

**BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY 7 MARCH 2018 AT 7.00PM**

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

**CLERK:** Mrs D Hilliard

**18/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Martin Gilbert and Cllr Garrod.

**18/22 OTHER ABSENCES**

D Simpson.

**18/23 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed.

**18/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**18/25 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Not present.

**18/26 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK**

All items covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**18/27 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**

Masons Tree Surgery Ltd – noted.  
Eon – noted.

**18/28 MEMBERS REPORTS**

a) Pond – Martin Gilbert unable to attend this meeting. However, he submitted an email report and advised he had put in the first treatment of Aquaplankton and will monitor the situation. He will also organise a work party in the spring to tidy some of the growth around the pond. Richard advised he had also been approached by a parishioner regarding the overgrown plants around the pond.

b) Parks – Debbie advised she had not seen the report on the play inspection. She will follow this up with Fenland Leisure.

c) Chairman's Report – Richard reported the email from a Parishioner notifying him of a recent theft of items from a garden shed. An article will be put in the Birdbrook News. He also advised the Parish Plan would require an update and suggested he and Peter meet before May – it can then be included in the Chairman's Annual Report. An item on Neighbourhood Watch will also be added.

d) Highways – Richard has received various complaints (around 7) from different parishioners regarding the state of the roads since they were resurfaced last summer. The complaints cover:-

- The amount of loose chippings lying on the road.
- Patches which appear to have been missed.
- The pot holes in Fell Road which have been reported to Highways but no action taken. Alan agreed to contact Highways by telephone on this item.

Debbie will draft a letter to ECC Highways and circulate prior to sending.

A1017 at New England – Richard reported on the email sent to the Clerk from Cllr Finch stating he will not attend a site meeting unless there is a definite need for action. Richard was somewhat perturbed at this response he can recall previous meetings and communication about this matter. Peter suggested that the Parish Council await the outcome of the consultation period re 40mph speed restriction on the A1017 through Baythorne End before continuing. This was agreed.

The following items need reporting to ECC Highways and the Clerk will deal with this:-

- The milestone located on the A1017 between Rosemary Cottage and Baythorne Hall has been knocked over and requires attention. This will be reported to Highways.
- Chevrons broken/missing on Four Ash Hill and Station Road.
- Wren Cottage, The Street, Birdbrook a 30mph sign has been erected right in the centre of the footpath making it impossible for wheelchair users/pushchairs to negotiate.
- Fell Road Street Sign missing.
- Salt bin replacement – bin at Fell Road/The Street junction removed by Highways and not yet replaced.

## **18/29 PLANNING**

Debbie advised that she had received an email from BDC introducing a new method of commenting on planning applications. She will re-circulate the email and sign Birdbrook onto the system.

The Chairman advised the site at New England appeared now to be a car scrap yard and questioned if they operators have or need a licence or planning permission. Debbie will contact planning to ask.

**18/30 HIGHWAY PROPOSALS RE A1017**

Dealt with under item 18/28(c) above.

**18/31 STREETLIGHTS**

Peter and Richard reported the meeting on 28 February 2018 arranged with A&J Lighting did not go ahead because of the bad weather. Debbie will contact A&J Lighting to arrange another date.

UK Power will be contacted to arrange a refund of power not used in respect of the missing light.

Debbie will make enquiries as to other streetlighting companies that may be able to help.

**18/32 VILLAGE SIGN**

Alan reported he has been communicating with Olive Porter at ECC regarding the plinth for the village sign. Olive Porter advises a structural engineer's report is required. The Village Sign People have given Alan a suggested engineer and a report has now been completed which will be sent to Olive Porter. The village sign will be ready in approximately 2 weeks. Due to the changes required for the plinth it may be the work is outside of the suggested contractor's remit and a new contractor may need to be sought. A further report will be made to the next meeting.

Alan was thanked by those present for his work on this project.

**18/33 FINANCE**

The finance report was noted and agreed.

**18/34 WORK AGREEMENT WITH MR K SHEARS**

The agreement was signed by the Chairman and Mr Shears will be sent a copy.

It was noted that there was one further bench in the churchyard to be added to the list.

**18/35 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

None present.

**18/36 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

One item to note.

**18/37 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 3 May 2018 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.45pm

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

