

DRAFT

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 March 2016 at the Community House, Birdbrook at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr T R Walker Mr P Smart
Mr A Cook

Clerk: Mrs D Hilliard

Members of the Public: 1

16/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Simpson, Mr S Rhenius and Cllr R Bolton.

16/19 OTHER APOLOGIES

Cllr D Finch.

The Chairman addressed those present to advise that Mr Martin Gilbert had attended a previous meeting and expressed interest in becoming a parish councillor. It was agreed that Mr Gilbert be co-opted onto the Parish Council. Proposed by Mr A Cook and seconded by Peter Smart. All in favour.

16/20 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman advised that having looked at the minutes he realised he would not be able to attend the first meeting of the proposed Network Group on 7 April 2016. It was agreed that this meeting be changed to Wednesday 13 April at 7.30pm in the Community House, Birdbrook. All in favour

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 January 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

16/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16/22 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Proposed new Network Group – dealt with above.

Defibrillator – It was agreed to make an application to the CIF Fund for 2 defibrillators and renovation of the pump. The Clerk will make enquiries and obtain quotes.

Transparency Code – Debbie advised that she had today received a cheque from EALC for the new laptop and scanner to comply with Transparency Code regulations. She will organise a purchase order.

16/23 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Clean up for the Queen – Noted. However, the Parish Council felt March was too early and should be carried out in the spring. Debbie passed round a commemorative medal she had been sent. Some discussion ensued regarding

whether a coin/medal/mug should be ordered for parishioners, however it was felt the cost would be prohibitive. The Queen's 90th birthday celebrations would be put on the May agenda.

Agewell booklets – Noted. The Chairman will distribute.

Lloyds - Noted.

ECC – Noted.

Essex Playing Fields Mag – Noted

Clerks and Councils Mag – Noted

Minerals and Waste – The Chairman will put on the noticeboard.

16/24 MEMBERS REPORTS

(a) *Pond* – The duck house has been cleaned out and righted. However, it is still inclined to list occasionally.

(b) *Parks* – Fenland Leisure have carried out the work suggested in their inspection report. The Chairman met with a representative of Command Pest Control. Command are going to quote for pest control on the playing field.

(c) *Chairman's/Highways* – Regarding the review of grass cutting and litter arrangements scheduled for 2017. Command have advised they would not do litter picking. The Chairman again suggested the idea of contracting a handyman to work for 1 day per month to carry out all this necessary work. This will be put on the agenda for May and Richard and Alan will make some enquiries and report back.

The Chairman reported that at the recent public transport meeting he noted that service 89b will be dropped. It will be replaced by a DRB service from Monday – Saturdays until 8pm on a 2 year trial.

Superfast Broadband – It was reported that now only one house in Birdbrook is linked to the Ridgewell box which has been upgraded. However, all other properties are linked to the box in Baythorne End which is not scheduled for an upgrade for another 2 years. The Clerk will write to MakeTheConnection re this situation.

A1017 – The Chairman updated the Parish Council on the situation, including the emails from Warren Brace. A reply to ECC Highways letter will be drafted. The Chairman will forward his points to the Clerk.

16/25 REVIEW OF PARISH PLAN

Peter and Richard were thanked for their work in reviewing the Parish Plan. The review had been circulated to everyone prior to the meeting. There were a couple of minor changes to be made, then it can be printed. It was noted that Jan Cole of RCCE is attending the May meeting to discuss Neighbourhood Plans.

16/26 PLANNING

Application No: 16/00202/FUL – Craig Meadow, Sturmer Road, New England. It was agreed to comment as follows:-

- This site has been subject to prior applications one of which was rejected, the Parish Council understands, through size. Therefore the Parish Council is surprised to see an application for additional buildings.
- The Parish Council has concerns over potential attempts in the future to change any structure on the site for residential or commercial use.

16/27 FINANCE

The financial report was agreed. The Chairman explained the BDC Streetscene scheme.

16/28 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Not applicable as no confidential items to discuss.

16/29 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None

16/30 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 11 May 2016 at 7.30pm in the Community House, Birdbrook.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm

Signed: Dated: