

Little Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on

Thursday 7th February 2013 at 7.30 at the Haywain Public House, Little Bromley.

In Attendance:

Councillors S Wilcox Chairman

Councillor R Middleton Vice Chairman

Councillor K Hatch

Councillor R Christmas

Councillor M Ashmore

11 members of the public

Introduction and welcome

The chairman welcomed the members of the press and public

The public were asked to read the wording on the reverse of the agenda to make them aware as to how the meeting was to be conducted. Ken Hatch requested that the council vote on how the meeting was to be conducted. Voted 4 to 1 in favour.

Public Forum

S Candy asked if the council if it would publish its Budget as she believed that the budget for grass cutting in the Churchyard had been decreased to £300, and asked if this been agreed in private? She also claimed that as far as the public were concerned there were issues in how the council is managing its budget.

3 Sub Committees would be discussed later in the agenda

S Shute Said that the District and County Councillors did not appear to be working with the council. She asked the District Councillor why the dog bin had been removed. The Chairman stated that this issue would be discussed further on in the agenda.

Councillor Stock stated however that he had not asked for the dog bin to be removed. He said he had sent an email asking why procedure had not been followed, and why he had not been informed that a dog bin was being installed. Councillor Stock stated that this had also been confirmed by the Chairman of the District Council (P Halliday).

Superfast Broadband

Councillor Middleton said that he had had communication with Ardleigh and Great Bentley parish council in respect of superfast broadband which was an Essex County Council project to enhance broadband speeds in Essex. Consequently a presentation would be given by them, probably at Great Bentley on 7 March and members of the public would be invited to attend.

COUNCIL MEETING

111. 12/13 Apologies for Absence

None received

112. 12/13 Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting dated 20 December 2012 were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Wilcox Seconded Cllr Middleton. Agreed unanimously.

113. 12/13 Declaration of Interests

The Chairman (Councillor Wilcox) declared an interest in the Amenities group.

117. 12/13 Dog Fouling

Councillors Wilcox and Middleton attended a meeting with District Councillors Halliday, Stock and Turner at Clacton Town Hall, to discuss the matter.

P Halliday had instructed that the Dog Bin be removed, however due to the paper work produced by Councillor's Wilcox and Middleton it was shown that proper procedure had been followed. It was therefore agreed at that meeting that the village could have two dog bins and up to 10 signs.

These bins will be situated at the end of Calves Lane and also in Barn Lane. Permission for the Calves Lane one has been received and we are writing to the Highways for permission for the one situated in Barn Lane

118. 12/13 Trees in Little Bromley

The tree warden would like to plant a variety of trees in the village

The Council supports the planting of trees. However the council is concerned about future responsibility /liability of trees planted on other peoples land, and therefore thinks it is wise that the council does not accept liability for trees planted. The chairman has written to the tree warden on the 8th Jan 2013 asking the following

- Whether Essex CC Highways have any objections to the plan, and whether or not you need a license to plant?
- Confirmation that you have written permission from the land owner (to avoid any future misunderstanding)
- Establish who will be taking responsible for the trees in future (the PC will not be) - this could be the landowner or Essex CC
- Show your plan to the Tending tree warden and make sure he is on board
- Regarding the proposed trees in Shop Rd , ensure that there are no objections from home owners whose homes are near suggested planting sites (e.g. loss of view in future years , nuisance etc.)

There was a comment that a problem faced by Essex County Council is that it is currently paying out so much for damage by tree roots, that it therefore cannot get insurance for this liability.

The Tree Warden stated the following:

The liability is with the landowner, but she doesn't think they will give written consent accepting liability. The council is asking for the landowner to give its written permission on their land and take future responsibility for them

The trees to be planted are Beech, Maple, Oak and Horse Chestnut, and they will not be forward of the current hedge line.

The Tree Warden is not willing to remove Shop Road from current planting sites, however she still needs to talk to the people in the houses opposite, to ensure they have no objections to trees being planted.

The tree warden also needs to speak to highways to get their view on the situation of those in Shop Road
Decision

It was decided to wait to see if the homeowners in Shop Road have an issue, and also the view of the council before the trees would be planted.

