

Little Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on

Thursday 10th May 2012 at 7.30pm at the Haywain Public House, Little Bromley.

35 12/13 Introduction and Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

In attendance:-

Councillor Wilcox - Chairman
Councillor Hatch
Councillor Ashmore
Councillor Christmas
County Councillor Sarah Candy
District Councillor Neil Stock
Clerk Mrs Shute
5 members of the public.

36 12/13 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Middleton.

37 12/13 Report from the Retiring Chairman.

Councillor Hatch stated that the past year had been a little disappointing. Although the Council had worked very hard not all targets had been met. The speed watch team had continued to reduce speeding through the village, however, correspondence with the Highways Department to reduce the speed limit in Bentley Road and the installation of the Vehicle Activated Sign had been met with negative response.

The installation of the bus shelter was still ongoing. District Councillor Neil Stock had agreed to try to resolve some of the problems regarding its installation with the District Council. The Amenity Committee had organised several very successful fundraising events and continued to work very hard. The Fete was disappointing in that it was poorly attended.

Work to refurbish the war memorial was due to start very soon.

Two members of the council had left during the year. Mrs Mary Roughley who resigned and Major Downes who retired.

Councillor Hatch gave thanks to Mrs Roughley for her generosity and commitment to the village whilst serving on the council. Mr Robert Middleton is the new council member. The second resignation was from Major Downes who has served the village as Clerk to the Council for the last 13 years. Councillor Hatch gave thanks to him and thanked him for his devotion to the village and support he had provided to the Council. He wished him and his wife good health and happiness for the future.

A presentation of a commemorative plaque was made to Major Downes in recognition of his work in the village.

Mrs Sandra Shute was appointed as the new Clerk.

Councillor Hatch hoped that the coming year would be successful. Lots of events have been organised in this Jubilee Year and he thanked all Parishioners and Councillors for their support during his term as Chairman.

38 12/13 Report from the County Councillor – Sarah Candy

Councillor Candy reported that there had been significant funding cuts especially to the Highways Department and these had caused many problems throughout the County.

The hedge, which is causing a visibility problem at the junction of Shop Road, Bentley Road and Church Road, was partly funded by the County Council. However, Councillor Candy agreed to investigate the position regarding the hedge to see if any action can be taken to alleviate the problem. She added that it is important to report all accidents at that site, however minor, as this would provide evidence of the road safety hazard.

Mineral extraction continues to be a threat to the village.

Land drainage had now become the responsibility of Essex County Council. It was noted that there had been some flooding of properties and gardens in the village over recent months.

39 12/13 Report from the District Councillor – Neil Stock

Councillor Stock congratulated and welcomed the new Chairman Mr Steve Wilcox on his appointment and gave a personal thanks to Councillor Hatch and Major Downs for their contribution and work in the village. The District Council has had a budget cut from £22m to £17m. Salaries alone totalled £16m therefore there had been the necessity to have massive restructuring of staff. There have been voluntary redundancies and retirements but to date it had not been necessary to cut front line services. Deprived areas of Tendring drain resources. Jaywick is a deprived area and there are significant housing issues there. On a good note, wind turbines are being built at Harwich and employment in the area is improving. It is hoped that the A120 road will be upgraded. Unfortunately the recent changes to the road layout were completed with minimal consultation and had increased the problems on the road. There were ownership problems with the site of the bus shelter which is preventing further progress on that project. Councillor Stock agreed to speak to the Chief Executive of Tendring to try to resolve these. The badly needed footpath in the village also made little progress and Councillor Stock agreed to speak to the Chief Executive of Tendring about this too. Under the National Planning Policy Framework, Parish Councils have been given the task of identifying areas of land for housing development. This opportunity enables local people to determine the look and feel of the village for the future. Councillor Stock said that it would be very beneficial to have a Neighbourhood Plan which should involve the whole village. It would be to the benefit of all to get involved to construct a plan rather than have new building thrust upon the village with little right to object.

40 12/13 Report from PCSO Paul Beer.

Unfortunately Paul Beer did not attend the meeting and no representative was sent.

41 12/13 Speed Watch Team.

The chairman reported that there were on average four speed watches each month and whilst the average speed remains high, the number of vehicles being reported is reducing. This shows that the community speed watch is having some effect. When the Police monitored the speed through the village for six days the average speed was over 36 mph which is considered high by the police. This should help our case to obtain a Vehicle Activated Sign. The Parish Council is also in discussion with the Highways Department to look at the possibility of having “build out” in the 30mph section.

42 12/13 Report From the Amenities Committee

Anita Spall gave a detailed report of all the fundraising events held in the village over the last year and gave thanks to everyone for their contributions for making these events so successful. Additionally litter- picks are held in October and April. Thanks to Dawn Newton for providing refreshments for all the volunteers. In June we will have the Diamond Jubilee and a medallion to celebrate the event will be given to every household in the village. A tree with plaque will also be planted in the Churchyard.

43 12/13 Any Other Business

43.1 In reply to a question from a member of the public, the Parish Council was unsure when the new recycling bins would be delivered from the District Council.

43.2 Councillor Hatch reported that one gazebo is missing. Clerk’s note: “Subsequently found and returned to the Parish Council”.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed Clerk Date.....

Approved by:..... Chairman Date