

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 January 2015 at the Community House, Birdbrook at 7.30pm.

Present: Mr T R Walker Mr D Hoye
Mr S Rhenius Mrs A Beetson

Clerk: Mrs D Hilliard

Members of the Public: 2

15/1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr R Bolton, Mr L Carter and Mrs H Hodge.

15/2 OTHER APOLOGIES

Cllr David Finch

15/3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 November 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Steve Rhenius and seconded by Derek Hoye.

15/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15/5 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Pond – The clerk has again attempted to contact the Conservation Volunteers and will report back

15/6 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Clerks and Councils Direct – Noted.

Revised Refuse Collections – Noted

15/7 MEMBERS REPORTS

Pond – Due to the rain it is quite full and the edges are becoming overgrown. Ann Beetson reported there were some ducks.

Parks – The report from Fenland Leisure re the play equipment was noted. It was agreed to ask Fenland Leisure to carry out all necessary work.

Chairman's – The bus timetables have been received. The “Call for Sites” had generated no response from within the Parish, the nearest site being Steeple Bumpstead. However, Richard will contact BDC next week regarding the New England site.

Highways – There had recently been reports of a problem with flooding on Fell Road. Anglian Water have visited and say a drain is blocked which will be reported to ECC Highways. Richard reported that the manual salt spreader available from Screwfix was still listed as out of stock. Derek Hoye will

investigate another source. Derek Hoye also reported concerns by a householder on the junction of the A1017/1092 in Baythorne End. The HGV's turning are going up the kerb in order to make the turning and come down with a bang which makes neighbouring properties shake giving rise to concerns about foundation damage to the properties. Debbie will report this to Highways and copy in David Finch.

15/8 BT TELEPHONE BOXES

Debbie has previously circulated details of the company which supplies parts and paints for these boxes. It was agreed that 3 estimates would be obtained for the following work:-

Drilling and screwing doors shut

Repainting inside and out

Washing down and cleaning inside and out.

Replacement of any necessary Perspex windows.

15/9 UTTLESFORD COMMUNITY TRAVEL

Steve Rhenius had investigated this matter and reported that Uttlesford District Council operates a community travel scheme which is a charity funded partly by the District Council and Essex CC and by bids for grants. They have managed to keep going for 15 years plus and have a good website:

www.uttlesfordcommunitytravel.org. They have 5 minibuses equipped to carry older people or disabled. The service is available to those meeting that description and to rurally isolated people. The drivers are unpaid volunteers who have to undergo training (Midas – UCT is an accredited trainer). A couple of drivers are salaried and paid for by ECC. To use the service people must join (around £10 pa). Individual journeys can then be booked by phone and paid for on the day. There is a ospital car service which uses volunteers in their own cars – they get 45p/mile although not all claim the allowance.

Braintree District Council run a comparable service – Tracey Corcoran, Community Transport Manager, Braintree District Council, Causeway House, Bocking End, Braintree, Essex CM7 9HB. Tel: 01376 557896

www.brantree.gov.uk or tracey.corcoran@braintree.gov.uk

15/10 SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Steve Rhenius circulated a leaflet on this matter from ECC. BT signed up to provide 95% coverage for Essex but it turns out this is only for urban areas. £5m available from the Government if ECC can match-fund this amount towards costs. ECC approached the District Councils – Braintree offered £250,000. Uttlesford declined and have put aside £100,000 and tendered for wireless. It may be that the footprint of this wireless will cover the Birdbrook area. Steve will report back any further developments.

15/11 PLANNING

Application No – 14/01426 – Despite a return deadline for comments of 12 January in BDC's letter the application has appeared on the circulation list as agreed. Debbie will raise this with planning.

15/12 FINANCE

Financial Report – Agreed

Budgets and Precept 2015/16 – The Parish Council have now been advised of a reduction in Localism Funding of 15.4% by BDC which will amount in approximately a £300 reduction for Birdbrook just to maintain current services.

It was proposed by Derek Hoye and seconded by Steve Rhenius that a budget of £12,955 be agreed for the year 2015/16, all in favour.

It was proposed by Anne Beetson and seconded by Derek Hoye that a precept of £11,382 be agreed for the year 2015/16, all in favour.

15/13 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Not applicable as no confidential items to discuss.

15/14 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None

15/15 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 5 March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Community House.

Meeting dates for 2015 – Annual Parish Assembly Thurs 30 April, AGM Wednesday 13 May, Thursday 2 July, Thursday 3 September, Thursday 5 November and Thursday 7 January 2016.

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

Signed: Dated: