

**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 December 2009 7.30pm**

Present: Councillor Aly Khan (Chair)
Councillors Cundy, John Dear, Marie Dear and Wakelin.

In Attendance: Mrs. Kim Barford, Clerk to the Council
3 members of the public

9/124 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr's Kelly, McConnell and Saunderson.

9/125 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

9/126 Coxes Farm Road - Item 6 - (The item was brought forward, with the agreement of the chair to precede the public participation session.)

The clerk read to members and all those present the response received from Cllr. Norman Hume, Cabinet Manager for Highways and Transportation regarding a request for a reduced speed limit on the unrestricted section of the road and resident's concerns regarding parking in the vicinity of St. Peter's RCCE Primary School. The letter of response stated further consideration would be taking place by the South Area Traffic Management Team with a further response expected by the end of 2009.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

9/127 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matter which are of mutual interest.

Members of the public commented on the above.

The meeting re-convened.

9/128 Minutes

Members received the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 4 November 2009. Cllr. Marie Dear proposed the minutes be approved as a true record, which was seconded by Cllr. Dorothy Cundy and agreed by all members present.

9/129 Committee minutes

Members received for information the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 November 2009 and Cllr. Wakelin updated members on recent applications considered.

9/130 Finance & Personnel working party

No update necessary as no meeting had taken place in the preceding month. Cllr. Marie Dear advised members a meeting to be arranged prior to the next meeting of the Village Council.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

9/131 Media working party

Cllr. John Dear updated members the Christmas issue of 'The Mole' had been completed and was being delivered again to properties within Great Burstead and South Green by members of the Church. Copies were distributed to those present with individual ID cards for all members, by the clerk.

9/132 Coxes Farm Road

Reference was made to the information provided at the public participation session. (Minute 9/126 refers)

9/133 Financial report

Members approved the following payments:

Billericay Nurseries - Removal of hanging baskets £72.45

Essex CC - Superannuation November 2009

Clerk - Expenses - Copying, ID card blanks, postage

A. McConnell - Re-imburement of fee paid to printer of Christmas newsletter 'A Local Printer' £445

9/134 Budget 2010 / 2011

Members considered the revised draft budget for the forthcoming year 2010 / 2011. Discussion ensued, with particular reference to reserves and the 2010 / 2011 tax base, as advised by the District Council.

A number of members present proposed a further increase to the revised budget which would equate to an increase to the precept of between 2% and 5%. Further discussion ensued.

Cllr. Cundy then proposed that the revised budget be approved without such a substantial increase.

A vote took place and all members present were in agreement that the precept requirement for 2010 / 2011 be £29,742, to ensure precise calculation in line with the bandings as advised by Basildon District Council.

The band 'D' figure would therefore be £11.94 per annum, an increase of 6p per property, as the tax base is marginally less, than the current year.

9/135 Christmas Event - South Green shopping area

The clerk updated members of the arrangements in place for the event, to be called a Christmas Sing Song on Thursday, 10 December 2009 at 5pm. The Head Teacher of South Green Infants School had confirmed children and their parents would be attending with also maybe some children from year 3 of the Junior School. The leader of 1st Great Burstead Brownies had also confirmed attendance by some Brownies with their parents. A number of shopkeepers had pledged to donate a gift for the tombola, the chair suggested and it was agreed by all members present that St. Luke's Hospice benefit from the proceeds of the raffle / tombola. The budget of £200 to be available to provide a small gift for each child who takes part, a donation to 'The Ladybirds' ladies singing group to cover their expenses and some further gifts for the tombola.

9/136 Clerks report

Christmas illuminations - The clerk advised members a delay had occurred to the installation date due to problems with the electrical testing completed by Essex CC. However, the lights had now been installed.

P3 tool storage - The clerk advised members enquiries had been made for suitable places but no response received at present.

9/137 Standing Orders

Members received the draft document. Discussion ensued. A minor amendment suggested by Cllr. Marie Dear was made. Cllr. Cundy proposed and Cllr. Marie Dear then proposed acceptance of the Standing Orders. All members present were in agreement that the new version be adopted to replace the previous 2003 version.

