

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2 July 2015 at the Community House, Birdbrook at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr T R Walker Mr P Smart
Mr S Rhenius

Clerk: Mrs D Hilliard

Also Present: 1 member of the public

It had been planned that a presentation would take place at 7.30pm before the meeting commenced by Buz.com but as the representatives had not arrived it was agreed to proceed with the meeting until they did arrive.

15/47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Alan Cook

15/48 OTHER APOLOGIES

Cllr Finch

15/49 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 May 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

Minute 15/45 was queried – whether we should join the Network 5 group or look to starting a new group within the Steeple Bumpstead area. Agenda for September meeting.

15/50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15/51 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Laptop – Debbie reported that Stambourne Parish Council had agreed to share the cost of new laptop. It was agreed the cost should be in the region of £4-500. Debbie will make enquiries at STP in Haverhill for a suitable laptop.

The meeting was closed at approximately 7.45pm at Buz.com arrived and made their presentation. Several questions were asked by both parish councillors and the member of public. After making their presentation Buz.com and the member of public left. The meeting resumed at approximately 8.15pm.

Winter saltbag scheme 2015- It was agreed to join the scheme for this year. Debbie will register the parish council.

Pensions Regulator letter – The Parish Council were briefed on the need to offer staff a pension and the correct procedure. It was noted that the only employee is the Clerk who had at this time no interest in taking up a pension.

To fulfil its obligations the Parish Council need to make an offer letter and declaration of fulfilment in October 2016. Noted.

15/52 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Air Ambulance fundraising scheme – It was agreed to pass the details onto the Gliding Club at Ridgewell who may support the scheme.

15/53 MEMBERS REPORTS

(a) *Pond* – The pond is very weedy. Debbie will contact the Conservation Volunteers to arrange for the visit.

(b) *Parks* – Nothing to report

(c) *Chairman's* – PC vacancies – there has been one person interested. However as they have submitted a petition to ECC regarding speeding on the A1017 if he became a parish councillor now this may result in a conflict of interest. Therefore, will wait until the matter is settled and then would be interested in becoming a parish councillor.

Steve Rhenius reported that he had met Joy Derby of EALC regarding the loss of Parish Councillors and noted she would be happy to come and speak at a future meeting. It was suggested to invite her to the November meeting. Debbie will arrange this.

(d) *Highways* – Richard reported he had letter last week from ECC advising that we apply to the Local Highways panel. Richard will email Debbie the 3 maps to attach to the LHP form and send in.

Potholes to be reported. Moat Road pavement needs extending to the bus shelter. Garden hedges need trimming back where they overgrow onto pavements. Richard will add this to Highways letter.

15/54 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES

Covered in 15/53 (c) above.

15/55 BT TELEPHONE BOXES

Alan and Richard had carried out an inspection of the phone box in Birdbrook and their report was read out. It was agreed the following work is required:-

Cleaning
Flaking paint removed.
Prime and repaint
Replace cracked pane
Installation of plaque to go over door.

Debbie will email Alan the company details of K2 supplies (suppliers of phonebox paints etc). Alan will price for the work and circulate details to all. The Baythorne End box will be looked at in spring 2016.

15/56 COUNTY BROADBAND

Nothing to report.

15/57 GRASS CUTTING (OTHER AREAS)

The idea put forward was to find a gardener/handyman for 1 day per month to do grass cutting and any other necessary work. This will be reconsidered at the September meeting.

15/58 BIRDBROOK NEWS

Richard reported that contributions are falling. He and Carrie are suggesting dropping issues from 5 to 4 per year. Carrie is moving out of the parish so will no longer be involved with the magazine. Agenda for September.

15/59 BIRDBROOK COMMUNITY HOUSE

Richard updated the new councillors on the situation and that the Chair of the Parish Council would now also be ex-officio Chair of the Community House Trustees.

15/60 PLANNING

15/00724/ful – Diversion of footpath – no objection.
15/00648/LBC and 1500647/FUL – Previously reported.

It was noted that the parish council needs to ensure a response on planning applications, especially those that fall outside of meeting dates.

15/61 FINANCE

Financial Report –It was agreed that £2,500 could be transferred to reserves. Proposed by Steve and seconded by Alan, all in favour.

15/62 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Not applicable as no confidential items to discuss.

15/63 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None

15/64 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 16 September 2015.

Alan suggested the installation of a village sign. Debbie will contact Sturmer PC to find out how they went about their new sign. Agenda September.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.45pm

Signed: Dated:

