

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at
 South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
 on Wednesday 3rd July, 2013 at 8.00 p.m.

Present:-

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

Also in attendance:-

- Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
- 1 Local Resident

13/87 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aly-Khan. County Councillor Twitchen also sent her apologies as she was in Brussels.

13/88 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of Interest.

13/89 Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 5th June 2013 were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

All in favour

13/90 Public Participation.

Trees on the Green at South Green	A number of residents had mentioned that some of the trees on the village green at South Green were showing signs of decay & disease. Councillor Henderson agreed to investigate and report back.
Trees planted in Langham Crescent adjacent to Langham Park	Councillor Cottle reported that he had been made aware of a row of conifers which it appeared had been planted across the boundary to the park. It was agreed that the Clerk would email the appropriate department at Basildon B.C. with a request that they look into the matter.
Kevin Close – Kingsway – Waste Land	The Clerk informed the meeting of a number of conversations that he had had with an elderly resident of Kevin Close. She was concerned about weeds/brambles growing through her garden fence from the piece of waste land to the rear of her property in Kingsway. It was noted that despite extensive efforts to identify who

	owned the land in question, and would therefore be responsible for tidying the area up, a blank had been drawn. Further discussion followed on the possible solutions to this problem with the outcome being that the Clerk would email Borough Cllr Blake with a request that he try to ascertain who was responsible for the land. The Council was very concerned that something be done to help this resident as she was becoming more upset and vulnerable the longer the problem went on.
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13/91 EALC Training & Awards - 2013.

Councillor Hooker reported on his attendance at a number of EALC training courses since April. It was noted that overall he felt that Council business at Gt. Burstead was conducted well based on some of the experiences of his fellow course members from other Parish and Village Councils.

The meeting noted and approved Councillor Hooker's attendance at the Budget/Precept Course due to be held later in the month together with the usual rates to be claimed for travelling expenses. Councillor Knight's attendance in September at the EALC AGM to represent the Village Council was also approved again with travelling expenses at the agreed rate.

Whilst on the subject of the EALC AGM, Councillor Knight suggested that the Village Council should consider entering the annual awards for 2013 the winners of which would be announced at the AGM in September. Even if the Council was not successful it would make people more aware of the Council and its work and the projects it was pursuing. There then followed a brief discussion as to which would be the most appropriate award categories for the Village Council to enter for and it was decided that they should be as follows: - V.C.Website, Newsletter & Community Engagement highlighting the work with the local community on the Petition re; - the parade of shops and the problems with the forecourt and steps at South Green.

These categories were agreed and Councillor Knight undertook to put the applications together and send them off to the EALC on behalf of the Council.

13/92 Village Council Litter Working Party Report.

A. Village Council Petition –

Councillor Willingham confirmed that together with Councillor Knight she had hand delivered the petition to an employee of Gateway Properties at their offices in Southend. It was further noted that this action had prompted the company to act and a contractor had carried out some repairs to the steps in question on the Monday following the delivery of the petition on the previous Friday.

However, although this development was welcomed, the Clerk informed the meeting that he had subsequently received an email from one of the shops to indicate that the steps despite the repairs carried out were once again showing signs of decay and were loose. The Clerk was therefore requested to write to Gateway Properties seeking an assurance that a proper maintenance programme for the area in question would be put in place as a matter of urgency.

B. Christmas Lights – 2013

The Clerk brought the Council up to date with regard to the situation concerning the Christmas Light Installation for 2013 following the decision at the last meeting to write to the shop keepers at the Grange Road Parade requesting a contribution towards the Christmas Lights in light of the need to replace the tree lights with new LED Lights. The switch on Event was confirmed as Saturday 7th of December.

It was noted that two positive responses had been received following the Clerk's letter from Ben Curtis and David the Manager at the Pharmacy, although in David's case he couldn't definitely make a contribution without his head office's agreement. No amounts had been mentioned or agreed with either party so in view of this and the cost associated with replacing the tree lights with LEDs, as discussed at the previous meeting, the decision was taken to forego the trees lights for 2013.

C. Trees on Village Green at South Green

The meeting was made aware of issues concerning two fir trees on the Green at South Green. It was noted that they were part of a number of trees that the Village Council had received from the County Council as part of a funding initiative some years ago. The issue appears to be that the area immediately below and around the trees is dead. Councillor Henderson indicated that this was not the case and that this was deliberate on behalf of Basildon BC and that the areas in question had been treated with an herbicide in order to facilitate the maintenance of the area, e.g, cutting the grass.

