

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1 November 2012 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, The Street, Birdbrook, Essex

PRESENT: Mr R Walker (Chairman) Mr D Hoye
 Mrs H Hodge Mr S Rhenius

OFFICERS: Mrs D Hilliard, Parish Clerk

12/76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr Robert Bolton, Mrs Anne Beetson and Mr Leigh Carter.

12/77 OTHER ABSENCES

None.

12/78 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Steve Rhenius, seconded by Hazel Hodge, all in favour.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 4 October 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed, apart from 2 minor typing errors. Proposed by Steve Rhenius, seconded by Hazel Hodge, all in favour.

12/79 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Richard Walker declared an interest in item 15 of the agenda

12/80 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported on the Community Issues Group meeting which was held on 25 October 2012. At the meeting it was agreed that 3 sub-groups would be formed with a view to investigating the following ideas on which the parishes could work together:-

Energy saving, acquisition and running of a salt spreader, community transport.

One representative is required from each parish council to become a member of each sub-group. Birdbrook agreed as follows:-

Energy saving – Steve Rhenius

Salt spreader - Will be reviewed in January meeting

Transport – Richard Walker

The Clerk will send this back to the Community Issues Group.

12/81 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

None.

12/82 MEMBERS' REPORTS

- (a) Pond – The pond is in good order. The duck house appears to be being used. A parishioner has volunteered to carry out some tidying and trimming of the area to the back of the pond. It was agreed that the Parish Council would give authority for him to do this.
- (b) Parks – The repairs to the swing have been carried out. Painting and sweeping is required when weather permits
- (c) Chairman's Report – Richard attended the Community Issues Group. He has also attended the presentation of the Quality Status certificate for Birdbrook. Richard, Steve and Ann also attended. Richard suggested this should be put in the Birdbrook News. Agreed.
- (d) Highways – The fingerpost sign at the junction of Stambourne Road and Eggshell Lane is rotted and requires replacement. The Clerk will report this. Richard reported that the road around the green will be repaired on Wednesday 11 November 2012. There appears to be an increase in the volume of heavy traffic using the A1017, joining it at the junction from Clare in Baythorne End and travelling towards Haverhill. The Clerk will write to Essex Highways regarding this.

12/83 PLANNING

Application No 12/01385/MMA – No comment.

12/84 PARISH PLAN

Report from Steve Rhenius. A quote for printing the questionnaire has been received from Hedingham School which appears reasonable. Quotes are due for data entry soon. The questionnaires have been piloted and they are awaiting results. The next meeting will take place shortly. The questionnaires should be issued early November.

12/85 FINANCE

The Clerk presented the Financial Report which was agreed.

- (a) *To agree the Budget figure for 2013/14* – It was calculated that the likely net expenditure for 2013/14 to be in the region of £12,245.00. This will be declared for precept for 2013/14.

After some discussion of the figures it was agreed to inform New England Landscaping that the Parish Council would be unable to cover any increase in costs.

- (b) *To agree the Precept figure for 2013/14* – The budget figure declared for 2013/14 will be £12,245 less the Parish Support Grant of £1,308 leaving a precept of £10,937.
- (c) It was agreed to award Birdbrook Parochial Church Council the sum of £700 towards the cost of grass cutting the church for 2013/14.

12/86 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Agreed, albeit no public or press to exclude.

12/87 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 10 January 2013 at 7.30pm in the Community Rooms, Birdbrook. There being no further business to discuss the meeting ended at approximately 8.45pm.

Signed:

Dated: