

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT: Mr T R Walker (Chairman)
Mr S Rhenius
Mr P Smart
Mr A Cook

CLERK: Mrs D Hilliard

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 members of the public

One member of the public made a statement to the Parish Council relating to item 5 of the agenda. The parishioner's statement was to object to the retention of the fence on the grounds that it is sited in a Conservation Area and out of keeping with the area. They also circulated a copy of a letter from a historic buildings and conservation advice service.

16/86 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Martin Gilbert

16/87 OTHER ABSENCES

Mr Dominic Simpson.

16/88 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman explained the how declarations of interest work and read the statement from the agenda. Cllrs Smart and Cook had already declared an interest in item 5 of the agenda and cannot comment on this item. Cllr Rhenius declared an interest in item 5.

16/89 GENERAL PROCEDURES AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Clerk updated those present on the reason for calling this meeting. The planning application had been circulated to all members by email and comments had been drafted. However, it had come to light that Cllr Simpson had emailed the Chairman privately regarding item 5 of the agenda as he felt the proposed response to the application was not appropriate. All other comments by other parish councillors and interests had been made publicly. The Chairman also reported he had been approached in person by the applicant. At this point the Clerk contacted EALC for advice on this situation as it was felt the Parish Council's position was being compromised.

The advice received from the EALC was that an extraordinary meeting should be called for any planning application received with fell outside of regular meeting dates.

The Chairman made it clear to those present that the Parish Council is not a planning authority and they only comment on applications but have no authority over the decisions made – this is done by Braintree District Council.

16/90 APPLICATION NO: 16/01484/FUL

The Chairman updated those present on the situation. As 3 of the 4 members present had declared an interest in this item no comments could be passed on the planning application as the Parish Council was not quorate. The Clerk will advise Braintree District Council accordingly.

The situation regarding planning applications and correct procedure will be put on the agenda for the next regular meeting in November.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.10pm.

Signed: Dated: