

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 November 2014 at the Community House, Birdbrook at 7.30pm.

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

Clerk: Mrs D Hilliard

14/75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

14/76 OTHER APOLOGIES

It was reiterated that Mrs Hazel Hodge remained seriously ill and would be unlikely to attend meetings for the foreseeable future.

1477 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Amended as follows – The clerk should read Mrs D Hilliard and Steve Rhenius has attended two training days with the EALC.

The minutes were agreed as amended and signed.

14/78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

14/79 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Pond – The clerk has been endeavouring to arrange a visit by the Conservation Volunteers. It is anticipated a date will be arranged before Christmas.

Play areas – The Clerk reported she had been contacted by Fenland Leisure to arrange the annual safety inspections which will go ahead.

14/69 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Oil Club – The Clerk will obtain some 200 copies of the leaflets which can then be circulated in the Birdbrook News.

Dedham Vale ANOB – The Chairman read out the letter which was noted.

Transport – The Chairman has contacted ECC Transport about some timetable inaccuracies.

14/70 MEMBERS REPORTS

Pond – The duck house is leaning and needs attention. Derek Hoye and Leigh Carter will do this.

Parks – Nothing to report.

Chairman's – The Chairman reported he had attended the Network 5 meeting held on 23 October and briefed the Parish Council on events. One of the

issues was Community transport. Steve Rhenius mentioned that Uttlesford Council run a community travel scheme and will report back with details.

The Chairman circulated details of a small hand salt spreader which could be purchased to help keep areas clear of snow with the salt provided by Essex County Council. Leigh Carter proposed that it be purchased. All in favour. The Chairman will proceed with the purchase.

Highways – It was suggested that a solar panel could be fitted to the new bus shelter to provide lighting. The Clerk will ask Moira Mason of the Local Highways Panel if this is possible.

14/71 SUPERFAST BROADBAND

Steve Rhenius has been investigating the issue of broadband speed. He circulated maps which show the rollout of superfast broadband from BT. He advised that BT will only give 87% coverage. Alternatives were discussed which include companies which fit receivers and bounce signals into an area. Steve will continue to find information on alternative options and will report back for the next meeting.

The Clerk reported that Stambourne Parish Council have been approached by County Broadband.

14/72 JUBILEE OAK PLAQUE

Derek Hoyer presented the finished jubilee oak tree plaque. It was agreed that it would be set into concrete by the tree. The Parish Council thanked Derek for his work in organising the plaque.

14/73 PLANNING

Nothing to report.

14/74 FINANCE

Financial Report – Agreed

Budgets 2015/16 – After some discussion it was agreed to keep budget figures as per the current financial year and review them at the January meeting by which time the Parish Council should have been notified by Braintree District Council the level of Localism Funding to be issued.

Half year audit – The Clerk reported that the accounts had been to the internal auditor for a half-year audit. There was nothing to report.

14/75 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

None to exclude.

14/76 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

14/77 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 January 2015 at 7.30pm in the Community House.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.55pm

Signed: Dated: