



It was noted that the proposed turbines would be 90m high and the visual impact would affect Birdbrook. There was a proposal for 3 turbines on a site that is not particularly windy – reportedly the lowest level required for turbines. The advice received from the action group is that the company would not stop at 3 turbines and would try and install more at a later date. Mr Leigh proposed that the Clerk write an appropriate letter from the Parish Council supporting the campaign to prevent the building of a wind farm. All in favour.

*A&J Lighting* – The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from A&J Lighting stating that there were some unpaid bills due – some dating as far back as 2009. She will investigate the matter and report back.

#### **11/34 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**

Making the Links	Noted
EALC	Noted
Essex CC Independence within Community -	Debbie to respond
Bus Pass details	Richard will put in newsletter
Verge cut	Noted

#### **11/35 MEMBERS REPORTS**

*Pond* – Richard Walker reported that the pond is in good order and there are a number of ducks, some of which are nesting. Leigh Carter and Tom Fenner have offered to help tidy the edges when next required.

*Parks* – Mrs Hodge reported she had removed some broken glass. Mrs Beetson reported the park appeared tidy and litter free. Mr Hoyer reported that the park at Baythorne End was also tidy and in good order.

*Chairman* – The work stipulated in the grant application has been carried out. The invoice has been paid by the Parish Council but it has not yet received the funds from the Halstead Local Committee. The Clerk will chase this.

The Chairman updated the Council on the Localism Bill and Big Society and voiced some concern over how it could affect Birdbrook. Birdbrook is now part of a forum made up of 34 parishes. The Big Society requires that parishes have a Parish Plan. The Chairman will circulate some papers for consideration by Councillors on the issue and it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting for full discussion.

*Highways* – Potholes continue to be a problem. Some have been noted at New England and Daw Street. Richard Walker will report these. Accidents are still occurring on the A1017, despite the new traffic calming measures. Some of the VAS signs are not working.

*Passenger Transport* – Richard Walker reported that the 89a service will cease to operate after 3 August when the grant runs out. The bus company is not making

any money out of it and there are simply not enough people using the service to make it viable.

**11/36 PLANNING**

There were 2 applications to consider:-

*11/00551/FUL – The Old Station, Station Road, Baythorne End. Installation of solar panels on roof of agricultural building – No comment*

*11/00497/FUL – New England Supplies (UK) Ltd, Sturmer Road, Birdbrook. Demolition of old glass house and erection of storage building. No comment*

**11/37 FINANCE**

Report agreed.

The end of year accounts and external auditors form for the year 2010/11 were circulated and agreed. The Chairman signed the audit form as required. It was noted that there were some discrepancies on the fixed assets list as some items appear to have been duplicated in previous years. Richard Walker has made some adjustments and the list will be amended.

The Chairman reported that the benches situated throughout the parish were all in need of routine maintenance. The Clerk will obtain quotes for this work from:-

Mr O Pickess, Mr KShears and Mr J Bolton

The Clerk will also look into the possibility of adopting the BT phone box on the green in Birdbrook.

**11/38 STREETSCENE AGREEMENT 2011**

Agreed and signed.

**11/39 BIRDBROOK PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL GRANT FOR GRASS CUTTING IN CHURCHYARD FOR 2011**

Mr Bolton proposed and Mr Carter seconded that the PCC should be awarded the sum of £700 towards the cost of grass cutting in the churchyard for 2011.

**11/40 INSURANCE RENEWAL**

The annual insurance fee is now due. It was agreed to renew.

**11/41 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Not required.

**11/42 TIME DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 7 July 2011 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, Birdbrook. There being no other business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.30pm.