

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 November 2011 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, The Street, Birdbrook PC

PRESENT: Mr T R Walker (Chairman)
Mrs H Hodge
Mrs A Beetson
Mr S Rhenius
Mr D Hoye
Mr L Carter

Officers – Mrs D Hilliard, Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: One

The member of the public had some questions regarding the parish plan which had been featured in the recent Birdbrook News. Some discussion ensued and the member of the public remained at the meeting to hear the item discussed under item 9 of the agenda.

11/73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr R Bolton, Cllr D Finch

11/74 OTHER ABSENCES

None

11/75 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Derek Hoye and seconded by Hazel Hodge.

11/76 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

11/77 REPORT OF THE CLERK

Quality Re-accreditation – The Clerk reported that she continued to work on the portfolio for re-accreditation. However, it was unlikely that it would be ready to present to the December panel. Noted

File Storage - Richard Walker is still waiting to hear from Mr Philby about storage. There is a possibility of storing files in the shed behind the community rooms.

Hi-speed broadband report from Steve Rhenius – The report was circulated to members. It will be put in the Birdbrook News.

Jubilee Oak – No further communication received. The clerk will check the situation and report back

Community Issues meeting – Noted. Awaiting date of meeting.

11/78 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

None.

11/79 MEMBERS' REPORTS

a) Pond – The pond looks very good. Derek Hoye reported that the duck house is built but he requires some floats to put it on. Richard Walker may have something that can be used.

b) Parks – Derek Hoye and Leigh Carter reported they had started the painting. The annual safety inspection has been carried out and the report was read out to members. Work will be carried out as follows:-

Rusty rails – Birdbrook will do.

Sweeping of rubber safety matting – Birdbrook will do.

1 x flat seat of senior swing – Replacement. Fenland to do.

c) Chairman's report – The email regarding the MI committee proposal was read out and kept for the parish plan. Arrangements for the Diamond Jubilee were discussed. It was suggested that the parish council is not in a position to take the lead in organising any celebrations. It was agreed that the Chairman will put an item in the Birdbrook News. There is a possibility that the Church may organise an event.

d) Highways – Some potholes in the parish have been repaired. Derek reported that 2 more cars have gone off the road at Baythorne End. The Clerk will write to highways regarding the state of the road around the green. It was noted that refuse lorries are cutting it up and there are many potholes. It was listed for repair in 2007 but work has still not been carried out.

e) Passenger Transport – Nothing to report. Remove from agenda as regular item.

11/80 PLANNING

Application No 11/01454/FUL – The Plough, The Street, Birdbrook – No comment.

11/81 PARISH PLAN

An item on the Parish Plan was published in the Birdbrook News. As a result 4 members of the public had expressed an interest in being on the committee. As follows: Wendy Norris, Albert Baxter, Michael Carr and Patrick Crouch. These people are all from Birdbrook village itself and Finkle Green. New England and Baythorne End are not represented. The Chairman has to be from the Parish Council. Derek Hoye suggested canvassing people from unrepresented areas. Richard Walker will do a follow up item in the Birdbrook News and informally update the interested parties. Agenda for January.

11/82 QUOTES FOR BENCH REPAIR/MAINTENANCE

Quotes have been received as follows:-

Mr O Pickess - £265.00
Mr K Shears - £45.00 per bench – Total £180.00
New England Landscaping - £475.00

Mr K Shears' quote will be accepted. The Clerk will inform him.

Some discussion took place about moving the bench at Baythorne End to the bus shelter where it is more likely to be used. The works will be carried out first and Mr Shears will be asked if he can move the bench.

11/83 ADOPTION OF BT TELEPHONE BOXES

The chairman will take the contracts to read and check before signing. Derek Hoye reported that the telephone box at Baythorne End is covered in ivy and in need of some tidying and maintenance. Noted.

11/84 COMMUNITY ISSUES MEETING

Dealt with under item 5 of the agenda.

11/85 FINANCE

The Clerk's financial report was agreed.
It was agreed to pay the outstanding bills from A&J Lighting.

- a) The budget figure for 2012/13 was agreed at £11,861.00
- b) The precept figure for 2012/13 was agreed at £10,553.00
- c) The annual grants for 2012/13 were agreed –
 - £700 to the Church for grass cutting
 - £40 for a wreath to the Royal British Legion. (Service to be attended by Derek Hoye)

Acceptance of the above items were proposed by Steve Rhenius and seconded by Derek Hoye. All in favour.

11/86 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 January 2012 at 7.30pm in the community rooms, The Street, Birdbrook. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 10.30pm.

Signed:

Dated: