

LITTLE BROMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Haywain, Little Bromley, on Thursday 15th May 2014 at 19.30

In attendance: Councillor R Knott [Chairman]
Councillor K Hatch [Vice Chairman]
Councillor A Spall
Councillor D Newton
Karen Tarling – Minute Taker

Approximately 9 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

None received.

2. **Members Interests**

Ken Hatch declared a pecuniary interest in item 9. Roly Knott declared a non pecuniary interest in item 13.

3. **Reports**

(a) **County Councillor**

Carlo Guglielmi reported there had been 5 consultations this year with the aim of saving £117 million. There are no plans for further consultation on waste disposal. There were no problems arising as a result of the fire fighter strike and it is not known if further strike action will take place. A meeting took place with Bernard Jenkins on 2nd May regarding speed cameras on the A120. Cameras have been purchased and will be installed in June. Residents will have a right to increased participation at future Essex County Council meetings. The process for a speed activation sign will need to be re started. There are plans to reinstall a roundabout with Pelhams Cornor or Hare Green being the cheaper options.

(b) **District Councillor**

Neil Stock expressed concern that a roundabout may not be a magic solution and a speed camera may be preferable. Building work opposite the petrol station on the A120 is a new waste transfer facility and will service the Colchester area. Concern expressed regarding

access and egress from this site. The government want more houses built and it was suggested that a local plan is devised for this Parish. Ardleigh already has one in place. An planning application has been made for a solar farm on approximately 50 acres of arable land in Ardleigh and, if approved, this will be visible from Frating Road.

(c) Parish Councillors

Reference was made to the little Bromley Messenger that contains an article on the solar farm mentioned in (b) above. Hugh Frostick was thanked for his assistance with the village website.

(d) Police

A report had been provided advising there was a theft of a vehicle in little Bromley; 2 advertising boards had been stolen and a secure compound had been entered and a generator stolen. Concern expressed that the Police telephone number in the Little Bromley messenger was incorrect and the resident had been told to call Mistley Police Station.

(e) Footpath Warden

The warden reported that all footpaths were open and clear.

(f) Tree Warden

The tree warden reported that the Jubilee tree had been hit for a second time and is irreparable. General consensus from Councillors was that replanting should take place with adequate protection around the tree. Discussion to take place with owners of the land. Issue to be tabled at next Parish Council Meeting.

4. Public Participation

General agreement that replanting should take place as at (f) above.

5. Matters Arising

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th March 2014 were agreed. Proposed by Dawn Newton, seconded by Anita Spall and unanimous agreement of all Councillors.

5.1 Carlo Guglielmi had provided an update for the AGM on the speed activation sign. A speed survey has been added to the scheme and funding is likely to be agreed at the meeting on 29th July.

5.2 A second message would be placed in the Little Bromley Messenger for volunteers to act as points of contact in the event of an emergency.

5.3 The 30 mph speed limit had been covered at the AGM.

5.4 Village planters were now in place and volunteers were requested to water them.

6. Council Vacancy

The deadline for a request to hold an election expires on Friday 16th May. If no election is required, a Councillor will be co-opted if there are any expressions of interest.

7. Financial Matters

A decision had been made at the AGM to open a new account with Nat West.

8. Role of Clerk

Two expressions of interest were received. The role would be undertaken on a voluntary basis to avoid cost to the Parish Council other than expenses for training or items related to administration. Unanimous decision of all Councillors to appoint Karen Tarling as Clerk with Anita Spall remaining as Responsible Financial Officer.

9. Update on War Memorial

Work has been delayed due to poor weather. Ken Hatch gave a detailed update on the works planned and the Chairman invited members of the public present to comment on the plans, with the general consensus being that this would be a great improvement. Three quotes have been received for materials and all labour will be undertaken by volunteers. The quotes were discussed. Anita Spall proposed that the lowest quote be accepted so the work on the War Memorial can proceed – this was seconded by Dawn Newton and unanimously agreed. Ken Hatch abstained. A cheque was raised from the Parish Council for the materials of £544.52. The Amenities Group will be asked to meet any extra costs that may be required to finish the project.

10. Insurance Premium

The Insurance premium is reduced this year due to no firework display. The village sign is now also covered by insurance. Anita Spall has confirmed with insurers that the premium covers public liability. Insurance premium unanimously agreed by all Councillors and will be paid by cheque.

11. Update on Scrap yard

Four geese recently escaped which necessitated calling the police and the RSPCA. Trading Standards also attended the premises and will be monitoring due to animal welfare concerns. The geese have been placed with an animal rescue centre. The matter has been brought to the attention of Tendring District Council.

12. Vandalism and Crime

Tree vandalism as been discussed at point 3(f) above. The speed sign at the end of Church Road has been knocked down; the pointer sign at near the rectory and the bridle way sign at the end of Chequers road have been vandalised. Spray paint was recently used on a speed sign. Concern about increase in small petty crime in the village and police presence would be welcomed. It was noted that the Police report did not mention these issues. It was suggested that complaints need to be made with Police reference numbers obtained.

13. Correspondence

13.1 The resident has confirmed that they were just trying to establish facts about the war memorial and it was not a complaint.

13.2 Roly Knott wrote to Bernard Jenkins expressing concern that due process had not been followed with the Horsely Cross planning application. Bernard Jenkins and Tendring District council have written to say that due process was followed.

13.3 This has been referred to earlier and all correspondence was made available for public inspection.

14. Any Other Competent Business

14.1 William Marshall had suggested a risk assessment be prepared setting out how the council would run in the event of a disaster in terms of due process and decision making.

14.2 Laura Austin, the former Clerk had not received a P45. This will be rectified. It was unanimously agreed that the PAYE scheme would be closed since the Parish Council are not employing anyone.

15. Public Participation

15.1 The general view is that the agenda's should, as far as reasonably practicable, be available online.

15.2 A member of the public raised concerns that the hedge opposite the War Memorial was overgrown and was making the corner dangerous. It was explained that this had been raised with the landowner in the past and that she agreed to keep the hedge cut back at the appropriate time of the year. Another member of the public said the cow parsley was more of a problem.

The Meeting closed at 21.18pm.

Draft minutes approved for publication on 29th May 2014

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