

MINUTES

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 4 September 2007

Time: 7.30 PM

Venue: COMMUNITY HOUSE, THE STREET, BIRDBROOK VILLAGE

PRESENT: Councillors (6)

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

Officers (1)

Susan De Luca – Locum Clerk to the Council

Also in Attendance (0)

No Members of the Public Present.
ECC – Councillor David Finch

07.33 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (1)

NOTED that apologies had been received from Councillor T Fenner.

07.34 OTHER ABSENCES

None necessary

07.35 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd July were confirmed.

07.36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTED that there were no declarations of interest.

07.37 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

NOTED that no questions had been received.

07.38 REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID FINCH –ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Councillor David Finch spoke at length to Members regarding the issues and initiatives currently being discussed and implemented at County level. And which included:

Budget Process; Broadband In Local Schools, Local Government Re-Organisation, Waste Strategy, 5 million pounds Development for Olympics 2012,

07.39 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

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

a) **Community Wardens**

Members **NOTED** the monthly reports and the change of personnel in relation to the BDC Community Warden

b) **Essex Police**

No further details of the Neighbourhood Action Panels had been received in time to be reported to the meeting

c) **Essex County Council Highways**

Members **NOTED** the concerns regarding HGVs and Lorries using Satellite Navigation equipment and being directed through Birdbrook, the Clerk would report this to ECC Highways to see if they could be of any assistance.

d) **Baythorne End Play Park**

Members **NOTED** that approval had been received for the grant application from Braintree Rural Communities Fund It was hoped that the equipment would be installed within the next 8 – 10 weeks.

e) **BDC Activity Days**

Members **NOTED** the success of the Activity Day which was held on Tuesday 10th August and thanked Councillor Derek Hoyer for opening and closing on the day.

f) **EALC & MAKING THE LINKS EVENT AGM**

Members **NOTED** the date for the AGM–Wednesday 19th September-@ 6.15pm, at the Essex Records Office, Wharf Road, Chelmsford.

g) **Essex County Council Local Area Agreements**

Members **WELCOMED** the opportunity of becoming involved in the Local Area Agreements which aim to engage local communities and local councils to support each other in creating and realising partnerships to create the conditions that best suits a Councils' role in community representation.

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

Members **NOTED** confirmation of the date from ECC Councillor David Finch's invitation to Chairmen and Vice Chairmen to meet with the Chief Constable on 19th November 2007.

i) **BDC Going Local The Braintree Approach**

Members **NOTED** details of newly formed committee where local councillors are encouraged to attend and ask questions in relation to local residents receiving the services that they need and want. However concern was voiced at this new concept and Members were unsure whether this new initiative would indeed be sustainable.

j) **Temporary Road Closure – The Street, Birdbrook**

Members thanked the Clerk for affixing notices to the boards in relation to the closure of the road.

k) **Parish Cluster Meetings**

Members **NOTED** that the Chairman would attend the next Cluster Meeting to be hosted by Ridgewell on the 30th October.

07.40 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

Members **NOTED** the documents that had been received and/or deposited with the Clerk to the Council since 4th July 2007.

- 1 **Mid Essex Area Forums - Agenda**
- 2 **Making the Links - ECC & EALC Newsletter July & August 07**
- 3 **EALC County Updates – EALC Newsletters July & August 07**

07.41 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 31st August 07.

b) **NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT**

Members were advised that the Notice of Completion of Audit had been received, and the only comments that had been received was one which was in line with most other councils that no review on internal audit procedure had been carried out,. Members **AGREED** that a review would be undertaken later in the year. The Clerk had placed the Completion of Audit Notices on the Noticeboards.

07.42 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

Members were advised that no documents had been deposited for consultation.

07.43 REPORTS

Members **RECEIVED** brief reports on the following matters:

a) **Essex Police – No Report Available**

b) **Pond – Councillor Hoye would look to purchase a special formulated media which when put into the pond acts as the equivalent of placing 200 bales of Barley Straw in**

the pond in order to facilitate the weed problems. Councillor Hoye advised that himself and Councillor Fenner will look at this further and report back to the next meeting. There was concern at the Wasp Nest adjacent to the pond, the Clerk would contact BDC Environmental services to see if they could assist.

- c) **Play Areas** – There were still no sign of rodents at Birdbrook Village Play Area, Baythorne End had been covered earlier on the Agenda. Concern was voiced that the litter bins had been filling up quickly, however members felt that this was a good thing as it meant children were using the bin rather than throwing litter on the floor. A No Dogs Allowed Notice is needed for both play areas, Members felt that a notice affixed to the gate / entrances would be the best place.

07.44 BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL – “OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE”

Members were continuing to consider their aims and aspirations for the Council in the forthcoming years. This matter would be discussed further in line with the precept. However Members would aim to have a stand at the Church Fete which was due to be held in June/July 2008 – Councillor Walker to confirm the date at the next meeting.

07.45 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Members discussed the following planning applications from Braintree District Council.

1	07/0510/FUL	2 Prospect Place, The Street, Birdbrook	Erection of first floor extension with support structure to rear of dwelling
The Council has NO OBJECTION to this application			
2	07/0167/FUL	1 Prospect Place, The Street, Birdbrook	Replacement of existing rear boundary hedge with red brick wall of the same height retaining existing wooden gate entry
The Council continues to have a STRONG OBJECTION to this application.			

- b) Members **NOTED** that no planning decisions had been received from Braintree District Council.
- c) Notice of a meeting to discuss planning enforcement issues was to be held on 22nd October. Councillor Derek Hoye would attend and would ask for details in relation to the length of time which was being taken by BDC regarding the wall at Baythorne End where enforcement action had been due to be taken..

07.46 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Members had no urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Clerk.

.....*Chairman*

Date