119. 12/13 Matters Arising

a. War Memorial

Three estimates for the cost of work have been submitted to the War Memorial Trust and we are awaiting their decision.

b. Bus Shelter

Councillor Wilcox will be going to a meeting with Tendring District Council to ask a question to the full council as to why it was refused permission to install one.

c. Village Risk Assessment

This is almost complete

d. Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) sign

No news.

e. Crime

A notice had been placed in the Messenger regarding crime in the village, and it was hoped to get a crime prevention officer to speak at public assembly.

f. Manning Grove

A meeting is to be held in Chelmsford about this next week and there was a notice in the Messenger regarding a coach to take people to the meeting

g. No news re Horsley Cross development

h. Flooding

A questionnaire about village's issues with flooding has been put in this month's Messenger. This is asking for information to facilitate discussions with Essex County Council and landowners

120. 12/13 Reports

120.1 12/13 Crime

No representative of the Police was present

There has been no reported crime in January in the parish of Little Bromley

120.2 12/13 County Councillor

Reported that there is to be a change in benefits, and the council tax benefit will be removed in April.

TDC has come up with a local scheme to help parishioners with this but some householders will be paying council tax for the first time.

Advice will be available through CAB if householders are suffering hardship because of this.

The County councillor will be sending a link with this information to the acting clerk to be printed off and put on the village notice board

Action Councillor Candy

120.3 12/13 District Councillor

District Council will be meeting next week to agree budgets – the proposal + ½ % cut for the third year in a row.

On a personal level he is trying to get Anglia Water to look at bringing mains sewerage into the village. Little Bromley is probably the largest village in the district without mains sewerage.

The village will only stand a chance of getting mains sewage if there is widespread support in the village. It was stated that Anglian Water has to provide sewage works if more than 2 houses have a sewerage problem.

The District Councillor said he would be happy to pursue this if villagers in favour, although he does recognise that there are pros and cons to having mains sewerage.

A member of the public asked for more information on the cost implications of this.

The District Councillor will be sending a link to enable the Council to put information about this in the Messenger and website.

Councillor Middleton asked the District Councillor if the ditches and culverts could be cleaned out to help alleviate flooding in the village. The District Councillor stated that Essex County Council do have powers to enforce the cleaning of ditches/culverts, but they do not tend to use them.

120.4 12/13 Amenities Group

A synopsis of the activities was given.

120.5 12/13 Tree Warden

The tree warden stated that she is waiting to plant several trees predominantly on land belonging to Tabor Farms and some in Shop Road. She will seek to get a letter from Tabor Farms granting permission.

She was informed that she should let Essex County Council know where she wants to plant the trees to be sure they will not obstruct land drainage and underground pipes etc.

She will consult with the residents in Shop Road regarding their view on trees being planted opposite them.

A working party will be formed to help Plant the trees

120.6 12/13 Speedwatch

The speedgun is now back from recalibration and speedwatch can start again.

The change of the 40mph to 30 mph in Bentley Road had not yet taken place despite statutory notices being erected in the Autumn of 2012. The chairman informed the council that he has been advised by ECC Highways that it can take up to two and a half years for the signs to be changed once agreement has been given. It was agreed that the council write to highways (Derek Lewis) asking if this time could be shortened.

Cllr Candy told the council that she would explore the delay and also of the putting up of signs either side of the turning to Church Road. She will also look into the idea of putting "Gates" either end of the village: these warn people they are entering a 30mph speed limit.

Action LBPC Clerk and Councillor Candy

121 12/13 Sub Committees

The Chairman gave the following information and made the made the proposal (seconded by Councillor Ashmore) stated below which was agree 4 votes to 1

Background

LBPC has only a few meetings a year and sometimes matters arise between those meetings that cannot wait for the next council meeting that might be weeks away .To save the time and resources of convening a full council meeting for only one item such as expenditure already budgeted or a simple planning application, there is a need to create 3 flexible sub committees to deal with such matters .

Proposal /Resolution

That LBPC appoints itself as a committee for the sole purpose of forming 3 sub-committees in accordance with and subject to the Local Government act of 1972 and section 8 of LBPC standing orders:

1 Finance; to deal with all finance matters (apart from setting the precept / budget);

2 Planning; to deal with planning matters;

3 Environment; to deal with matters such as health and safety, crime and flooding;

These were formed on the understanding that:

The council/ committee delegate its powers to each sub- committee;

Only members of the council can be members of a sub-committee;

A quorum for a meeting of a sub-committee shall be any 3 councillors;

Any councillor can request a meeting of any sub-committee;

That all decisions made by any subcommittee shall be reported to LBPC at the next meeting and recorded

This proposal/ resolution shall form of the LBPC standing orders

122 12/13 Authorisations and payment of cheques

Agreed unanimously

E.on Electricity.....£6.88
Clerk Salary.....£150.00
Accommodation.....£105.00

123 12/13 Date of next Meeting

May AGM 7.00pm Followed by Parish Assembly 7.45pm