

Little Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 1st August 2013 at 7.30 pm at The Haywain, Little Bromley

In attendance: Councillor S. Wilcox Chairman
 Councillor R. Middleton Vice Chairman
 Councillor K. Hatch
 Councillor S. Candy
 Councillor A. Spall
 Laura Austin Clerk
 approx 20 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies

2. **Welcome to new Councillors and receipt of DPI forms**

The Chairman welcomed the 2 new councillors and the DPI forms were handed over to the Clerk. Sarah Candy asked to speak and explained that as there was now a new format to the Council that there was a need to amend the Standing orders to reflect that and would therefore like to amend the order of the agenda. This was agreed to by the Chairman. Items 14 - 18 and Item 26 will follow after the Reports.

3. **Members Interests**

Anita Spall declared a non pecuniary interest for Item 20 as Chairman of the Amenities Committee. Ken Hatch declared a non pecuniary interest for Item 20 as a member of the Amenities Committee and Sarah Candy declared a non pecuniary interest for Item 20 as a member of the Amenities Group and as their Auditor.

4. **Public Participation**

One query was raised in regard to the fact that the minutes of the last meetings weren't available - this was explained that this would be an item on this agenda.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2013**

These were proposed and signed as a record by the Chairman and seconded by Robert Middleton

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 24th June 2013

These were proposed and signed as a record by the Chairman and seconded by Robert Middleton

6. **Matters arising from the meetings held on 23rd May 2013 and 24th June 2013**

The war memorial should be on the Agenda for the next meeting

Action: Clerk

7. **Reports**

a) County Councillor - No

b) District Councillor

Neil Stock welcomed the 2 new Councillors and said the turnout for the election had been unprecedented at 48%. He also reported that there were plans to expand Colchester towards the Tendring area and this is something we should be aware of as there was a danger that in years to come we could end up becoming a borough of the town. A gift of a bow tie was sent to wet the Royal Baby's head from TDC. The District Councillor was asked if there was a crime number attached to the investigation regarding the anonymous letter which he confirmed there was - the Chairman asked for this to be forwarded.

c) Parish Councillor - No reports

d) To note Planning Inspectorate's decisions

Full planning permission has been given to The Old School House for replacement of outbuilding

14. **Future publication of Minutes**

minutes in draft will be made available on the web site, after being agreed in draft by Council, and the notice board within 2 weeks of the meeting. This was proposed by Sarah Candy and seconded by Anita Spall
- unanimous vote in favour

15. **Standing Orders**

It was proposed that we set up a working party to agree a new set of Standing Orders to change the way the Parish Council will operate in the future. We need a more open and transparent council and we need to give more opportunity for the public to speak at the beginning and the end of meetings.

Proposed by Sarah Candy and Seconded by Ken Hatch - unanimous vote in favour

Agenda Setting

All members of the Council will be able to put items on the Agenda

Attaching of significant documents to agenda

All documents to be read will be available with agendas at meetings

Expenses

The new Councillors were elected on a mandate whereby they don't agree with Councillors asking for expenses

Public Speaking

To be at the beginning and end of each Agenda with a more flexible approach to time limits

Seating arrangements

To arrange the seating so that the Council - especially the Chairman - faces the public

Roles and responsibilities of the Chairman and Vice Chairman

Need to be set out in the new Standing Orders and agreed

16. **Appointment of Internal Auditor**

Sarah Candy explained that the Internal Auditor, being the wife of one of the Candidates in the recent election, who was himself proposed by the Chairman, did not pass the independence test. It was proposed that the Council seek a new internal auditor by Sarah Candy, seconded by Anita Spall - 3 votes in favour of the proposal Anita Spall, Sarah Candy and Ken Hatch - Bob Middleton and Steve Wilcox abstained

17. **Future budget format**

Sarah Candy explained that the ratio of precept spent on bureaucracy is disproportionate to that spent on services and that we need to get a better balance. In future all Councillors to decide the budget and the aim will be to try and cut the precept. Chairman explained that we will have an outstanding debt to TDC for the election.

18. **Arrangements regarding Parish Council correspondence**

This will form part of the new Standing Orders but was explained that the idea would be to print out items to be put into a folder and passed to each Councillor in turn for them to review and make comments on.

Cheques to be signed at the end of meetings - again to form part of new SO's.

26. **Recent Anonymous communication distributed to Village residents**

Chairman reported that in the last 12 months there have been 3 anonymous letters/ emails. Sarah Candy said that we need to formally resolve that this PC will not consider any anonymous letters and that any parishioner who has a problem can write, in confidence, a signed letter to any Councillor or the Clerk but anonymous letters will not be discussed. Ken Hatch said this had been agreed in a previous meeting which was held in Part 2 but had not been minuted.

