

## **BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 January 2012 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, The Street, Birdbrook, Essex**

PRESENT: Mr T R Walker (Chairman)  
Mr D Hoye  
Mrs A Beetson  
Mr S Rhenius  
Mr R Bolton  
Mr L Carter

Officers – Mrs D Hilliard, Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: One

The member of the public had some questions regarding the parish plan which had been featured in the recent Birdbrook News. The member of the public remained at the meeting to hear the item discussed under item 9 of the agenda.

### **12/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mrs H Hodge, Cllr D Finch

### **12/02 OTHER ABSENCES**

None

### **12/03 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Leigh Carter and seconded by Steve Rhenius. All in favour.

### **12/04 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

### **12/05 REPORT OF THE CLERK**

*Planning day* – The Clerk will attend if she can get a space. Noted  
*Blue Plaque Scheme* – Unaware of any in Parish. Noted  
*Waste Document* - Noted

### **12/06 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**

Play-go-round Supplies - Kept for reference.  
Bus Passenger News - Noted  
Bus Tender Round - Noted  
Jubilee Beacons - Noted

## 12/07 MEMBERS' REPORTS

a) *Pond* – The pond looks clean and tidy. There is one pair of ducks in residence. Derek Hoye reported he needs use of a small dinghy so he can install the duck house. Enquiries are being made.

b) *Parks* – Fenland Leisure have carried out the necessary work as reported at the previous meeting.

c) *Chairman's report* –

**File Storage** - Richard Walker reported he now has permission from Steve Filby to use the shed to the rear of the community rooms to store Parish Council files. A letter will be written from the Parish Council to confirm this. There will be no charge but the Parish Council will supply a padlock. Richard will obtain this.

**Adoption of BT phone boxes** – Richard has been through the contract and will sign. Robert Bolton proposed – all in favour. Debbie will notify Essex Highways of the change as the phone boxes are on Essex Highways land. Out of courtesy the occupants of the Old Swan will also be notified as well as the Parish Council insurers.

**Visit of local MP** - Richard had attended the recent community issues meeting held with the parishes of Ridgewell, Stambourne and Toppesfield. He had a copy of Ridgewell's village newsletter and noted that Mr Brooks Newmark MP had visited Ridgewell 5 times in the past 18 months. He felt there was an imbalance here as Birdbrook and Stambourne had requested a joint visit and not received any response. Debbie will draft a letter for Parish Councillors.

**Police Station, Great Yeldham** – It was noted that the counter service at the police station is now closed. Richard will ring to seek clarification.

d) *Highways* – The potholes are in need of repair. There has been no response to the request made at the last meeting re the road around the Green. Debbie will follow this up and copy the letter to Cllr Finch. The area of land in front of the Association houses in School Fields is in need of tidying and a tree is leaning on the overhead wires. Debbie will write to both Braintree DC and Essex CC to try and establish ownership and request it be tidied up on safety grounds.

## 12/08 PLANNING

*Allocations Development Plan* – Noted. Members updated.

*Application SE/11/1425* – Letter read out and noted.

*Application 11/01169/OUT – Westrope* – The Chairman's letter was read out. There was no objection to the development itself in principle but the Parish Council would object on the grounds of highway safety. Debbie will inform Planning at Braintree. Robert Bolton stated that he would declare an interest in this item if it goes to the Planning Committee

## **12/09 PARISH PLAN**

Another item has appeared in the Birdbrook News but no further people have come forward. It was discussed further under item 11 of the agenda.

## **12/10 DIAMOND JUBILEE/JUBILEE OAK**

Derek Hoye has the oak tree. A site assessment of the green has been carried out by Essex County Council and it is deemed an appropriate site. It was agreed to try and make the planting an event. Robert Bolton will try and contact Alan Titchmarsh and report back. The tree needs to be planted end February or March and the hole will need to be dug prior to the event.

Richard reported that there seemed a general agreement not to incur expenditure on supplying jubilee mugs, etc. There was no money in the precept for this. An event will only occur if another community body decides to stage something.

## **12/11 COMMUNITY ISSUES MEETING**

The meeting took place on 29 November 2011 and Leigh Carter and Richard Walker attended from Birdbrook Parish Council. It was hosted by Toppesfield Parish Council. The draft minutes and agenda were presented.

Leigh Carter reported that it was useful to pool knowledge with adjoining parishes.

*Parish Plan* – Toppesfield have published the results of their consultation. Ridgewell's plan was put in place in 2002, refreshed in 2010 and is now be refreshed again. Stambourne has no plan. The attending member of the public was shown the documents.

It was agreed to form the Parish Plan Committee, which would then meet and report back to a future Parish Council meeting. As detailed in the November Parish meeting, 4 members of the public had come forward:-

Mr Albert Baxter, Mrs Wendy Norris, Mr Patrick Crouch and Mr Michael Carr. Richard Walker proposed that parish councillor Mr Steve Rhenius became the Parish Plan Committee representative for Baythorne End and that the committee be chaired by Mr Leigh Carter. Both in agreement. All present in favour. The dates for the meeting were suggested as Thursday 2 February or Thursday 9 February 2012. Debbie will contact the members with the suggested dates and request they contact Leigh direct..

## **12/12 FINANCE**

Richard reported that the freeze on Council tax does not apply to Parish Councils. The Parish Support Grant is frozen to 2013. The EALC briefing paper reported that all Councils asking for an increase which exceeded for 2011/12 3.5%, or 3.75% for City of London and 4% for Greater London, then that increase has to

be referred to residents for approval.. It is possible that capping will apply to parishes in the future.

The Clerk's financial report was accepted. Proposed by Robert Bolton, all in favour.

**12/13 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1 March 2012 at 7.30pm in the community rooms, The Street, Birdbrook. There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.20pm.

Meeting dates for 2012 – Thursday 3 May (AGM and APA), Thursday 5 July, Thursday 6 September, Thursday 1 November, Thursday 6 Jan 2013.

Signed: .....

Dated: .....