

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 July 2011 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, The Street, Birdbrook PC

PRESENT: Mr T R Walker
Mrs H Hodge
Mrs A Beetson
Mr S Rhenius
Mr R Bolton
Mr D Hoye
Mr L Carter

Officers – Mrs D Hilliard, Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: None

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – Mrs Ann Beetson reported she had been approached by a member of the public over the siting of the “No parking” signs by the green. It was agreed to discuss this item 7c Chairman’s Report.

11/43 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Finch

11/44 OTHER ABSENCES

None

11/45 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

11/46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Robert Bolton declared a personal interest in item 7c regarding the “No Parking” signs situated on the green.

11/47 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Deborah Hilliard, the clerk, had 2 items to report:-

HMRC – Birdbrook Parish Council were now registered as an employer under new government guidelines. However, it was reported that there would be no implications under tax and NI payments as the Clerk’s tax and NI payments would still be taken via her employment with Sainsburys.

Quality Status – The final chapter of the Clerk’s Cilca training would shortly be submitted. She had been advised by NALC that it would be advisable to aim the quality status application for the December panel. She would start work on this through the summer.

11/48 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

A number of items were put on the table and circulated and duly noted. A letter has been received from the representative of the Communication Workers Union

of the Royal Mail Delivery office in Halstead reporting on Royal Mail's proposal to close the unit and relocate works to Sudbury. The letter is asking for support against the closure. It was agreed that the Clerk will write a letter of support..

11/49 MEMBERS REPORTS

Pond – An oily film was present on the pond earlier this week, although it had improved now. The ducklings are being taken by cats. Derek Hoyer suggested installing a duck island to protect the ducklings. He will look into this and report back. The pond edges will require trimming.

Park – Nothing to report

Chairman – a number of complaints about the recent installation of the “No Parking” signs on the green outside the church have been received. One of the signs had been removed and subsequently reinstated. Richard reported that the matter had been discussed at more than one parish council meeting. The parish meetings are open to the public and published in the village newsletter and on the website, so parishioners have plenty of opportunities to air their views. However, vehicles parking on the green causes damage which cannot be repaired.

Highways – All highway matters now need to be reported via the customer relations office. Debbie will report the potholes in New England, the road edge crumbling in Daw Street and the VAS signs which are not working at Baythorne End.

Passenger – Bus 89a stopped in May due to Burtons going into administration. Parishioners who used the service were advised. Birdbrook will still have the Tuesday shopper bus and the 89b is still well used.

11/50 PLANNING

Nothing to report.

11/51 BIG SOCIETY/PARISH PLAN

Derek proposed putting an item in the newsletter asking for any public interest in this item to see what response is received. Leigh Carter suggested that a brief outline of what this actually involves would help so that parishioners would know exactly what was required. Richard will put it in the next newsletter. If there is no response then the Parish Council will do it.

11/52 BT PHONEBOX ADOPTION

It is still possible to adopt the BT boxes. Various uses were discussed. Derek reported that the boxes in Wixoe were used for a bookshare. Ann suggested that a request for ideas should be put in the Birdbrook News. Debbie will proceed with the BT adoption.

11/53 BENCH MAINTENANCE

One quote has been received and was opened. Debbie was asked to pursue the other two persons asked to quote. Derek and Leigh will repair the bus shelter themselves to help save money. Derek asked if the bench at Baythorne End could

be moved, possibly to the bus shelter. A letter will be circulated to parishioners at Baythorne End to get their views.

11/54 FINANCE

The finance for Birdbrook News will now be run under the parish council accounts. £1,000 will need to be returned to Essex CC which is the remainder of the bus grant. The financial report was agreed.

11/55 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

Not required.

11/56 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 1 September 2011 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms.