

MINUTES

**Meeting:** COUNCIL

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010

**Time:** 7.30 PM

**Venue:** COMMUNITY HOUSE, THE STREET, BIRDBROOK VILLAGE

**PRESENT: Councillors (5)**

T R Walker (Chairman), Mrs H Hodge, T Fenner, D Hoye

**Officers (2)**

S De Luca – Outgoing Clerk to the Council

D Hilliard – Incoming Clerk to the Council

**Members of the Public (6)**

There were 6 members of the public present.

**10.11.1 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE YEAR 2010/11**

**Chairperson** – R T Walker. Proposed by T Fenner and seconded by D Hoye. All in favour.

**Vice Chairperson** – R Bolton. Proposed by Mrs Hodges and seconded by D Hoye. All in favour.

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Two members of the public raised questions regarding the issue of the wind turbine to be installed at Green Cottage, Finkle Green, Birdbrook. The suggestion was made that a Parish Poll could take place due to the strong public feeling on this issue. Susan de Luca responded that a Parish Poll would not be of use in this case as it would only be appropriate if it would affect everyone in the community. There is a complaints procedure which can be used, which would take the aggrieved party to the ombudsman and the High Court but this would be costly. Susan suggested that members of the public speak to Steve Bore, Democratic Services Office of Braintree District Council. The member of the public made clear that the grievance was with the way the case was put to the Planning Committee and not against the occupants of Green Cottage. Various discrepancies and misrepresentations are alleged regarding the way the case was presented, including numbers of letters issued and planning signs not being visible.

**10.11.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (2)**

**NOTED** that apologies had been received from R Bolton and J Rook.

**10.11.2 OTHER ABSENCES (1)**

R Kirby.

**10.11.3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 2 March 2010 were **AGREED** as a true record.

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**10.11.4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Walker declared a personal non-prejudicial interest regarding St Augustine's Church grass cutting should any discussion ensue.

**10.11.5 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK**

The Clerk advised Members of the following documents all of which were **NOTED**:

- a) Street Cleansing Agreement – This was agreed and signed.
- b) Activity Days 2010 – It was reported that Birdbrook had not been allocated a day this year. This is due to fewer children attending in 2009 and a reduction in the days available for 2010. Parishes which were unsuccessful in 2010 would be first on the list for 2011. It was noted that Birdbrook had been allocated a day for the past 3 years
- c) Verge Cutting – The purchase order had been received from Essex County Council. Debbie will contact Mr S Price.
- d) Highways Community Initiative fund - will be discussed under Highways.

**10.11.6 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**

The Clerk advised Members of the following documents on deposit, all of which were **NOTED**.

Essex County Council	Love where you Live	Letter from Essex CC litter pick event 7-14 June. Posters will be put on notice board
Essex Heritage Trust	Heritage projects	Noted
Braintree District Council	Warden Activity Report	Reports received for March and April 2010. Noted.
EALC	County Update April 2010	Noted.

Cloxx	Play Equipment Flyer	Noted
The Playing Field	Spring newsletter	Noted
Essex County Council	Making the Links	May monthly bulletin.
Braintree Association of Local Councils	Annual meeting	Noted.

FLP	Estimate for repairs.	See report on Park.
Voluntary Sector Training..	Summer Training programme	Noted.
Sovereign.	Brochure on play equipment.	Noted.
Braintree District Council	Core Strategy Submission Document.	Noted

Braintree District Council	Halsted Local Committee	Agenda for 26 May 2010. Noted.
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Braintree Local Programme	District Strategic	Annual Assembly 30 June 2010	Noted
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**10.11.7 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Susan reported on the end of year accounts for the year 2009/10. All are finished apart from the Assets List. There is an issue with the insurance company's value of assets which she will discuss with Debbie Hilliard in order to finalise. Susan will submit the accounts to the auditors shortly.