9/138 Consultations

Members were advised of the government consultation - a potentially suitable site for a new nuclear power station at Bradwell, viewable at www.nuclear-nps-events.info. Members were in agreement that they respond individually.

9/139 Training

Members considered details provided of forthcoming training event by the Essex Training Partnership, Cllr. Training Day '1', 27 January 2010. No members were interested in attending at the present time.

9/140 South Green - Tree maintenance and planting

The clerk advised members some quotations were available for the following with some still awaited:

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- a) To spread mulch and fertilizer to 24 no. trees which were planted in 2008. Attention also needed to the ties and stakes.
- b) To cultivate soil and prepare 2 x tree pits which were discussed at 2 September meeting (minute 9/78 refers) alongside exit of car parking area.
- Members also received Cllr. Wakelin's proposal, to prepare the soil for planting of a hedge, (original hedge had been removed when fence installed) to screen the fence to the first property in Grange Road.

Debate ensued.

The remaining member of the public present left the meeting.

Regarding:

- a) Cllr. Wakelin spoke of his observations that the trees may be in need of mulch and fertiliser as a one off in their second year since planting. Further debate ensued and Cllr. Wakelin then proposed and Cllr. Cundy seconded a request that the clerk contact Basildon District Council to confirm liability for care and maintenance in the current and future years. Members were in agreement that the item be deferred for consideration at the January meeting.
- b) Members noted the original request was for 1 x tree pit and requested the clerk again query responsibility with Basildon District Council for future care and maintenance. Cllr. Wakelin confirmed agreement just 1 x pit required, with importance being placed upon location of service pipes and wires in the immediate vicinity. The clerk to discuss the point further with the Arboricultural Officer at the District Council and advise members at the January meeting.
- Preparation of soil for hedge planting - Members considered Cllr. Wakelin's proposal, which was seconded by Cllr. Cundy. A budget figure of £60 for cultivation and £50 for plants was approved by all members present with the clerk having delegated power to arrange the necessary work, but only if approval given by the Arboricultural Officer at the District Council.

9/141 Rural Community Council of Essex

- a. Members considered and approved renewal of annual membership at a cost of £80.
- b. Members noted the invitation to Christmas Coffee morning with their field officer team, on Wednesday 9 December 2009, Cllr. Aly Khan expressed interest and may attend but would notify the clerk.

9/142 Basildon District Council Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence.

Appeals & General Purposes Committee Agenda 17 November 2009
Appeals & General Purposes Committee Minutes 8 September 2009
Audit & Risk Committee Agenda 4 November 2009
Audit & Risk Committee Minutes 29 September 2009
Cabinet Minutes 15 October 2009
Cabinet Agenda 26 October 2009
Cabinet Agenda 12 November 2009
Community Safety & Housing Committee Agenda 25 November 2009
Community Safety & Housing Committee Minutes 8 September 2009
Community Safety & Housing Committee Agenda 2 December 2009
Council Agenda 26 November 2009
Council Minutes 22 October 2009
Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Agenda 3 November 2009
Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Minutes 3 November 2009
Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Agenda 17 November 2009
Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Agenda 1 December 2009
Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Minutes 17 November 2009
Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Agenda 11 November 2009
Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Minutes 14 October 2009

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Leisure & Health Scrutiny Agenda 18 November 2009
Leisure & Health Scrutiny Minutes 13 October 2009
Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee Agenda 18 November 2009
Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee Minutes 14 October 2009
Licensing Committee Agenda 24 November 2009
Licensing Committee Minutes 30 September 2009
Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee Agenda 24 November 2009
Miscellaneous Licensing Sub-Committee Minutes 22 July 2009
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Agenda 28 October 2009
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Minutes 23 September 2009
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Agenda 25 November 2009
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Minutes 28 October 2009

9/143 Other correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence.

Essex County Council, Highways - Proposed traffic regulation orders:

- a) Burstead Drive/Grange Road/Southend Road
- b) Bell Hill Close/Bell Farm Green

Essex Association of Local Councils - November 2009 County update

Making the Links - November 2009

Bus passenger news - November 2009

Essex CC Trading Standards - Doorstep Calendar 2010

The Playing Field - Autumn

Essex County Council - Adopted statement of Community Involvement, Minerals and Waste Development Framework

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed.....

Date.....