

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the meeting held on Thursday 1 July 2010

**At 7.30pm in the Community House,
The Street, Birdbrook**

PRESENT:

**Councillors: T R Walker (Chairman) Mrs H Hodge
 D Hoye R Bolton
 J Rook**

Officers: Mrs D Hilliard (Clerk to the Council)

Members of the public: None

10/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

T Fenner and R Kirby

10/16 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

10/17 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Mrs Hodge and seconded by D Hoye. All in favour.

10/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

10/19 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

D Hilliard reported that the Street Scene agreement had been sent to Braintree District Council. Debbie Hilliard had issued the Register of Interest forms with the agenda and noted that she had received all back apart from T Fenner and R Kirby.

Insurance – Debbie reported that she had collected a number of documents from Susan de Luca. Among them was the insurance renewal schedule which should have been sent in at the end of May. Debbie has spoken to the insurance company and agreed to get the cheque signed at today's meeting and issued to Aon as a matter of urgency. Once the insurance was renewed Debbie will make enquiries regarding a claim for the damaged play equipment.

10/20 DOCUMENTS ON THE TABLE

The following documents were presented:-

<u>Document</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Halstead Local Committee Minutes Of meeting 10 May 2010	Note
Green Heart of Essex campaign – letter from BDC	Noted
Sheltered housing at Helen Court, Witham	Noted
Mid Essex Area Forum	Noted
Making the Links July issue	Noted
EALC newsletter & course information	Noted
Braintree District Arts Festival programme 2010	Noted
Community Wildlife Programme – letter from BDC	Noted

10/21 PARISH SUPPORT GRANT

The letter from Earls Colne Parish Council had been circulated with the agenda. Mr Bolton reported that he would be happy to report the views of respective Parish Councils at the next Halstead Local Committee meeting in his role as District Councillor and will report back to the Parish Council. This was agreed.

10/22 FINANCE

Debbie reported that she understood Susan has submitted last year's accounts to the external auditor. Debbie now has the cheque book from Susan and has set up the spreadsheets for the current year's financial records. She presented the Council with the up to date balance of figures which were agreed by all present.

10/23 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Pond – It was reported that there are 9 ducklings and some moorhen chicks on the pond. The pond appears to be reasonably clear and healthy at the moment. The reeds are growing well.

Park – It is possible that there is a problem with drug use taking place in the park. The Chairman will have a word with the police. Debbie will pursue a claim regarding the broken play equipment.

Chairman – It was reported that a burglary had taken place recently in a parishioner's property. Many items were taken. Derek Hoye will attend the Songs of Praise service in the church on 11 July 2010.

Highways – R Walker reported he had met with Matt Reeve of Essex Highways and will issue a request in the village newsletter regarding hedging and branches overhanging roads. It was noted that some access problems

occur to properties near the bowls club when the bowls club meet. It was suggested that a white line could be painted along the access point to avoid vehicles restricting the access point. Debbie will contact Highways and see if this is feasible.

CIF Funding – VAS and Carriageway Improvements A1017 Birdbrook – Derek Hoyer had attended the CIF panel. It was noted that the Birdbrook application will not be funded as funding from another source would be available. Debbie circulated a letter from Essex County Council dated 4 June. However, it was noted that this letter was issued pre-budget and members would be interested to know what the situation is now. Debbie reported that she had tried to contact Olive Cowell (who was unavailable) but had been informed that all funding was now frozen. She will continue to liaise with Olive Cowell to see if this project will still go ahead.

It was reported that there had been another accident on the A1017 at the junction with Station Road

Bus Passenger Transport – Richard Walker reported that the grant for the 89a service will last until 21 July. There may be a slight difference in the final bill which will depend upon how many fares are taken in June and July. It was agreed that Ridgewell Parish Council be contacted to see if they would fund half of the amount as they also benefit from the service. Rachel Price of ECC has applied for a grant of £5,200 to keep the service in operation. The middle day bus may well move by approximately 1 hour.

It may be possible to offer some free travel to children through August to attract more passengers to use the service. Various ideas are being considered. It was also reported that the new Shopper Bus service is not being well used.

10/24 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

None

10/25 PLANNING

The letter from Braintree District Council regarding tree applications was noted.

10/26 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

10/27 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

None

10/28 DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 23 September at 7.30pm in the Community House, Birdbrook.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Date: