

## **BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2015 at the Community House, Birdbrook at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Mr T R Walker  
Mr S Rhenius  
Mr L Carter

Mr D Hoye  
Mrs A Beetson

**Clerk:** Mrs D Hilliard

**Members of the Public: 1**

**15/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr R Bolton and Mrs H Hodge.

**15/17 OTHER APOLOGIES**

Cllr David Finch

**15/18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 January 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Derek Hoye and seconded by Steve Rhenius

**15/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**15/20 COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF THE CLERK**

*County Broadband* – Will be reported under item 10 of the agenda.

*Quality Council scheme* – Noted. Put on agenda for May meeting with new Parish Council.

**15/21 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT**

Best Kept Village Comp – Noted.

Lloyds Bank re opening hours – Noted

Support 4 Sight – Noted

Clerks and Councils Direct - Noted

**15/22 MEMBERS REPORTS**

(a) *Pond* – See Item 9 of agenda.

(b) *Parks* – Nothing to report

(c) *Chairman's* – All items are covered elsewhere on the agenda.

(d) *Highways* – Nothing to report.

**15/23 BT TELEPHONE BOXES**

Requests for estimates have been issued and replies are awaited.

Replacement of any necessary Perspex windows.

**15/24 CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS AND VILLAGE POND**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2015 were agreed and signed as amended.

Richard reported that he had met with Mr Rook and had an amenable discussion with him regarding the pond. Mr Rook was under the impression that a 99 year lease with a peppercorn rent had in fact been issued some 10-12 years ago. The Parish Council has never seen this and no rent ever paid. Mr Rook has agreed to provide another copy. This lease should formally settle the situation regarding the pond and maintenance work.

The Parish Council had arranged a visit by the Conservation Volunteers on Monday 2 March 2015. The recommendation made was that the pond could be planted to attract wildlife. The branches and some of the leaves in the pond could be removed but this would be best carried out later in the summer when water levels were lower.

The village pump area could also be cleared and tidied to make it accessible from the road.

The Clerk will check the Parish Council's insurance liability for the pond.

**15/25 SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

Richard reported he had been looking into BT Vision. A fibre box has been installed in Baythorne End.

Steve Rhenius reported that Uttlesford DC had put up £100k to install wi-fi. Three companies have been selected for interview and a result available shortly. He will report back on this to a future meeting.

The Clerk will contact James Salmon of County Broadband to see if he will visit the Parish Council to discuss his company.

The Clerk will also write to BT and ask what their plans are for provision of superfast broadband in rural areas.

**15/26 PLANNING**

*Application No – 15/00270FUL* – As this application had only been received today and not all parish councillors had seen it, comments will be passed to the Clerk and she will reply appropriately to Braintree DC.

**15/27 FINANCE**

*Financial Report* – Agreed

**15/28 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS**

Not applicable as no confidential items to discuss.

**15/29 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

None

Derek Hoye raised the issue of the lorries turning in Baythorne End and over Clare Bridge. The bridge is half Essex CC and half Suffolk CC. Is it safe to carry around 50 lorries/week at present with more during harvest. Cllr Finch will be invited to the Parish Assembly and this issue raised.

**15/30 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Assembly on 30 April 2015 at 7.30pm in the Community House

Meeting dates for 2015 – Annual Parish Assembly Thurs 30 April, AGM Wednesday 13 May, Thursday 2 July, Thursday 3 September, Thursday 5 November and Thursday 7 January 2016.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm

Signed: ..... Dated: .....