

MINUTES

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 8 January 2008

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: COMMUNITY HOUSE, THE STREET, BIRDBROOK VILLAGE

PRESENT: Councillors (5)

T R Walker (Chairman); D Hoye,
Mrs H Hodge, R Kirby & J Rook.

Officers (1)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to the Council

Also in Attendance (2)

ECC David Finch
1 Member of the Public

07.61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

NOTED that apologies had been received from Councillor R Bolton & T Fenner.

07.62 OTHER ABSENCES

None necessary

07.63 MINUTES

One amendment had been made to the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November after which they were confirmed.

07.64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTED that there were no declarations of interest.

07.65 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

NOTED that no questions had been received.

The Chairman advised members that Essex County Councillor David Finch was in attendance and invited him to give his report.

Councillor Finch advised of the Governments Provisional Grant Settlement and the Spending Review both of which had implications for Essex County Council. The

Grant increase had been set at 2%, the rest of the income needed for Essex has to come via the Council Tax, however Essex County Council expected its Council Tax Increase to be one of the lowest in the country and was not expected to exceed 4.5%.

He reminded members that Lord Hanningfield would be making his annual Budget Speech on the 12th February and congratulated the Parish Council on their invitation to attend the House of Lords on the 13th February by invitation of Lord Hanningfield.

He further advised that Essex County Council had been awarded 3 the highest recognition in Adult Social Care in the Country.*

The Chairman thanked Cllr Finch for attending the meeting.

07.66 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Members **RECEIVED** the following communications that the Clerk placed before the Council.

a) **Community Wardens**

As the Community Warden was in attendance he was invited to give his report which was **NOTED** by Members.

b) **Essex Police**

NOTED that a representative from Essex Police had advised that they would be attending the January Meeting. However due to operations this had not been possible and they would attend the March Meeting.

c) **Essex County Council Highways**

Members **NOTED** the concerns of a number of parishioners in relation to the re-surfacing works to the parking area outside the Church. The completion of the works had raised mixed reactions. The Chairman advised that it was his understanding that additional works had now been carried out to tarmac a slightly larger area. Following on from Councillor Hoye's concerns regarding the use of motorised scooters and wheelchairs in Baythorne End, a number of kerbs and pavements had now been marked up which seemed to indicate that works would be carried out soon. The deer signs which the council had now been advised have been stolen, would still need to be installed. Concern was expressed by members that if they had indeed been stolen then why were there no posts in place from which they had been stolen. The Clerk would investigate further.

e) **Essex County Council – Meeting with Chief Constable of Essex**

The Chairman reported on the meeting arranged between Chairmen & Vice Chairmen to meet with the Chief Constable which had been held on the on 19th

November 2007. Many items had been brought to the attention of the Chief Constable, it was noted by all at the meeting that his directive was that local police officers should be attending Parish Council Meetings to give a report. The Clerk was asked to contact the Chief Inspector at Halstead Police Station and ask for his comments on this. The Chief Constable advised that it was his intention to bring back more officers on horses and motorcycles..

07.67 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Members were advised that the following documents ha been received by the Clerk as detailed below:

- 1 **Making the Links** - ECC & EALC Newsletter November & December 07 - **NOTED**
- 2 **EALC County Updates** – EALC Newsletter etc November & December 07 **NOTED**
- 3 **BDC – Talking Transfer** - **NOTED**
- 4 **BDC Minutes and Agendas** – **NOTED**
- 5 **Invitation** from Lord Hanningfield to Quality Councils to witness the signing of the Concordat between Parish Councils and Essex County Council, to be held at the House of Lords on Wednesday 13th February – the Chairman and Clerk would attend. Councillor Hoye would be willing to act as a Deputy if the Chairman could not go.

07.68 FINANCIAL REPORT

a) **Statement of Accounts**

Members **APPROVED** the Statement of Accounts and **NOTE** the summary of monies received and the account balances at the end of the month **Appendix 1 detailed** cheques signed up to 31st December 07.

b) **Precept Discussions**

The Clerk had circulated Financial Documentation to all Members, a short debate ensued after which it was agreed that the following would be set as the precept for this year **8777.00**. The Clerk would complete the form and submit the request.

07.69 BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL – “OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE” – ATTENDANCE AT CHURCH FETE

28th June was confirmed for the fete, the Clerk confirmed that she would be able to organise a display and boards for the Council Exhibition Stand. Braintree District Council would be asked if they wished to have a Waste Publicity stand.

07.70. MEMBERS' REPORTS

Member **RECEIVED** brief reports from Members including:

- a) **Pond** – Nothing further to report as Councillor Fenner was on vacation. Councillor Hoye will liaise with him on his return.

b) **Play Areas** – The Clerk had received the monitoring sheets from James Bolton, there had also been some evidence of Moles.

07.71 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

To **NOTE** that No documents had been lodged with the Clerk

07.72 PLANNING MATTERS

a) The following applications had been received by the Clerk and had been commented on under delegated powers:

App. No	Proposal	Location
<u>07/0233/COU</u> Date for comments 12 Dec 08	Change of Use of Land from Agricultural to Domestic	The Eyrie, Eagle Farm, Baythorne End
The Council has NO OBJECTION however we are concerned that the application form is not completed correctly in relation questions 6,8,10,13 and 15		

b) To **CONSIDER** planning applications from Braintree District Council that had been received:

<u>07/002483/COU</u>	Change of Use from Agricultural to Domestic Garden	The Swan, Baythorne End
The Parish Council has NO OBJECTION to this application		
<u>07/02512/FUL</u>	Erection of Domestic Wind Turbine with 15m high mast	Finkle Green Cottage, Finkle Green, Birdbrook
The Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the grounds that this will have an adverse visual impact on the area		
<u>07/02165/FUL & 07/02166/LBC</u>	Erection of extensions to building to provide living accommodation for applicant and to provide smoke shelter for customers	The Plough, The Street, Birdbrook
The Parish Council OBJECTS to this application on the following grounds: Concern at the location of the Smoking Shelter. This will have an impact on the neighbouring residents in relation to sighting , visual impact, noise and Health & Safety Issues. As a direct result of the impact of the smoke. Concern at overlooking from the landing window. If BDC is minded to grant this proposal then the window should be of obscure glass and non opening		

b) The following planning decisions were **NOTED**

GRANTED

<u>07/01600/FUL</u> &	Erection of Front Entrance Porch & re-designed chimney stack to living room	Sunnybank New England Road Birdbrook Halstead Essex C09 4BE
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REFUSED

<u>07/01601/FUL</u>	Retention of Outbuildings for domestic use (permitted development rights removed)	Sunnybank New England Road Birdbrook Halstead Essex C09 4BE
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7.73. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business to be discussed.

.....Chairman

Date