The two fir trees that were the subject of the complaints from residents were it was felt out of keeping with the native species and the Clerk was therefore requested to write to the Borough Council Arboriculturist with a request that consideration be given to moving them to another more suitable location within the Village.

13/93 Village Council Summer Event – South Green Village Green.

The meeting received a report from the Summer Event Working Party. The idea being developed was for a Family Picnic Day in or around 31st of August 2014. A sum of £2,000 would be ringed fence and taken forward to the 2014/15 budget to cover expenditure. Drinks would be supplied with residents bringing their own food. The South Green Memorial Hall would be booked for the day and hopefully an ice cream van together with a children's entertainer would also be booked for the day subject to any licences that might be required as mentioned below.

The Clerk was requested to contact Basildon BC with an outline of what was being proposed together with the date with a view to ascertaining what needed to be done plus any licences that might have to be applied for. Based on that information The WP would then draw up a timetable of what needed to be achieved and when in the lead up to the event.

13/94 Great Burstead & South Green Village Sign.

The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to schools re: - the design of a new village sign, but that no response had been forthcoming to date. Councillor Hooker undertook to let the shop keepers have copies of the poster outlining the Council's plans and to obtain local residents input to the project. Councillor Hooker had also enlisted County Councillor Twitchen's help with regard to the use of the Seaxes in any final design. He was also looking at possible locations and would also get some outline costs from Blacksmiths. It was further noted that it would be

necessary to consider the potential for vandalism with regard to locations. Any information that fellow Councillors could provide should be directed to Councillor Hooker.

13/95 Planning Applications

13/00523/FULL	Hollymount Southend Road Billericay	Detached car port to front.	Concerns that it could alter the character of the property & have an adverse effect on the street scene.
13/00542/FULL	151 Noak Hill Road Billericay	Proposed single storey rear extension	Concern that it is a large extension with a flat roof.

13/96 Finance.

Approved payments:

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	June salary	£478.78 (*)
H.M.R.C. 000698	Income Tax - June	£119.60
Martin Ainscough 000699	June Expenses – stamps, postage, ink cartridge, printer paper	£27.62
Councillor Hooker 000700	Reimbursement of travelling expenses incurred for EALC courses attended 2013	£80.64
Councillor Henderson 000701	Reimbursement of travelling expenses incurred for EALC course attended 27 th June 2013	£20.16
Essex County Council 000702	Contribution towards funding for highway improvements – Grange Road	£5,400.00(+)
EALC 000703	Fees for Attendance at Courses Cllr Hooker – 19 th & 25 th April, 1 st May & 6 th & 27 th June 2013. Cllr Henderson – 6 th & 27 th June 2013	£477.00
Councillor Henderson 000704	Expenses incurred in repairs to new Village Council Notice Board	£11.14

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

(+) works carried out in early 2011 with a £6,000 contribution to be made by the Village Council. Due to the late submission of the invoice from ECC a 10% reduction of £600.00 was agreed.

13/97 Village Council Newsletter.

Councillor John. Dear informed the meeting that all the articles previously agreed had been received and the autumn edition of the Village Newsletter would be distributed towards the end of September.

13/98 Church Notice Board & its Refurbishment.

It was noted that the refurbishment of the Church Notice Board was on going and that Councillors Hooker and Henderson would keep the Council informed as to the progress being made.

13/99 Adult Gym/Play Equipment

It was suggested that this item should be deferred until the September meeting of the Council to allow attendance at the Basildon BC Funding event on 8th of August when it would be clearer if funding for this particular project might be forthcoming. Councillor Knight to attend this event and to report back in September.

All in Favour.

13/100 Bus Stop – Southend Road.

The meeting received an explanation and the reasoning as to why the new bus stop in the Southend Road had been located and position in such a way. It was noted that this was to ensure that it was not damaged again as per the previous shelter and therefore that was the only way it could be positioned to avoid it happening again.

13/101 Future Meeting Dates.

4th September, 2nd October, 6th November, 4th December 2013

13/102 Code of Conduct Training – Basildon Borough Council

The meeting noted that Code of Conduct Training provided by Basildon Council was due to take place on 17th & 18th of July. Councillors Knight and Hooker undertook to attend.

13/103 Close of Meeting – The Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.