

Little Bromley Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 6th September 2012 at 7.30pm at the Haywain Public House, Little Bromley.

In attendance:-

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Councillor S. Wilcox - | Chairman |
| Councillor R. Middleton - | Vice Chairman |
| Councillor K. Hatch | |
| Councillor R. Christmas | |
| Sarah Candy | County Councillor |
| Mrs S Shute | Clerk |
| Approx 15 members of the public. | |

69 12/13 Introduction and Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed the public and press to the meeting.

70 12/13 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Councillor Ashmore.

71 12/13 Acceptance of Minutes.

The minutes of the meetings dated 12th July and 9th August were accepted as read and signed by the Chairman. Council agreed that only approved minutes should be published in future.

72 12/13 Declaration of Interests.

No interests were declared.

73 12/13 Public Participation.

Councillor Hatch reported that he had been asked to attend an informal meeting on 30th August to discuss a confidential solicitors letter regarding the amenity fund. He was assured that the letter and its contents had remained confidential and had not been discussed openly by council members.

Ms Spall said that she would not agree to any solicitors decision regarding the fund.

Discussion followed regarding "ownership" of the fund. Councillor Candy stated that the Parish Council are of the opinion that they are legally and morally responsible for the fund. The Amenity Committee believes that they are legally and morally responsible for the fund. She added that both parties agree that the fund is for the benefit of the village but this stalemate situation must be resolved. Councillor Candy agreed to work with the Clerk to come to an agreeable conclusion to enable the council to give the fund to a properly constituted independent committee. It was agreed that the new organisation would report back to the Parish Council at council meetings. No one would benefit if both parties take the legal route. Councillor Candy then read out a prepared statement for the minutes. "The Parish Council supports and will work towards the officially constituted Amenity Group managing and controlling the Little Bromley amenity fund."

In reply to a question from a member of the public, the Chairman stated that he cannot make a decision by himself on behalf of the whole council.

74 12/13 Matters arising from the meeting held on 12th July 2012.

56 2/13 Declaration of Interests and Code of Conduct.

The Clerk confirmed that the declaration of interests have been published on the website.

Item discharged.

16 12/13 Amenity Committee Mandate.

A constitution had been presented to the Parish Council for consideration.

Item continued.

9 12/13 Restoration of War Memorial

It was reported that the work on the memorial has still not been completed even though the council have made numerous attempts to chase this up.

Councillor Hatch said that he no longer wanted to be lead councillor in charge of the restoration work and he is still considering his position regarding the maintenance of the memorial. He said that he has tried to work in the best interests of everyone and to negotiate costs to benefit all. He stated that the council will have difficulty in completing the work within the budget held. Councillor Middleton agreed to take over the restoration task.

Action: Councillor Middleton.

11 12/13 Dog Fouling.

The clerk agreed to speak to Councillor Stock regarding the dog bins.

Action: Clerk.

22 12/13 Standing Orders.

Standing orders will be reviewed next year.

Item discharged.

26 12/13 Vehicle Activated Sign.

A business case has been submitted but no response received yet.

Item continued.

28 12/13 Bus Shelter

Councillor Hatch said that he no longer wished to lead this case. He has tried to contact the council member at Tendring District Council regarding issues raised but the council member would not be available until after the Olympics. Councillor Middleton agreed to try to progress this.

Action: Councillor Middleton.

30 12/13 Hedge Opposite the War Memorial

The clerk read out an email received from the County Councillor which stated that the Highways Department had inspected the hedge and as it is not encroaching on the highway no action can be taken. Additionally there are advanced warning signs regarding the sharp bend.

The site is inspected routinely every quarter.

Item discharged.

50 12/13 Banking and Investment Strategy.

The budget is to be reviewed.

Item discharged.

75 12/13 Reports

75.1 12/13 Report from Sarah Candy – County Councillor.

Councillor Candy said that pot holes are being repaired.

Essex County Council are reviewing speed limits and the possibility of more flexibility with the Police.

75.2 12/13 Report from Neil Stock – District Councillor

No report presented at this time.

75.3 12/13 Report from the Amenity Organisation.

It was reported that the group now has its own insurance and a constitution has been drawn up. If this is accepted by the Parish Council then a legal letter will be drawn up stating that the fund will be properly managed.

The recent ghost story fundraising event raised £55.95 which has not yet been paid into the bank as the Parish Council still has the paying in books.

Because of difficulties regarding the fund Ms Spall suggested that the accounts are audited by Councillor Candy and a member of the Parish Council.

Future events will include bulb planting which will be paid for by the donation from Mrs Payne, parishioner.

75.4 12/13 Report from the Footpath Representative.

A report was made in the absence of the Footpath Representative.

Volunteers are being sought to maintain the village footpaths. A note has been placed in the Bromley Messenger.

75.5 12/13 Report from the Tree Warden.

Ms Spall reported that trees are available for planting and she will be looking at roadsides and verges for planting up. The Parish Council agreed to see if they are in possession of an Essex County Council Highway map.

Action: Clerk

75.6 12/13 Report from the Speedwatch / Safety Team

Speeding continues to be a problem in the village. Over the last 4 speedwatch sessions more than 50 vehicles were reported.

It is hoped to get approval to carry out speedwatch sessions in Bentley Road.

75.7 12/13 Report from the Police.

No report submitted.

76 12/13 Budget Review.

A budget sheet was given to all council members.

The Chairman stated that the main concern is that the clerk’s salary does not meet the statutory requirement and it must meet at least the minimum wage also the number of hours worked by the clerk must be assessed. The Clerk stated that due to the current difficulties within the village she has recorded 108 hours worked.

The Chairman said that the precept next year will have to be raised again.

Item continued.

77 12/13 Rural infrastructure. Consultation document.

This document has been received from the District Council. It was agreed that the Chairman and Councillor Middleton would complete and send this off.

Action: Councillors Wilcox and Middleton.

78 12/13 Village Risk Assessment

Councillor Hatch confirmed that a risk assessment had never been completed before. A working party consisting of Councillors Wilcox, Christmas and Middleton will complete this task.

Action: Councillors Wilcox, Christmas and Middleton.

79 12/13 Correspondence.

The following correspondence was brought to the attention of the council.

The Tendring District Council – Local Plan

Planning Application – April Cottage- Full approval.

Letter confirming successful audit.

80 12/13 Authorisation and Payment of Cheques.

The following payments were authorised and cheques signed.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| S Wilcox. Mileage to T.D.C. Meeting. | £9.20 |
| S Shute. Postage – recorded delivery and stationery. | £19.40 |
| e-on Electricity. | £6.80 |

81 12/13 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be on 25th October 2012.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Approved by:..... Chairman Date.....