

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 4 JANUARY 2018

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mr A Baxter
District Councillor Mrs D Garrod

CLERK: Mrs D Hilliard

The Chairman welcomed those present to the first meeting of 2018. There were no questions from members of the public. He notified those present of a confidential item to be raised under item 19 of the agenda.

18/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

18/2 OTHER ABSENCES

Mr D Simpson and Cllr D Finch.

18/3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Peter Smart and seconded by Steve Rhenius. All in favour.

18/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

18/5 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

It must be noted that Cllr Garrod arrived at the meeting at 7.30pm and her report was invited at that time. Cllr Garrod advised those present of the following items:-

- The introduction of Emirates service at Stansted to Dubai.
- Community Government Review for parish boundaries now in its second phase but it was noted this does not affect Birdbrook.
- The Councillor's Community Grant scheme will continue for 2018.
- A120 noise study.

18/6 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported that all items are covered elsewhere on the agenda.

18/7 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Clerks and Councils Direct (x2) – noted.
Glasdon Brochure – noted.
ECC Abuse posters – noted.
HMRC VAT reclaim change – noted.

18/8 MEMBERS' REPORTS

a) Pond – Martin and Steve had made enquiries of Novaquatics and its products and could find nothing detrimental to using the pond clearing product Aquaplankton. Steve had established it is a calcium based product which uses alkaline based ingredients to deter algae development in pond water. It was proposed by Martin and seconded by Alan that the Parish Council purchase a supply for use in the pond. All in favour.

b) Parks – Debbie advised the annual play equipment inspection had been carried out and the report was awaited.

c) Chairman's Report – Superfast Broadband Events – The Chairman asked if there would be any benefit in representatives from the Parish Council attending. After some discussion it was agreed that there would be no benefit in attending. The date for Birdbrook's superfast link appear to be pushed back continually.

d) Highways Report – There is a pothole to report on Fell Road, near the gate entrance to Chadwells. This will be reported to ECC Highways.

18/9 PLANNING

Nothing to report.

18/10 HIGHWAY PROPOSALS

Richard advised that he had been given the new speed proposals by ECC which had been sent to the clerk. He outlined the proposals to those present which are to implement a 40mph limit from Clare Bridge to Station Road on the A1017. It was proposed by Richard Walker and seconded by Peter Smart that the Parish Council send an email in support of the proposal. The Clerk will send this. All in favour.

For the section of A1017 at the New England junction Richard suggested trying to arrange a site meeting with CC David Finch, DC Diana Garrod, Jasmine Wyles of LHP together with Richard and Peter. Debbie will draft an email.

18/11 STREETLIGHTS

Debbie reported that, as requested at the last meeting, she had investigated potential sources of funding to replace the current street lighting with LEDs. The sources were – Awards for All, CIF and the Councillor's Community Grant. It was also noted that My Place Funding could also be used. It was agreed that CIF and My Place would be the most appropriate. Debbie will make enquiries.

Missing Streetlight – Debbie reported she had asked ECC regarding replacement of the missing light and had been advised that ECC would take no responsibility on this matter. She has emailed A&J Lighting for advice on the cost of a replacement and what permissions would be needed and awaited their response. It was agreed that Debbie will ask A&J Lighting if they would attend a site meeting. She will contact them.

18/12 LITTER BINS AND LITTER PICKING

The agreement will be amended and sent to Kevin Shears for signature.

18/13 VILLAGE SIGN

Alan updated those present on the situation with Olive Porter of ECC who had requested another set of detailed location plans for the village sign, despite these having already been given to ECC. These will be sent to Olive Porter. Debbie will check the public liability level of insurance for Birdbrook Parish Council. Once Olive Porter has this information the licence should be issued and work can commence on the plinth. It was also agreed that the invoice for the Village Sign People will be paid.

18/14 DEFIBRILLATOR

It was noted that the defibrillator is now up and running.

For the proposed installation of a defibrillator in Baythorne End, Richard reported that he had a positive response to the proposed location on the grassed area near to the entrance to Baythorne Hall. Steve Rhenius will contact Cllr Finch for who to contact to get permission to site the defibrillator on this location as it is thought to be ECC land.

Baythorne End sign – Richard reported that the old pub sign in Baythorne End is actually located on ECC Highways land. The wrought iron will need repair or replacement and Richard will get a quote for a sign and iron framework.

18/15 LOCAL AUTHORITY RESEARCH AND INTELLIGENCE ASSOCIATION (LARIA)

Steve reported he has been a member of the association for some time and felt there may be some items of interest to the parish council. Steve will send details of any items which may be of interest to members.

18/16 BIRDBROOK NEWS

The parish council thanked Albert Baxter for his work on Birdbrook News. The colour issues had been well received but it was noted that extra costs are incurred for this level of printing. Discussion took place around the falling levels of advertising which then results in increased costs to the parish council. However, the magazine is popular in the village and appears to be well read. It was noted that only a small number of parishioners choose to take the magazine electronically. The situation will continue to be monitored.

18/17 FINANCE

The financial report was agreed. Proposed by Steve Rhenius and seconded by Peter Smart, all in favour.

The Parish Council reviewed the budget and precept for the financial year 2018/19 and it was agreed to declare a budget figure of £13,685.00 with a precept figure of £13,245.00. The Chairman signed the precept form and this will be sent to BDC.

18/18 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

The Chairman had previously notified those present of the need for a confidential item and the meeting continued with members of the public and press excluded.

18/19 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

There was one confidential item to note.

18/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The meeting dates for 2018 are:-

- Thursday 1st March
- Thursday 3rd May
- Thursday 5th July
- Thursday 6th September
- Thursday 1st November

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

Signed: Dated: