

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 23 September 2010 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, The Street, Birdbrook

PRESENT:

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

Officers: Mrs D Hilliard (Clerk to the Council)

Members of the public: None

10/29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr R Bolton, R Kirby and T Fenner

10/30 OTHER ABSENCES

None

10/31 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 July 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by J Rook and seconded by Mrs Hodge, all in favour.

10/32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

10/33 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Letter from BALC – noted

Proposed visit by Brooks Newmark MP – It has been suggested it may be more practical for Mr Newmark to visit a parish cluster, albeit the Cluster Group does not appear to be in existence due to Linda Hadley's redundancy from Braintree District Council. However, there is nothing to prevent the parishes within the cluster arranging a meeting. The Clerk will make this suggestion to Mr Newmark's office and see if a convenient date can be arranged. The Clerk will then liaise with Stambourne Parish (being Clerk to this parish also) and report back.

Lloyds Bank – The Clerk has been to Lloyds Bank in Haverhill to arrange for the Clerk's details to be changed. The relevant form was presented at the meeting and signed as required by two Councillors. This will authorise the Clerk to receive the bank statements and be able to access the account for information as required. The Clerk will return the form as soon as possible.

10/34 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

The following documents were reported and the decisions made are listed alongside:-

Letter from BDC re new Street Warden service	Read out and noted but regard it as a retrospective step
Letter from BDC re GreenHeart award	To be put on village website And application form requested
Letter from BDC re Halstead Local Committee Grant 2010	Apply for form
Letter from BDC re Community Initiatives Fund	Apply for form
Letter from BDC re volunteer drivers	Noted
Letter from BDC re battery recycling	Noted
Notification of relocation of recycling Centre from Shalford to Braintree	Noted
EALC AGM pack	Noted
Halstead Local Committee Agenda	Noted
EALC County update	Noted
Essex Works	Noted
The Playing Field	Noted
August County update	Noted
Essex Speed Management Strategy	Noted

10/35 MEMBERS' REPORTS

Pond - It was reported that the pond is silting up and needs dredging. It was suggested that a grant application could be made for funds to carry this out. Nothing has been done to it since spring. It was suggested that a request be made for volunteers to come and help with some edge cutting. Derek Hoye will speak to Tom Fenner.

Parks – New England Landscapes, who carry out maintenance to the park, have suggested that the bin on the playing field be moved to a different location as rubbish is being dropped everywhere and not in the bin. They also suggest installing a bigger bin by the bus shelter. It is possible a grant may be available for this work. The Clerk will obtain the forms. It was reported that

the bin on the playing field needs to remain where it is but that an additional bin be installed. The annual inspection is due to be carried out shortly. Derek Hoye suggested that some of the equipment is in need of repainting. It was agreed to await the inspection report before taking any further action.

Chairman – The Chairman has spoken to the police regarding the possible drugs problem on the playing field but there is nothing further to report.

Highways – Derek Hoye reported on the corner of Station Road, Birdbrook. He has given the photos of the damage from the most recent accident to Olive Cowell of Essex Highways and requested that the work be made a priority. Olive Cowell has replied that the plans are not yet finalised but are in hand. She was unable to say whether a safety barrier would be installed. The work should be completed by Christmas.

Ruffles, the bus company with the contract to carry out school runs, continues to use Daw Street, despite the narrow width of the road. It appears that the use of Daw Street depends on which driver is carrying out the run. Richard Walker will let Debbie Hilliard know if any further action is required.

Transport – Richard reported that the free bus transport had operated in the school holidays but nobody had counted numbers of people using the service. There has been some issue over receiving the grant for the next 12 months and Debbie is making enquiries about this. Richard reported that the bus no 236 Saturday service may have been stopped. If the 236 has gone the 89a could be run on the Saturday. Richard also reported that there will be no further grants made but the service will be put out to tender.

10/36 LETTER FROM BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL RE BUDGETS
Noted.

**10/37 STANDING ORDERS/COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE
CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT/PUBLICATION SCHEME**
The Clerk reported that the above items had been put on the agenda as they need approval of the Parish Council. However, due to their bulky nature it was agreed that Debbie would print off one copy of each item and circulate them. If all Councillors were in agreement with the documents they will be adopted at the next meeting.

10/38 EMERGENCY PLAN
The new booklet from BDC was noted. Richard will find the existing plan and draft a new one for the January 2011 meeting.

10/39 PLANNING
Mr Rook reported that the bungalow at New England (Sunnybanks, Bumpstead Road) is still screened off and very unsightly. The clerk will contact Planning and make some enquiries. The public footpath alongside it is now gated and there are often up to 10 vehicles parked adjacent to the property, causing a hazard.

It was also noted that a mobile home has been installed by the Purple Mango Indian Restaurant, adjacent to Barkers Garden Centre, New England. Debbie will make some enquiries whether planning permission has been obtained for this.

10/40 FINANCE

The Clerk circulated the current financial situation, which was agreed.

Grass cutting – The contract for the parish cut carried out by Kevin Shears (this covers the playing field, pond, triangle) expires at the end of the season. It was agreed to await Mr Shears quote for next season. The verge cutting is carried out by Simon Price and has one cut remaining.

Remembrance Sunday wreaths – The service takes place on 14 November. One councillor is required to attend to lay the wreath. Tom Fenner or Derek Hoye will carry out this.

10/41 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 4 November at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, Birdbrook. There being no other matters to discuss the meeting finished at 9.30pm