

MINUTES

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 3rd July 2007

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: COMMUNITY HOUSE, THE STREET, BIRDBROOK VILLAGE

PRESENT: Councillors (6)

T R Walker (Chairman); R J Bolton (Vice Chairman), T Fenner,
Mrs H Hodge, D Hoye, J Rook.

Officers (1)

Adriana Deluca – Locum Clerk to the Council

Also in Attendance (0)

No Members of the Public Present.

07.17 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1)**

NOTED that apologies had been received from Councillor R Kirby.

07.18 **OTHER ABSENCES**

NOTED apologies from County Councillor David Finch.

07.19 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May were confirmed.

07.20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

NOTED that there were no declarations of interest.

07.21 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

NOTED that no questions had been received.

07.22 **PART III LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - ETHICAL FRAMEWORK**

Members **RESOLVED** to adopt

The Model Code of Conduct for Members including paragraph 12(2), effective 20th
July 2007'

This affords Members with a prejudicial interest the same rights as the public to speak to a meeting on the issue, but then leave before the main discussion and vote.

07.23 REGISTRATION OF COUNCILLORS INTERESTS

Members were reminded that the Standards Board for England recommends that, on an annual basis, all Members should complete a declaration indicating whether or not they wish to amend their previous registrations of interest. The Clerk advised Members that the Monitoring Officer had confirmed that “The checking process for compliance with the ethical framework in relation to Parish Councils will be undertaken on an annual basis and that the findings reported back to the Standards Committee”. The Clerk, therefore, reminded Members of the following:

- Their obligations to observe the Code of Conduct.
- Their duty to register any interests required to be registered under paragraph 13(1) of the Code of Conduct. If any Member considers a personal interest to be ‘sensitive information’ as defined in paragraph 14, this must be brought to the attention of the Monitoring Officer.
- To review their respective Register of Interests; and
- Their duty under paragraph 13(2) of the Code of Conduct to provide written notification to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes.

Members were advised that an Audit of Members’ Interests would be carried out during the current Municipal Year by the Monitoring Officer.

07.24 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

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

a) **Parish Cluster Meetings**

Members **AGREED** that the Chairman and one other Member would attend the Cluster Meeting which was being hosted by Helions Bumpstead, and that a report would be given to the next Council meeting.

b) **Report from Parish Warden**

Members **NOTED** the report from the Community Warden.

c) **Skateboards**

The Chairman advised Members of the concerns regarding the use of Skateboards; a Resident had confiscated these and had subsequently been advised that he had no right to confiscate the ramps. The ramps are now in the churchyard and will be dealt with by the Chairman upon his return.

- d) **Neighbourhood Watch**
Members *NOTED* the communication received from Essex Police, concern was voiced at how this would be implemented.
- e) **RCCE Invitation**
Members *NOTED* the date and time of the meeting.
- f) **Baythorne End**
Members *NOTED* the application for a grant to provide some new equipment at the Baythorne End play area; a further report will be given at the next meeting.
- g) **Activity Day – 10th August**
Members *NOTED* that Councillor Hoye would open and shut the Community House; the Chairman would give him his key in order to facilitate this.
- h) **Invitation from the Army Board**
Members *NOTED* the invitation.
- i) **Ward Profile**
Members *NOTED* the documentation received.
- j) **Mobile Library Service**
Members *NOTED* the changes to the schedule, and were concerned that their views together with many other Councils had not been taken into consideration.

07.25 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Members *NOTED* the documents that had been received and/or deposited with the Clerk to the Council since 16th May 2007.

- 1 **The Link**– The Newsletter of Linking Communities
- 2 **Making the Links** - ECC & EALC Newsletter May 07
- 3 **EALC County Update** – EALC Newsletter May 07

07.26 FINANCIAL REPORT

a) STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Members *APPROVED* the Statement of Accounts and *NOTED* the summary of monies received and the account balances at the end of the month. *Appendix 1* showed cheques signed up to 30th June 07.

07.27 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

The Clerk apprised Members of documents which are available for consultation:

- a) BDC Traffic Management Liaison Panels – Members noted the updated constitution

b) Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England: Issues and Options Consultation – Members **AGREED** that the following comments would be made ‘This council notes the governments comments for the need of additional pitches and is of the opinion that some existing sites should be considered for enlargement which would therefore lead to a creation of infrastructure such as schools, doctors and hospitals in those areas.’

c) **Stansted Generation 2 Rail Scheme Consultation** – Members **NOTED** the proposals.

07.28 **REPORTS**

RECEIVED brief reports on the following matters:

- a) Essex Police – No Report Available
- b) Pond – The pond is starting to get overgrown, there were two dead fish floating on the pond, the duck weed is growing back, not convinced that the chalk is working. Councillor Hoye and Fenner will look at this further and report back to the next meeting.
- c) Play Area – There has been no sign of rodents since March. Concern was voiced that the bin had been tampered with, however all seems fine at the moment.

07.29 **BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL – “OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE”**

Following on from the election in May, Members were asked to consider their aims and aspirations for the Council in the forthcoming years. This matter would be placed on the agenda for the September meeting.

07.30 **OBSTRUCTIONS**

Following on from enquiries during the run up to the elections, the Clerk had been requested to ascertain the legality on the placing of objects adjacent to paths and/ or on grass verges. She had carried out considerable research and provided Members with some documentation relating to the matter. The Clerk will continue with the research into the legalities associated with these objects and would report back at the September meeting.

07.31 **PLANNING MATTERS**

- a) Members were advised that there were no current planning applications from Braintree District Council.
- b) Members **NOTED** the following planning decisions which had been received from Braintree District Council

REFUSED

App No: 07/00696/CON & 07/00665FUL
Location: 1 Prospect Place, The Street, Birdbrook
Description: Replacement of Existing Rear Boundary Hedge with Red Brick Wall of the Same Height Retaining Existing Wooden Gate Entry

APPROVED

App No : 06/00455/ful
Location: Bailey Hill Cottage, Finkle Green
Proposal: Erection of 2 storey side extension, single storey side extension, and improvements to elevations

App No: 07/00608/FUL
Location: 13 Moat Road, Birdbrook
Description: Erection of Single Storey Rear Extension

The Clerk was asked to contact BDC regarding the wall at Baythorne End where enforcement action was to be taken.

07.32 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Hoyer reported a complaint about Baythorne End bus shelter leaking. It was **AGREED** under Health and Safety that this needs to be actioned as soon as possible using black barn paint and felting to make it safe.

The new bin is used very frequently. James Bolton will empty bin.

ECC Highways to be contacted regarding:

Drains in Station Road - there are some drains that are failing to take water half way up Station Road, there is also another one close to where the bridge used to be and another in Daw Street.

Members were advised that Landowners should be keeping water courses clear. The Clerk would contact Mick Everett at Essex County Council.

.....**Chairman**

Date