**10.11.8 MEMBERS' REPORTS**

*Pond* – Cllr Fenner reported that the pond has been cleared of rubbish and some chalk put in. The pond looks reasonable at the moment, however the duckweed will return. It was reported that some species of fish will feed on the duckweed and keep it down. However, polluted water which runs off the road into the pond will always make it difficult for fish to survive in the pond. There is also a great deal of silt. It was reported that there is enough chalk for the remainder of this year but more will be needed for 2011.

*Park* – It was reported that the bridge walk has again been broken. An estimate for repair will cost in the region of £400. Some £1,200 was spent in repairs last year. £19,000 was raised in grants to put this equipment in. It may be possible to pursue an insurance claim for vandalism. Debbie will undertake this. There is some grant funding details in the BDVS newsletter which may be useful.

*Chairman's Report* – Buses – The 89a had a good two months in March and April 2010. The figures are awaited. The bus company will not increase the price if the service continues. The 118 has had a change of route apparently due to it now being a double decker which is unable to negotiate some overhanging trees. The Chairman has requested a report from the bus company on the location of the trees. Beestons have removed the 236 service on Saturday. It now terminates at Clare. The Chairman went to a meeting at Braintree on 21 April 2010 re Emergency Planning. This item will need to be placed on the agenda for the autumn meeting to ensure the emergency plan is up to date.

*Highways* – The Chairman met with Matt Reeve of Essex County Council Highways Department in April 2010. All defects have been reported and will be dealt with in due course. However, A and B roads take precedence. The outstanding work on the green has been agreed but still needs to be carried out. **Highways Funding initiative** judging panel takes place on Thursday 3 June 2010. It now takes place in the Town Hall. The Chairman will attend.

**10.11.9 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

None.

**The meeting was closed for approximately 5 minutes for a short break.**

**Meeting reopened.**

**10.11.10 PLANNING MATTERS**

To advise of planning applications received from Braintree District Council that have been received by the Clerk and commented on under delegated powers.

**10/00598/FUL Green Cottage, Finkle Green, Birdbrook – Increase in depth of balcony by 50cm.** The Council will object to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site.

**10/00599/FUL Green Cottage, Finkle Green, Birdbrook – Increase in depth of deck by 1.9m.** The Council will object to the application on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site.

**10/00608/FUL & 10/00609/LB – Whitely House, Birdbrook – Conversion of existing coachhouse and stables into overflow domestic accommodation.** No objections.

**10/00586/FUL 2 Whitely Cottages, Four Ash Hill, Baythorne End, Birdbrook. Erection of single storey rear conservatory extension.** No objections.

**10/00068TPOCON Fairways, The Street, Birdbrook. Work on trees affected by Conservation Area.** No objection subject to the work being carried out in accordance with Braintree District Council landscaping department.

**10/00083TPOCON 1 Rose Villas, The Street, Birdbrook. Work on trees affected by Conservation Area.** No objection subject to the work being carried out in accordance with Braintree District Council landscaping department.

**10/00089/TPOCON Old School House, The Street, Birdbrook. Work on trees affected by Conservation Area.** No objection subject to the work being carried out in accordance with Braintree District Council landscaping department.

**10.11.11 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Susan de Luca reported she has received the annual Audit form. Details were reported to members. She will complete the form and submit same.

Cllr Hoye reported he had been approached by a parishioner who expressed concern regarding large lorries making the turn into the junction for Clare opposition the Swan Public House (now a private residence) The lorries are causing damage to the newly installed pavement and a wall. There is also a missing manhole cover on the site of the old AA box. The manhole is completely open and accessible and is a safety issue. The Clerk will report this to Matt Reeve of Essex County Council Highways.

The Parish Tree Warden and other Members have been invited to visit Hedingham Castle for a tree walk on Monday 24 May 2010. Cllr Hoye will attend.

**10.11.12 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Not applicable.

**10.11.13 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

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None.

**10.11.14 TIME, DAY AND DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be held on Thurs 1 July 2010 at 7.30pm at the Community House, Birdbrook.

The Parish Council offered their best wishes and thanks for the outgoing Clerk, Susan de Luca, for all her hard work and assistance over the past years.

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

Chairman .....

Date: .....

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