitalisation of a second. What is clear is that the problem of road safety on the A1152 is serious and is expected to get worse with planned and future developments that will increase the amount of traffic on this road. We know of housing developments that have been approved for Eyke and Rendlesham. Those developments alone will result in an additional 140 houses with subsequent household and delivery vehicles increasing the traffic flow on the A1152. We are also anticipating increased numbers of HGVs on the A1152 following business developments at Bentwaters Park. Bromeswell PC feel it is also inevitable that construction traffic from Sizewell C will use the A1152, either through choice or when the A12 is closed due to repairs or accidents.*

*Bromeswell's concern is reflected across the area through the Joint Parish Transport Initiative (JPTI). The JPTI is working with Chris Bally, ESC to raise wider concerns that include the A1152 but Bromeswell PC feel that this stretch of the A1152 is of such concern that it needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency by Suffolk Highways to avoid future deaths and serious injuries.*

*Bromeswell PC is not qualified to offer solutions to this problem but we do feel a reduction in the speed limit and a roundabout at the A1152/B1084 will be beneficial. Other more effective solutions may be available so I would be most grateful if you could bring this to the attention of Luke Barber and any other stakeholders that you feel would need to be involved in the decision-making process'*

## **Appendix B**

*email to Stakeholders*

*'I am contacting you on behalf of Bromeswell Parish Council (BPC) with respect to our concerns over the safety of the A1152, Bromeswell. BPC is acutely aware of the number of collisions and severity of injuries on the A1152. We are also aware of the number of near misses that go largely unreported. As a result, the BPC is keen to engage with any and all appropriate stakeholders with the capability to influence timely and appropriate action. Your name has been suggested to us as a stakeholder.*

*The attached BPC assessment forms the launch of a campaign by the parish council to highlight our concerns about road safety and to engage with stakeholders to facilitate remedial action. Please can we ask you to read the attached report and respond to the findings and judgements it contains. We appreciate this will come as an additional task to your busy workloads but would really appreciate*

your time and comments. If the assessment is inappropriate to your work area and command, please can we ask you to let me know and/or forward it to an appropriate colleague.

The assessment was written earlier this week and is based on Suffolk Constabulary and Department for Transport data. It does not include reference to two collisions on the A1152 on Saturday 9th Sept. I do not know the cause of those collisions or the result in terms of injury but the fact that they occurred so soon after a fatal incident on the same stretch of road (2nd July) really emphasises the concerns felt by BPC and the residents it represents'

### **Appendix C**

After speaking with Luke Barber on a very initial level, I have listed below an initial summary of our thoughts at officer level. These thoughts are based on our current policies, and I have also given our best suggestions without considering any specific budget. We have tried to address your queries purely from a highway perspective, whilst considering other factors / stakeholders may come into play that impact our thoughts. Please see below a summary in response to your 3 points :

1. **The speed limit on the A1152 from the Wilford Bridge Roundabout to the Eyke/Sheepdrift Road junction should be reduced to protect pedestrians and road users.**

In terms of speed restrictions, I have provided a link below showing our current speed limit policy. This speed limit policy has been agreed previously with the elected members and is in place across Suffolk. When a new speed restriction is sponsored (for a number of reasons including new developments & collisions etc) the restriction is measured against the specific criteria set out, alongside comments and advice from key stakeholders such as the Police. The Police are very aware of our speed limit policy and will only support changes to speed restrictions if they closely meet the policy.

[speed-limit-policy \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](http://suffolk.gov.uk/speed-limit-policy)

Without commenting on the specifics of the A1152 (as I do not have current speed / volume data for this whole stretch), we would advise that a speed limit report is initiated with our Speed and Safety management team to assess a proposed speed limit reduction with factual information, including crash and speed data, against the criteria set out in policy. I believe this report costs in the region of £750.

I am also aware that there is a current proposal to reduce the speed restriction with our design team on the A1152 coming out of Melton, I have shown below the proposed extents, which is a continuation of the 30mph speed restriction (extension in RED) :



Currently there are no proposals, that I am aware of, to reduce the speed restriction from the roundabout eastwards to the Eyke Road junction. My personal feelings would be that a 50mph speed restriction along here would be appropriate, but any assessment would be based on the policy (see above link). There may also be scope to consider a reduced speed restriction which could cover the Eyke Road junction and tie into the 30mph speed restriction on the B1084 in the proximity of the rugby club. Again, my personal opinion here would be to reduce the speed limit to perhaps 40mph on approach to the junction, again this is my personal view (and may not meet current policy), any assessment would be made against the criteria set out in the policy. Whichever restriction was found to be suitable, this may well be a bit of a balancing act to ensure we have a consistent limit through this short stretch of the A1152 to ensure we can look to achieve reasonable compliance by the road user.

A new TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) would be required for a speed limit change, and this can cost in the region of £10 – 20k, and would require external funding. This is the legal process to change a speed

restriction, including consultations & construction work. I would advise that the Parish, with the support of the County Councillor, funded a speed limit assessment report initially.

**2. The Orford/Eyke Road junction layout should be altered to reduce the number and severity of incidents now and in the future.**

In principle I agree that the junction could be altered, consideration to be given to removing the left slip up to Eyke, and squaring off the junction to slow it down. I have yet to make or see a full assessment based on the collisions at this junction and their causes to merit or warrant changes. This adjustment would involve kerbing off each end of the slip, and reviewing the alignment of the existing junction and making the necessary alterations to ensure that HGVs & agricultural vehicles can negotiate the necessary movements. This would be a significant scheme and would need to be reviewed by an independent safety audit team. An image of what could be provided is shown below :



(GREEN area would be a new area of verge / grass)

This would fall outside of any maintenance works and would require central funding from Government or alternatively S106 money from Developers (development sites in the local area).

**3. Road safety measures should be introduced to aid pedestrians to walk along and cross the A1152 in safety.**

This is a challenging one, as there are no formal facilities along the A1152 beyond the Common Lane junction. We have no data identifying the number of pedestrians walking alongside the A1152 on the verge. We would anticipate that pedestrians would use the Public Right of Way footpath network in this rural location. Therefore, we would envisage if improvements were made, that they were focused on the PROW network. With the usage of vehicles along this stretch of A class road, which caters for HGVs and similar, significant engineering works would be required to ensure a safe route for pedestrians adjacent to the A1152.

Local PROW walking routes below :



This would require further investigation with our PROW team to establish the condition of what we have footpath wise, and how we can locally improve these.

Again, please note that at this time these are just initial officer thoughts, and a lot of investigation would be required to develop these ideas. In addition, these would need to be supported by the local County Councillor.

I hope the above information presents the current situation from SCCs perspective in relation to what can be achieved on the highway. Should a funding source become available for such improvement works we would be happy to discuss options and develop these ideas through the appropriate channels. Initially, with the support of your County Councillor, we would advise that a speed limit report is produced for this stretch to look at the feasibility of reducing some of the existing speed limits.