

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at  
 South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay  
 on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

- Councillor M. Dear - Chair
- Councillor Cottle
- Councillor J. Dear
- Councillor A. Henderson
- Councillor S. Hooker
- Councillor Knight
- Councillor Willingham

Also in attendance:-

- Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
- 3 Local Residents

**13/123 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aly-Khan. No reason was given for his absence, and it was noted that in future if Councillors could not attend a meeting then a reason needed to be given to explain their non-attendance. County Councillor Twitchen sent her apologies due to a prior engagement in London.

**13/124 Declarations of Interest.**

There were no declarations of Interest.

**13/125 Minutes.**

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013 were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair. All in favour

**13/126 Public Participation.**

<p>Recycling Facility – Southwood Court Grange Road</p>	<p>The Clerk informed the meeting of the correspondence that has been received on this matter from Basildon Borough Council since the last meeting. It was noted that when the Recycling facility was first sited in this location the residential accommodation at Southwood Court had not been built. During the planning process every effort was made to ensure that the facility did not conflict with or have an adverse effect on the local amenities enjoyed by the residents. However it was noted despite the facility being well used if residents were to indicate to BBC that due to their excellent door step recycling service and the fact that Barleylands Recycling facility was only 10 minutes away consideration might be given to removing the recycling facility in the vicinity of Southwood Court. (See Item 13/132 below).</p>
<p>Association of Basildon Councils</p>	<p>Councillor Hooker reported on his recent</p>

	attendance at the ABLC meeting held on 26 <sup>th</sup> September. It was noted that Basildon BC seemed to be unprepared for the impending street light switch off. Councillor Hooker requested that an item on the ABLC be a standard item on all future Village Council meeting agendas. All in favour.
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### **13/127 Essex Association of Local Councils – AGM & Awards 2013**

Councillor Knight reported on his attendance at the EALC's AGM and Awards Ceremony for 2013. It was noted that there had been a number of guest speakers on the day including the new Chief Constable of Essex and County Councillor Twitchen. In her Speech County Councillor Twitchen had praised and thanked all Parish & Village Councils across the County for their unstinting work on behalf of the local communities which they represented.

With regard to the Annual Awards for 2013 and following the Village Council's entry into the categories as mentioned at a previous meeting, Councillor Knight was pleased to announce that the Village Council had been named as the runner up in the Best Website category. The meeting wished to record their thanks to Councillor J. Dear and the Clerk for their time and efforts in ensuring that the Village Council's website was kept up to date, innovative and provided a source of information and news to local residents and to Councillor Knight for collating and submitting the Council's award entries.

A plaque recognising the Council's achievement had been received and enquiries would be made with the South Green Memorial Hall Trustees as to whether it would be possible to display the award either in the Main Hall or the Committee Room at the hall.

### **13/128 Grant application – Grenfell Toddler Group**

The meeting received an application for grant aid from the Organiser of the Grenfell Toddler Group for funding towards the cost of the hire of the South Green Memorial Hall where the toddler group met. While the Council were sympathetic to the plight that the Toddler group faced with regard to recruiting sufficient numbers to make the group viable, in these uncertain economic times, it was noted that the Village Council's grant policy did not allow for revenue costs to be met or funding to be made available to an individual. The Clerk was requested to respond along the lines outlined and to offer assistance with regard to advertising the toddler group either through the Village Council Notices Board or via the Council's website.

### **13/129 Village Council Litter Working Party Report.**

The meeting received a report from Councillor Knight on the arrangements that were in place for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Village Council litter pick due to take place on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of October. It was noted that once again equipment would be provided by both James Hendry at Basildon Borough Council and the Billericay Town Council as per the previous event held in April. Mr. Aldis at the Duke of York PH had also offered to again provide refreshments to the volunteers at the end of the event.

The meeting also noted information from Councillor Cottle which suggested that to raise the issue of litter in the local press had resulted in an improvement in the local environment in a German Town according to a friend of his and an acknowledgement from Pier Management received since the last meeting in relation to the ongoing situation with regard to the condition of the forecourt at the South Green Parade of Shops.

A request was made by Councillor Hooker for the subject of footpaths to fall within the remit of the Litter Working Party at some point in the future. All in favour.

### **13/130 Village Council Summer Event – South Green Village Green.**

It was noted that the South Green Memorial Hall had been booked for 31<sup>st</sup> August as the HQ base for this event.

Councillor Knight reported that having considered the information received from Basildon Borough Council on what needed to be put in place for an event to take place on the Green in the Summer of 2014, a total of 21 different points had been identified which need to be addressed or complied with. He was though confident that all but 2 of these matters had been covered. However, before any license or permission would be forthcoming from Basildon BC for the event to go ahead, evidence would need to be produced to show that all necessary risk assessments had been carried out, insurances and licenses etc. had been obtained or were in place and that all necessary legislation had been complied with. A damage deposit was also required presumably to cover any physical damage incurred on the day to the Green area itself.

In the light of this it was agreed that a meeting of the Summer Event Working Party would be arranged before the New Year at which a timetable of tasks would be formalised and presented at the January 2014 meeting of the Council.

### **13/131 Great Burstead Village Sign.**

Councillor Hooker informed the meeting that he had phoned both schools within the Village Council boundaries to ascertain if they were interested in being involved in the process of designing a new Village Sign for Gt. Burstead. It was noted that unfortunately St. Peters would not be participating on this occasion, but following a meeting with the Deputy Head teacher South Green Junior School were interested and promised to get back to him before Christmas.

He was also in the process of getting some costings from a PC in Kent that he had connections with and he would also be consulting the University of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Age Website that had a section of information on Village signs.

However, the main issue with this initiative was finding a suitable site that all parties and agencies involved were happy with. The size of any potential sign was also a matter that needed to be considered as to have the maximum impact and effect any new sign would need to be prominent and instantly recognisable. A site meeting would be arranged prior to the November meeting to start to address these matters.

### **13/132 South Green Recycling Facility.**

Following on from item 13/126 above and the discussions at the September meeting it was noted that both the Clerk and County Councillor Twitchen had been in correspondence with the appropriate Officer at Basildon Borough Council with regard to the local residents' concerns about the recycling facility opposite Southwood Court, South Green.

The Borough Council had been confirmed that the facility was well used and that all possible measures had been taken to ensure that it had as little impact as possible on the adjacent residential accommodation when it was subsequently built. The issue of youth nuisance was not something that BBC was aware of and the officer concerned undertook to investigate these claims further. However, on the basis that local residents felt that the facility was now no longer required in this location, due to the excellent door step recycling scheme operated by BBC and the fact that the Barleylands recycling facility was not far away, it had been suggested that the residents might like to gather signatures of support for the facility to be removed to present to the relevant Cabinet Member at BBC in due course for their consideration.

The meeting was in favour of this approach and it was agreed that local residents and the shop keepers would be asked to support such an approach. Appropriate wording would be drafted along the lines as follows:-

*We feel that the recycling facility at South Green is no longer needed. It generates noise which is a nuisance to local residents, creates litter when people leave bags of rubbish and recyclables in the vicinity, and is used as a urinal which generates smells in a residential area. Now that Basildon Borough Council has such an excellent doorstep recycling scheme, and with Barleylands not far away for large recyclable items, we ask that the facility at South Green be removed.*

Mrs Richfield, a resident of Southwood Court, also presented the meeting with a list of signatures of support, for the removal of the facility in this location that she had personally collected from her fellow residents in support of the above mentioned proposal which would be included with those gathered as a result of the exercise explained above.

### **13/133 A. Planning Applications**

No planning applications had been received for consideration since the last meeting. However, the meeting noted that the following applications had been refused by Basildon Borough Council in the ensuing period on the grounds that the application sites were all located within the Green Belt:-

Outline application for a single detached dwelling - Slices Gate Nursery, Coxes Farm Road,  
Loft Conversion incorporating 3 pitch roof dormers & single storey rear extension – 137 Noak Hill Road, and  
Single storey rear extension & outbuilding to rear garden incorporating sauna & steam room (remodel front elevation to incorporate ground eaves to glazed screen to entrance & new door set). – 213A Noak Hill Road.

In addition, it was noted that an appeal had been lodged by the applicant to the Secretary of State in respect of application 12/01252/OUT following the decision to refuse outline planning permission for the construction of 4 No detached residential bungalows with 2 No cart lodges for parking on land at 187 Road Billericay, on the grounds that the site was situated within the Green Belt. Any comments that the Village Council made following the original application for planning permission would be forwarded to the planning inspectorate and the appellant and taken into account by the Inspector when deciding the appeal.

### **13/133 B. Gt Burstead & South Green Conservation Area Boundary changes**

The meeting formally noted the changes to the Gt. Burstead & South Green Conservation Area (as notified by letter dated 25/09/13 from Basildon Borough Council) in respect of Church Street which came into effect on 27th September, following the independent review and public consultation undertaken in 2011/12 and which would now form material considerations in the determination of planning applications. An advanced copy of the letter from Basildon Borough Council had been emailed to all Councillors on 19/09/13 for their information & attention.

### **13/134 Finance. - Approved payments:**

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	September salary	£ 478.78 (*)
H.M.R.C. 000713	Income tax - September	£119.80
Martin Ainscough 000714	September expenses – postage, printing paper &	£36.40

	ink cartridge	
Gt Burstead PPC 00715	Delivery of the Autumn 2013 issue of The Village Voice.	£50.00
PKF Little John 000716	Fees for professional services re:- External Audit return for year ended 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013	£240.00
Councillor Kinight 000717	Reimbursement of travelling expenses – attendance at the EALC AGM – 26/09/13	£24.00

(\* ) salary now paid directly by bank transfer on 26<sup>th</sup> of each month.

### **13/134 Refurbishment of the Church Notice Board.**

Councillors Henderson & Hooker reported on the works to refurbish the new notice board. It was noted that Councillor Henderson's son had undertaken to repair the doors frames of the notice board free of charge. The Notice Board was now repaired and back in use. The Clerk was requested to write a letter of thanks to Councillor Henderson's son on behalf of the Council. The meeting also thanked both Cllrs. Hooker & Henderson for their time and efforts in ensuring that the notice board was now able to be used for Council business.

### **13/135 Adult Gym/Play Equipment**

It was noted that Councillor M.Dear, Knight & Willingham had made a site visit to Noak Bridge Parish Council to see their outside gym equipment at first hand.

It was noted that Noak Bridge had managed to obtain some funding from the Essex Environmental Trust for their equipment while the E.C.C. Community Initiative Fund in 2014 might also be another source of funding that could be subsequently explored.

However before any detailed work was undertaken on this proposal it was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged with Nick Sear at Basildon BC to check that what the Village Council was proposing was feasible and that the Borough Council would be happy for it to be sited on the Green or at another agreed site within the Village and that they would also give an undertaking to meet the maintenance costs incurred with the provision of such a facility. Councillor M.Dear undertook to contact Nick Sear for a convenient date to meet.

### **13/136 Future Meeting Dates.**

6<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2013, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**13/137 Close of Meeting** – The Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.