

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at
South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
on Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor M. Dear
Councillor Cottle
Councillor J. Dear
Councillor Hooker
Councillor Knight
Councillor Willingham

Also in attendance:-

Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
10 Members of the Public

14/155 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Henderson who continues his recovery following recent surgery (*) and County Councillor Twitchen who was on holiday.

(*)it was agreed that he would be given a special dispensation so that his apologies for absence didn't need to be sought prior to each and every subsequent meeting that he was unable to attend.

14/156 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

14/167 Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd September were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

14/168 Public Participation.

Residential development proposal Junction of Church Street & Noak Hill Road.	Mr. Armour a resident of Church Street voiced his concerns re: - the proposal to build 8 houses at this location which was confirmed by other residents of Church Street present. The meeting noted that this site was in the green belt and adjacent to the Conservation Area. Furthermore if the proposed development was allowed it would spoil the visual amenity in this part of the Village and would have detrimental effect on the street scene as a whole together with an adverse effect on the infrastructure plus the strain on school places which it was noted were already stretched. The Chair informed the meeting that the Council's policy was to always object to any development in the Green Belt and that the Council would discuss the application at the appropriate point on the agenda.
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Possible acquisition of a MUSA at Langham Hall	Richard Clark, the Chair of Trustees responsible for the running of the hall outlined their plans for the possible acquisition of a MUSA at Langham Hall. It was noted that they were currently in discussions with Basildon BC as to whether this initiative would be feasible or not.

14/169 A. Planning Applications

14/01034/FULL	7 St Agnes Road, Billericay	Rear extension (conservatory) (remove existing).	No Objection
14/01081/FULL	9 Burstead Drive, Billericay	Two Storey side Extension.	Objection on the grounds that the plans for this application could not be viewed from the Basildon BC website despite current up to date equipment and software being used.
14/01096/FULL	173 Noak Hill Road, Billericay	Proposed new dwelling & detached garage.	objection for the same reasons as for 14/01081/FULL
14/01059/FULL	Land at the junction of Noak Hill Road & Church Street, Billericay	Construction of 8 detached homes with hard and soft landscaping, boundary treatments, parking, garaging, access and enhanced footpath links including diversion of footpath.	Objection on the grounds that the site in question is part of the Green belt and as such preserves the ribbon between the GB and the conservation area. It is also felt that this development would erode the open aspect and therefore the existing visual amenity experience on entering the Village. There would also be pressure on the existing infrastructure together with possibly implications for available school places.

14/01025/FULL	188 Noak Hill Road, Billericay	Proposed single detached garage.	No objection.
14/0111/FULL	17 Highfield Road, Billericay	Convert bungalow to chalet, including the construction of new ear extension, front porch & bay window, with new roof to existing bungalow & rooms in the roof with roof lights.	As all members of the Village Council experienced problems in viewing the plans on the Planning Portal it is impossible for the Council to form a view and therefore to comment on this application.
14/01109/FULL	246 Noak Hill Road, Billericay	Erect replacement dwelling.	as above for application no;- 14/01118/FULL

In addition to the above mentioned applications the following application was considered under the arrangements previously approved for dealing with consultation requests received outside the Village Council's usual monthly meeting cycle. The following comments being emailed to the Planning Dept. at Basildon Borough Council on 15th of September 2014.

**14/01044/FULL - Raise roof, erect extensions to front, side and rear to convert into a two storey dwelling house (Amended Proposal)
- 201 Church Street Billericay Essex CM11 2TP**

This is an enormous redevelopment of the property which was a small bungalow to a five bedroom house. Although the application says two storey there are two rooms in the loft space with Velux windows. A previous application 14/00553/full was refused amongst other things due to bulk and height. If this application addresses the previous issues raised then the Village Council have no objection to the proposal as there are very large houses in the immediate vicinity and the application site is a large plot.

14/169 B. Core Strategy.

It was noted that the 10,000 comments received by Basildon BC in respect of the Core Strategy were now available to view on the borough Council's website.

14/170. Essex Association of Local Councils.

The meeting received a report from Councillor Knight following his attendance at the EALC AGM & Awards Ceremony held on 18th of September.

There were a total of 6 guest speakers at the event including the ECC Member for Libraries, a representative from Stansted Airport and the Chief Constable of Essex Police. It was noted that Stansted is now owned by Manchester Airports and that the proposal for a new Airport for the London and surrounding areas was no longer being pursued.

The Chief Constable reported on the cost cutting exercise that the police were required to undertake and that to date a total of £25m had been saved, but that a further £40m still needed to be found. Moving forward the main thrust of the force across the County would be localism and

the constabulary had been re-organised to reflect this focus. As part of that exercise all serving officers would be in a post for a minimum of 2 years and the number of PCSOs had also been standardised and fixed at 300 again across the County. This figure it was noted would not rise. As part of this new direction the Chief Constable had also indicated that he expected a commitment from officers that they should attend their local parish council meetings. This was contrary to the information coming out of the Neighbourhood Action Panel and Councillor Cottle agreed to raise this issue at the next meeting of the Panel due to be held on 6th of October.

With regard to the EALC Annual Awards it was noted that the process for 2014 had changed with just one application form being required for the 6-7 prizes available. Rayleigh & Corringham had enjoyed success this year while the winner of the invite to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace was a parish councillor with some 45 years of service to the same Council.

Councillor knight was s thanked for his attendance and detailed report on the event.

14/171. Association of Basildon Councils News.

It was noted that there had not been a meeting of the ABLC since the September meeting of the Village council. Councillor M. Dear indicated that she would be attending the meeting arranged for 2nd of October and confirmed that the suggestion that a course on planning legislation had been sent to the Chair of the ABLC for consideration.

14/172. Finances

Approved payments:

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	September salary	£ 499.89(*)
H.M.R.C. 000762	Income tax – September	£125.00
Martin Ainscough 000763	September expenses – stamps, postage, & ink cartridges x 2	£39.23
Billericay Nurseries 000764	Hanging Baskets – maintenance/watering – September 2014	£840.00
Cllr. L. Willingham 000765	Reimbursement of travelling and car park expenses incurred in attending EALC Course on 3 rd September 2014	£22.20
Essex County Council 000766	Fee for lamp post checks re:- Xmas Lights	£50.00
Curtis Greengrocers 000767	Summer Event - Bouquet	£25.00
PKF Littlejohn 000768	Fee for External Audit of Annual Return for Year ending 31 st March 2014	£240.00

(*) salary now paid directly by bank transfer on 26th of each month.

In addition to the expenditure noted above the Clerk informed the meeting that he had recently received the documentation back from the External Auditors in respect of the Annual Return exercise for 2013/14 and he was pleased to report that the Council had received a clean bill of health and that all financial controls in place were fit for purpose.

14/173 Billericay Children's Centre – Update

The meeting noted the appointment of Jane Masters as the new Team Leader of the Billericay Children's Centre and their plans to run family activities at Langham Hall with hopefully two sessions being held from January 2015. It was reported that Jane was interested to hear from anybody with local knowledge with a view to being able to plan for the type of activities that the local community might want. Councillor Cottle indicated that he would be happy to give her some background knowledge to the hall being a resident of Langham Crescent. Richard Hall, the Chair of the Hall trustees, who was in attendance, indicated that there was an open day planned for Sunday 5th of October if Councillor Cottle would like to attend.

14/174. Review of the Council's Financial Regulations

The meeting noted and agreed to formally adopt revised Financial Regulations as produced by NALC suitably amended to reflect the Council's circumstances and situation as recommended following the Annual Audit process for 2013/14.

Resolved: - that it be formally recorded that the NALC Financial Regulations suitably amended to fit the Council's requirements were adopted.

14/175. Review of the Council's Internal Control Systems

It was noted that the Council's Internal Control systems and risk assessment measures have been considered and reviewed in conjunction with the Council's newly adopted financial regulations and by the recent Internal Audit exercise and they are considered to be fit for purpose. **Resolved:** - that it be formally recorded that the review had been undertaken and that the Council's Internal Control systems are fit for purpose.

14/176. Use of Media Tools in Meetings

The meeting was informed that due to recent changes to the legislation the public may record/video meetings of the Village Council without the need for prior permission. (A copy of the protocol document – "Use of Media Tools at Meetings" had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting for their information and attention).

14/177. Village Council Summer Event

The meeting received an evaluation report on the Village Council Summer Event held on Sunday 31st of August 2014.

It was noted that the Working Party had met on 16th of September and felt that the event had been sufficiently successful to warrant organising another similar event in 2015. It was therefore proposed that Sunday 30th of August 2015 should be the date for next year. The event would take place between 1.00 – 4.00 p.m.

With regard to this year's event it was agreed that the Green looked a bit sparse given the number of attractions that had attended. This would therefore be addressed for 2015 and new attractions had already been approached with a view to holding people's attention and keeping them at the event longer. In addition the Punch & Judy, Face paints and Bouncy castles had all agreed to return again next year. As for this year it would be necessary to hire the Green for the event from Basildon BC, but that it should hopefully be possible to use the same form as last year suitable amended.

14/178. Village Council Litter Working Party.

The meeting noted the arrangements in place for the Litter Pick event due to be held on 4th of October 2014. The event had been advertised in "Street Life" and the local Church newsletter. It was noted the event would also cover Mill Meadows this time and those wishing to cover this part of the village should meet at the local Scout Hut. Councillor Knight was due to collect the equipment on 2nd of October and teas and coffees would be available for all volunteers at the

South Green Memorial Hall. Certificates would also once again be produced for all children participating to recognise their contribution to the event.

14/179. New Village Sign.

The Clerk reported on the situation with regard to the acquisition of a new Village Sign for Gt. Burstead since the last meeting. It would appear that despite the best efforts of Councillor Hooker and other members of the Council some confusion had arisen as to actually what sort of sign the Village Council were trying to acquire for Gt. Burstead.

The Clerk informed the meeting that he had spoken to a contact at the County Highways Dept. who had subsequently confirmed that the previously approved sum of £5,000 by the Basildon Highways Panel for gated signs could not be used for the Council's preferred option of an ornamental sign. There was it was also noted some confusion on behalf of the County Council as to where any such sign would be sited despite a site visit earlier in the year, at which a rep from the Highways authority had been in attendance, when the Council's preferred site had been identified.

Therefore given the confusion that had arisen over the whole matter it was agreed that the help of County Councillor Twitchen should be enlisted to help resolve this matter once and for all.

14/180. ECC Salt Bag Scheme – 2014.

It was noted that a ton of salt had been delivered to Billericay Fire Station for distribution to local resident volunteers. It was now a case of agreeing a convenient date for Councillors and the Fire Station for when the salt could be distributed.

14/181. Outside Gym Proposal – Update

The meeting agreed to try and find an alternative site for this project with possible locations being discussed at the November meeting of the Council.

14/182. Southwood Court Recycling Facility

The meeting noted that following the representation by local residents and the efforts of the Village Council to try and resolve the issue the Village Council had been informed by BBC that a public consultation would take place regarding the recycling facility. Councillor M. Dear had written to Basildon Borough Councillor Moore enquiring when the consultation would take place and had received no reply as yet. Therefore while the Council had sympathy with the local residents it was felt that this matter had been taken as far as possible by the Village Council and regrettably nothing more could be done at this time.

14/183. Installation of Flag Pole at South Green Memorial Hall

It was noted that no response had been forthcoming from the Trustees of the Memorial Hall prior to the meeting formally putting their concerns with this proposal in writing. It was therefore agreed that if a reply was subsequently received before the November agenda was published it would be discussed then.

14/184. Neighbourhood Action Panel

It was noted that Councillor Cottle would attend the next meeting due to be held on 6th of October at the Waitrose Supermarket Conference Room. The meeting also noted that Councillor Cottle was in the process of organising a Neighbourhood Watch Group for Langham Crescent. Richard Clark from Langham Hall offered him a meeting room free of charge in order for the group to meet.

14/185. Footpaths

It was noted that there was nothing to report since the last meeting.

14/186. Future Meeting Dates.

5th November, 3rd December 2014, 7th January 2015 (provisional), further dates in 2015 to be advised

14/187. Close of Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.