

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

**PRESENT:** Mr T R Walker (Chairman)  
Mr S Rhenius  
Mr A Cook  
Mr M Gilbert  
Mr D Simpson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs D Garrod (District Councillor)  
Mr Albert Baxter (member of public)

**CLERK:** Mrs D Hilliard

**17/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
Peter Smart.

**17/20 OTHER ABSENCES**  
County Councillor David Finch

**17/21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**  
The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record (as amended) and signed. Proposed by Alan Cook and seconded by Steve Rhenius, all in favour.

**17/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
Dominic Simpson declared an interest in item 8 of the agenda, Planning.

**17/23 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK**  
*Missing Streetlight* – The Clerk confirmed an email had been sent to UK Power regarding this missing light and a reply was awaited.  
*Insurance Renewal* – The Clerk suggested it might be prudent to obtain quotes for the insurance renewal and report back to the May meeting. Agreed.

**17/24 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**  
*Clerks and Councils direct* – noted.  
*RCCE Village of the Year and Oyster* – noted.  
*Fenland Leisure Certificate of Completion* – noted.

**17/25 MEMBERS' REPORTS**  
(a) *Pond* – Martyn reported he had broken up the other to bales of barley straw in the pond and the pond now appeared to be clearing. The working party was very successful and had been supported by parishioners and parish councillors alike. It was suggested that another working party take place in April to tidy the play area. One area of concern is the retaining wall which has loose capping stones. The Clerk will report this to ECC Highways as it is their responsibility.

- (b) *Parks* -Fenland Leisure have carried out repairs as per their inspection report. Martyn suggested a working party to carry out the cleaning. Richard will look at the report and check the work has been done. Kevin Shears has quoted £250.00 to tidy the hedge around the playing field. Martyn and Richard will take a look at the hedge before a decision is made.
- (c) *Chairman's Report* – There is a fallen tree blocking the ditch in Daw Street which needs clearing. This will be reported to ECC Highways. Alan reported on the email he had received from BT regarding the upgrade of the telephone exchange. Steve reported that the maps on the Superfast Essex page had been updated. A draft letter will be sent to Superfast Essex stating that Birdbrook cannot get County Broadband due to cost and trees blocking line of sight.
- (d) *Highways* – Richard reported he is considering the next action to take regarding the A1017 and will report back.

#### 17/26 PLANNING

*Application No 17/00114/FUL – Moat House* – Dominic Simpson left the meeting room at this point.

Martyn Gilbert and Richard Walker noted they may have to declare an interest in this item due to the location of their properties in Daw Street. It was agreed that any comments sent to Braintree District Council would include this declaration. The following comments were made:

- Concerns were raised about the potential for damage to the verge and driveways opposite the entrance to the building site by construction traffic due to the narrow road (Daw Street) and entrance way.
- There was no objection to the building as such providing it complied with current planning regulations.
- It was noted that the tree and ecology reports were “to follow” and had not yet been submitted by the applicant.

A letter incorporating the above points will be circulated before sending to Braintree.

Dominic rejoined the meeting and was asked a couple of questions about the application particularly concerning the access.

It was reported that there was an application listed regarding the Westropes site in New England but Debbie reported she had not received any notification to date.

*Application No: 17/00061/TPOCON – 3 Prospect Place, The Street*

No objection provided the work is compliant with the advice of BDC's Tree Officer and the fact that it is in a Conservation Area.

#### 17/27 MAINTENANCE

The Survey is yet to be carried out.

The following items are noted as follows:-

- K Shears quote for next 3 years – all agreed.
- Pest Control – It was agreed to appoint Command to undertake this. A letter will be sent.

- New England Landscaping – Due to the cost the Parish Council is unable to continue. A letter will be sent with a request for return of the keys.
- Countrywide – agenda for May meeting.
- Litter Picking – Debbie will contact BDC to obtain litter picking equipment and get it delivered.
- The grass cutting map that Mr Shears uses will be circulated to everyone.
- Contact Simon Price and ask if he has a copy of any map for his verge cutting arrangements.

**17/27 CIF APPLICATION**

Alan reported he has photographed certain areas of the village and sent them to the sign company. Four proposed designs had now been received and Alan circulated to those present. The company also suggested that for another £400 you could choose two different designs to use one on either side of the sign. It was agreed to use a design incorporating notable buildings in the village. Permission will be sought from property owners where necessary.

The following was agreed:-

- A sign using the church (including the war memorial), Community House, Pub and School House will be used with the gates of Moynes Park on top of the sign. The colours will be as per the photographs.
- Alan will contact Cllr Finch about permission to site the sign on the triangle at the junction of Fell Road/The Street.

The Parish Council expressed its thanks to Alan for all his work on this project.

*Telephone Boxes* – Alan has now obtained the silicon gel for the windows so work can proceed.

**17/28 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATION**

The form was completed by parish councillors and given to District Councillor Garrod at the meeting which she signed.

**17/29 FINANCE**

*Financial Report* – Noted and agreed. All in favour.

**17/30 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Not required.

**17/31 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

None.

**17/18 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 10 May 2017 at 7.30pm at the Community House.

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

Signed:  Dated: 10th May 2017