

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2017

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

CLERK: Mrs D Hilliard

ALSO PRESENT: Mr A Baxter
Cllr D Finch

Richard welcomed all to the meeting and invited Cllr Finch to address the Parish Council. Cllr Finch advised that ECC officers had visited the A1017 through Baythorne End and had approved the installation of a 40mph speed limit from Four Ash Hill to Station Road. This news was welcomed and the Parish Council thanked Cllr Finch.

Cllr Finch also reported on the following:-

- The Essex Lottery has been launched.
- The availability of new funding sources which might benefit the Parish Council.

Richard invited questions from those present. None were tabled. Cllr Finch left the meeting at this point.

17/80 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Simpson.

17/81 OTHER ABSENCES

Cllr D Garrod.

17/82 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 September 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

17/83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17/84 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Not present.

17/85 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Nothing to report.

17/86 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Birdbrook PCC – Noted.

Braintree District Council – Sticker re Councillor’s Community Grant – to be displayed.

Stop Stansted Expansion – Noted. The Parish Council will remain neutral on this matter.

17/87 MEMBERS’ REPORTS

(a) *Pond* – Martin reported the pond is still green. He had received a recommendation from a local resident that a product “Aquaplankton” worked. Costs would be initially 6 x 25kg bags for £300 for one year’s supply. However, if the Parish Council purchase 2 years’ supply the cost would be £480. The initial dose should last for one year but would require a top up at the end of the first year. Martin will contact the company to check on storage requirements. The product claims it has no adverse environmental impact nor is dangerous for wildlife or plants.

Steve Rhenius will research the product further and notify Martin if the claims hold true and, subject to this, it was agreed that Martin will proceed with its use. This was proposed by Alan and seconded by Peter. All in favour.

(b) *Parks* – Debbie reported that the play equipment safety inspection was due. It was agreed to ask Fenland Leisure to proceed with the inspection.

(c) *Chairman’s Report* – Richard reported that the salt had been delivered and needed to be stored away.

(d) *Highways* – Comments were made that the resurfacing work carried out in the summer was shoddy with incomplete reinstatement of white lines. However, it was noted that the white lines complied with current highways standards. The drain grates on Station Road and manhole cover at Whitely Bridge were still missing. Debbie will report these again.

17/88 PLANNING

Application no – 17/001795/FUL – 2 Prospect Place – No comment.

Application no – 17/001883/FUL – 2 Whitely Farm Cottages – No comment.

17/89 HIGHWAY PROPOSALS

Richard reported the news that a 40mph speed limit had been approved by ECC Highways. It was agreed that the proposals for the A1017 shown in the minutes of the September meeting be held over until this limit is actually in place at which point a further discussion will take place.

17/90 REVIEW OF STREETLIGHTS

Missing Streetlight - Debbie updated those present on the situation with the missing streetlight. Debbie will circulate the email from ECC before deciding on a further course of action.

Proposal to change lighting to LED – The cost of changing all current lights to LED was estimated at £6,800 plus VAT. It was agreed to change lighting to LED. Proposed by Alan and seconded by Martin. All in favour. Debbie will investigate the potential for any grant funding towards this cost.

17/91 LITTER PICKING AND BIN EMPTYING

The draft contract for Kevin Shears had been circulated. The following alterations were agreed:-

- The litter picking should take place through the village with the emphasis on Fell Road and Moat Road. No litter picking to take place on the A1017 or B1054 for safety reasons.
- The bins to be emptied are located: Birdbrook Playing field, the bus stops in both Birdbrook and Baythorne End, and Baythorne End playing field.
- The benches to be maintained are located at Birdbrook playing field, Birdbrook pond, Baythorne End junction.
- The notice boards are located at Birdbrook, New England and Baythorne End.

Debbie will alter the contract as above and circulate for approval before sending to Kevin Shears.

17/92 VILLAGE SIGN

Alan updated those present as follows:-

- The sign should be available by spring 2018.
- The invoice will be issued January 2018.
- On 11 September 2017 Alan provided Develop Essex with the size of the sign.
- Two contractors are visiting the site on 4 November to inspect and quote for the plinth. It will be similar to the church wall. Richard, Peter and Martin will attend.

17/93 DEFIBRILLATOR

Richard reported that the awareness evening had been well supported with good feedback from those attending.

Alan reported that the internal light in the BT box had failed but this had now been repaired.

Baythorne End – Alan and Steve have met the Community Heartbeat Trust regarding a defibrillator for Baythorne End. It was noted that this one may be able to run from a solar powered box. The box would have to be mounted on a pole which stands on a concrete base. It was suggested that Steve contact Develop Essex for advice on an appropriate site for the box as it is not possible to use the telephone box in this instance. Steve will report back on progress.

17/94 OPEN SPACES ACTION PLAN

The report had previously been circulated. It was agreed that no changes were required.

17/95 FINANCE

Financial Report – Noted and agreed. All in favour. Debbie advised that the half-year audit had been completed by Melford Accounting with no matters to report.

Budgets and Precept 2018/19 – The budget forms had been circulated. After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council would use the same figures as per 2017/18 until BDC agreed its level of funding in December. The Parish Council would finally agree its figures at the January meeting.

17/96 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Not required.

17/97 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None.

17/98 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 4 January 2018 at 7.00pm at the Community House.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm.

Signed: Dated: