

Minutes of the **MEETING** of the **BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL** which was held on **Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> July 2006**, in the **Community House, Birdbrook** at **7.30pm**.

---

**PRESENT** Cllr Mrs H Hodge **Chairman**  
Cllrs: D Hoye, R Kirby

**Public** Nil

**In attendance** Susan De Luca – Clerk

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**  
There were no public present

**06.18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were **RECEIVED** from Cllrs R Walker, R Bolton, T Fenner and W Rook.

**06.19 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THIS MEETING**

Nomination: Cllr Mrs H Hodge **PROPOSED** by Cllr R D Hoye and **SECONDED** by Cllr R Kirby.

**06.20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**06.21 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006 had been circulated, they were declared a true record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**06.22 REPORT OF THE CLERK**

Members **RECEIVED** the oral report of the Clerk on the following matters

<p>a) <b>Highway Matters</b></p> <p>(i) <b>Responses from ECC Highways regarding a Speed Survey</b> Members <b>NOTED</b> the continuing correspondence it was <b>AGREED</b> that the Clerk would confirm to Essex County Council that the best site for the speed loop survey was outside Parkers Garden Centre</p> <p>(ii) <b>Vehicle Activated Signs &amp; Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs)</b> It was <b>AGREED</b> that this would be placed on the next Agenda</p> <p>(iii) <b>Winter Service Review</b> Members <b>NOTED</b> the documentation from Essex County Council, it was <b>AGREED</b> that</p>	<p>b) <b>BDC Activity Day in Birdbrook</b> – Members <b>NOTED</b> that the 14<sup>th</sup> August – was the date agreed that the BDC would hold the Activity in the Community House. Cllr D Hoye would open and close the Community House. The Clerk would confirm these times with him as soon as they had been received from BDC.</p>
---	---

<p>the Clerk contact ECC Highways and ask if the Yellow Salt Bin on the triangle of grass by Fell Road could be moved to a less conspicuous location.</p> <p>(iv) <b>ECC Local Transport Plan</b> Members <b>NOTED</b> receipt of this document</p>	
<p>c) <b>Play Area Equipment Funding</b> The Clerk confirmed receipt of a further grant, this was for £300 and had been received from the Halstead Youth Initiative Fund.</p> <p>The Clerk had compiled and submitted a grant application to the Braintree Rural Initiatives Fund. Details of who had been successful would be released after the 12<sup>th</sup> July.</p>	<p>d) <b>Grass and Verge Cutting</b> Two quotations had been received. It was <b>AGREED</b> that Mr S Price of Yew Tree Farm would be the Councils contractor for the verge cutting for the year 2006-7.</p> <p>The Council would contact the contractor who had been unsuccessful and ask him to meet Cllr R Walker on his return to discuss a further quote for the next Council year.</p>

**06.23 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- a) Members **APPROVED** the Cheque List and Accounts which the Clerk had circulated and which had been compiled up to 30 June 06 .

**06.24 COMMUNICATIONS & CORREPENDENCE**

Members **NOTED** the following correspondence and communications which had been 2received by the Clerk.

<p><b>Parish Cluster Meeting</b> – A report was given by Cllr D Hoyer who had attended the meeting as the Council ‘s representative. It was <b>NOTED</b> that Birdbrook would be hosting the October Meeting of the Cluster. The Clerk confirmed that she would organise the Transport Survey Forms and copies of the Analysis. These would then be made available for Councils who attend the Cluster and who would be interested in undertaking the Survey. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr R Walker on his return.</p>	<p><b>EALC County Updates &amp; Associated Information</b> - These were tabled</p>
<p><b>BDC Agendas &amp; Minutes</b> – These were tabled</p>	<p><b>RCCE – AGM</b> – This was tabled <b>RCCE - Notice of Grant for Noticeboards</b> – £700 had been received</p>
<p><b>ECC Making the Links: May &amp; June</b> – These</p>	<p><b>University of Aberystwyth – Quality</b></p>

were tabled	<b>Councils</b> The Clerk would complete the questionnaire which had been recognised by other Quality Councils as being very lengthy and time consuming.
<b>St Augustine’s Church</b> – The Clerk read out a Thank You Letter	<b>BDC – Talking Transfer (Housing)</b> {CDs} These were tabled
<b>EON Energy – Price Increase Street Lighting</b> – this was being increased by £4.98 per month	<b>Contact Road Show</b> – The ECC Contact Road Show Bus will be in attendance on the 10 <sup>th</sup> August from 7.15pm, outside the Community House.

**6.25 REPORTS**

Members **RECEIVED** brief reports on the following matters:

<b>Essex Police</b> - A copy of a report from PC Bernie Tompsett had been circulated and was <b>NOTED</b>
<b>Passenger Transport Meeting</b> – The Clerk reported on the meeting that she had attended in Cllr R Walkers absence
<b>Play Parks</b> –Members agreed that the Monitoring Sheets for the Play Areas were extremely beneficial.
<b>Pond</b> – Members noted the email that had been received from a resident regarding oil and dumping of rubbish in the pond. The residue on the bond was not oil but a culmulation of weather conditions which seemed to give the appearance of oil. It was agreed that the pond needed to dragged to remove any media which had been deposited. In this regard it was agreed that two sets of Waders would be purchased.  Overall the condition of the pond was very healthy and thanks were given to Councillors Hoye, Fenner and Kirby for all their hard work.
<b>Bus Shelter</b> The repairs had now been completed, the Clerk would shortly receive a bill for the materials

**6.26 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**

Members **NOTED** that the following documents had been received by the Clerk

<b>Standards of Conduct in English Local Government – The Future</b>	<b>NOTED</b>
<b>Commissioning a Patient Led NHS</b>	<b>NOTED</b> – The Clerk would ask that the Council was kept apprised of the situation on a regular basis

**6.27 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Members **NOTED** the following planning application which had been received and noted the comments made

<b>App No</b>	06/00830/out
<b>Location</b>	<b>Baythorne Hall Offices, Baythorne End</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	Conversion of Vacant Offices to Residential Unit
<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>The Parish Council Supports this application</b>

*(The Clerk has delegated powers to respond to planning applications between meetings)*

- b) No other applications had been received for the Council to consider.

**c) DECISIONS BY BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Members **NOTED** the following planning decisions:

<b><u>GRANTED</u></b>	
<b>App No</b>	06/00617/ful
<b>Location</b>	<b>4 Chadwells, Fell Road</b>
<b>Proposal</b>	Replacement of existing garage with a garage of increased height and width

**6.28 PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE**

Members **NOTED** a letter from BDC regarding comments on planning applications. In order to assist the District Council, local councils were being asked to ensure that the narrative reflected a simple No Objection rather than A Support this would then ensure that applications could be decided by officer delegation rather than going to a planning committee. Obviously if the Council had concerns then these should be reported in the normal manner.

**6.29 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**Play Park at Birdbrook Village**

- a) The grass needs to be cut at Birdbrook.
- b) Concern had been expressed at the lack of safety measures regarding access over the play area by vehicles during a recent function which had been held at an adjacent property. The Clerk would contact Liz Filbey and voice the Councils concern and also ask for a copy of the lease that the Council has with the Community House