Sarah Candy put forward a motion -

This Council will not consider/accept/give any credit to anonymous letters. If residents have an issue they wish to discuss they can speak confidentially or write confidentially to any Councillor or Clerk as long as it is not anonymous

Seconded by Anita Spall - unanimous vote in favour

Sarah Candy also proposed that we formally resolve to condemn the letter - this was seconded by Anita Spall - unanimous vote in favour

The Clerk read out a statement that she had previously prepared but no action was taken on this.

8. **Accounts**

Chairman said that the Council is expecting an invoice from TDC for the election expenses and said that we would need to pay that from next year's precept. The Accounts were noted.

9. **Planning Applications**

Sarah Candy wanted it noted that she has a non pecuniary interest on this item as she is on the planning committee on TDC.

Land NE of Shop Road - 13/00715/FUL

Council should object for the following reasons:

Outside of the Village Envelope, Very dangerous access point, Issues with drainage, Overlooking the School House

Unanimous vote in favour of objection

District Councillor was asked that if its thought that the officers were minded to approve this application if he could call it in to Committee. DC confirmed he would.

Council resolved we would ask the Environment Agency to report on flooding risk.

Action - Clerk

10. **Tendring Europark**

Chairman explained that he felt this would bring jobs to the area and a new bus route. It was also explained that the reasons why this might not be the right location for this type of development were:

Unsustainable location - there's no way of getting to it without travelling on the A120 - as very few houses around it

Loss of open countryside

Loss of agricultural land

Insufficient transport

Out of size and scale and not in keeping with the local environment.

Doesn't comply with the sequential test

Motion to object proposed by Cllr Spall and seconded by Cllr Candy for the above reasons - 3 in favour - Steve Wilcox objects and Bob Middleton abstains

11. **Carringtons Reservoir**

Appeal is to be held in Chelmsford on 20th August. Sarah Candy requests that she be allowed to represent the views of the Parish Council.

Proposed by Sarah Candy, seconded by Anita Spall - unanimous vote in favour

It was suggested that the public could write and request that the appeal is postponed as although they may wish to attend its the holiday period.

12. **Footpaths**

The Chairman was asked to find out if Mark Ashmore (former Councillor) was still the footpath warden or whether he had resigned from that as well. It was reported that there are 3 footpaths in the area that are blocked/overgrown and that action needs to be taken. **Action: Chairman to check with Mr Ashmore if he is still footpath warden**

13. **Highway Matters**

It was suggested that we write to Bernard Jenkin MP and ask for an update

Action: Sarah Candy

19. **Dog Bins**

Bob Middleton reported that TDC had given permission for another bin at the end of Barn Lane. It was explained that the resident had objected.

Sarah Candy suggested 2 alternative sites and a letter will be sent to TDC suggesting these sites to see if 1 will be approved **Action: Clerk**

Current Bin at Chequers Road needs to be emptied more often

Action: Clerk to inform TDC

20. **Fireworks Display and Parish Council Insurance**

A resolution was put forward that a Joint Working Party between the Amenities Group and the Parish Council is formed to run the Little Bromley Fireworks Display so that the Parish Council insurance will cover the event.

Proposed by Anita Spall, seconded by Sarah Candy - 4 votes in favour - Bob Middleton voted against

The working party needs to get the risk assessment underway. There is a qualified Health and Safety man from Great Bromley who is willing to undertake this along with an experienced fireman. This will be undertaken as soon as possible to arrange with everyone.

Motion - inform the insurance company that the PC insurance will be used subject to satisfactory risk assessment

3 votes in favour - Sarah Candy, Anita Spall and Ken Hatch - Bob Middleton and Steve Wilcox abstained

21. **Expenses**

Haywain room rental - unanimous vote in favour

Gt Bromley village hall - unanimous vote in favour

Clerks Salary - unanimous vote in favour

Robert Middleton's expenses - application withdrawn

Electricity - unanimous vote in favour

22. **Any other Competent Business for next Agenda**

War memorial to be added

23. **Correspondence**

Crime figures were read out by the Clerk and it was reported that permission had been given for 1 extra dog bin

24. **Date of next meeting**

12th September 2013

The Public were then asked to leave the room as the next item was of a confidential nature to do with the Terms and Conditions of the Clerk's contract

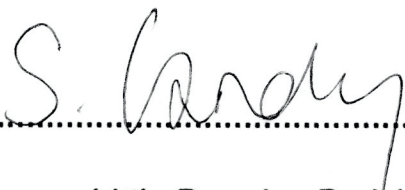
25. Terms and Conditions of Clerk's contract

During this discussion Councillor Robert Middleton tendered his resignation as did the Clerk, Laura Austin

It was agreed that Cllr Candy would organise an Extra Ordinary Meeting.

Meeting finished at 10.30 pm

Minutes approved as a correct record and signed at PC meeting on 12th September

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Candy', is written above a horizontal dotted line.

Vice Chairman Little Bromley Parish Council

Dated 12th September 2013