

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Parish Council,
held at South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay,
on Wednesday, 4 March 2009, starting at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Councillor Aly Khan (Chair)

Councillors Kelly, Cundy, Marie Dear, McConnell, Saunderson and Wakelin.

In Attendance: Mrs. Kim Barford, Clerk to the Council

Cllr. Twitchen, Essex County Council

Cllr. Hedley, Essex County Council

One member of the public

8/197 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and asked Cllr. Twitchen to relay recent developments regarding the South Green shopping area, parking restrictions there and in the vicinity of South Green School. Cllr. Twitchen updated members accordingly. The parking schemes are to remain in place for 6 months, then be reviewed by the County Council. Discussion then continued about disabled access at the shops, Cllr. Twitchen stated that the access, which was on private ground, was indeed not DDA compliant but the County Council had been unable to contact the absent landlords. The County Council does not have the power to impose compliance and it was suggested that the Parish Council pursue with the Secretary of State. The recycling bins outside Southwood Court are to remain in place for the foreseeable future, the District Council have stated that they are well used and therefore needed. Cllr. Twitchen then gave a brief update on current projects being completed within Billericay including the 'spot' and 'fix' procedure for repair of potholes. Cllr. Twitchen then advised members the surgeries Cllr. Hedley and herself hold each month will in future be at the library on the last Saturday of each month between 10.30 and 12am. Members said they were still keen to ensure adequate parking provision and access improvements at the shops and will pursue. Cllr's Twitchen and Hedley said they were available to attend future meetings at the request of the Parish Council. The Chair thanked them both for attending.

Two additional members of the public joined the meeting.

8/198 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr. John Dear

8/199 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

8/200 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

The meeting re-convened.

8/201 Minutes

Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council 4 February 2009 Meeting and the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting of 23 February 2009. Cllr. Kelly proposed acceptance of both sets of minutes, which was seconded by Cllr. Cundy. The minutes were approved by all members present and duly signed by the Chair.

8/202 Committee Minutes

Members received the minutes of the 4 February Planning Committee meeting. Cllr. Wakelin stated the minutes had been approved at the Planning Committee meeting earlier that evening.

8/203 Title of the Parish Council

Members received an update from the clerk following the proposal by Cllr. John Dear at the previous month's meeting to change the 'style' and 'title' of the Parish Council to that of Town Council. New legislation was now in place, members could choose to amend the 'style' and 'title' of the Parish Council to that of either a Community, Neighbourhood or Village Council. Discussion ensued and members did wish to make an amendment, which Cllr. Kelly then proposed, and was then seconded by Cllr. Marie Dear, that the 'style' and 'title' of the Parish Council be changed forthwith to that of a Village Council. Members voted, Cllr's Aly Khan, Cundy, Marie Dear, Kelly, McConnell and Saunderson were in acceptance of the proposal. Cllr. Wakelin abstained from the vote.

It was resolved that the 'style' and 'title' of the Parish Council be changed forthwith to that of a Village Council. The Council to be now known as Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, with Councillors being referred to as 'Village Councillors'.

8/204 Clerk and members report

Community Worker - Members were updated by the clerk on the progress regarding Miss Amy Huthchinson's appointment.

South Green sign - Members noted the re-installation of the renovated sign. The base bracket to also be re-painted when the Youth Shelter is re-decorated in the spring, a small extra cost will apply.

Youth Shelter re-decoration - Members approved the quotation which was provided for the re-decoration. They requested the clerk also obtain a quotation to re-surface the area around the shelter.

Essex CC Tree Planting Scheme 2008/2009 - It was noted by members that the plants are now not available from the scheme. The clerk advised plants can be purchased quite reasonably should members still wish to proceed. Cllr. Kelly asked that Cllr. Wakelin specify and with the clerk source plants for the hedge with a quotation being obtained for supply and ongoing maintenance.

Zebra crossing, Southend Road, north of the junction with Hickstars Lane - Members noted the correspondence received from a parishioner and the request that a puffin crossing be installed. A puffin crossing was originally intended for the site 2 years previously but was changed by Essex CC Highways to the crossing south of the junction of Outwood Common Road and Southend Road, as visibility was less at that crossing and it was thought more vital at that time. Members were in agreement that road safety is vital. Cllr. Cundy proposed and Cllr. McConnell seconded that a letter be sent to Essex CC Highways requesting the provision of a crossing patrol or the installation of an additional puffin crossing, all members present were in favour.

Hanging Baskets - The quotation from Billericay Nurseries to supply and maintain 6 no. hanging baskets this summer at South Green shopping area was received and approved by all members present.

Website - Members agreed to refer to the matter at a later date.

Visitors Book - Members noted a visitors book had been purchased and will be in place for completion at all meetings, forthwith.

An additional member of the public joined the meeting.

8/205 Completion of Annual Audit 2007/2008

The clerk gave a brief update and members received the report.

8/206 Community Initiatives Fund (Highways)

Correspondence had been received. The Village Council had been successful in securing funding for the provision of 6 x village gateways plus 2 x Vehicle Activated Signs to be located in Kennel Lane and Outwood Common Road. The clerk to enquire, about the anticipated date for installation.

8/207 Essex County Council (Various roads, Basildon District) (Parking and Waiting)**Amendment No. 13 Order 2009**

Members noted the revised waiting and stopping restrictions. Cllr. Kelly asked the clerk to enquire about the scheme which was planned for Billericay School.

8/208 Financial Report

a. Members approved the following payments:

Audit Commission - 2008 Audit Fee £327.75

Essex Association of Local Councils course fees - Budget & Precept (Sept. 08) which the clerk attended £32

Essex Association of Local Councils course fees - Chairman's Day (Nov. 08) £52

Great Burstead Parish Church - Christmas newsletter delivery - £50

South Green memorial Hall - February meeting hall rental - £14.88

Essex CC - Standing order for payment of superannuation, to commence April 2009

Clerk - Expenses - telephone calls, visitor's book, copying and stationery £47.10

Rural Community Council of Essex - Essex Rural Partnership Day - £5

b. A copy of the cash book and Bank accounts reconciliation, for the 11 months to 28 February 2009 was circulated to members.

c. A financial report detailing the progress against budget, 11 months to 28 February 2009 was circulated to members.

8/209 Training

Members noted the upcoming training sessions available at the Essex Association of Local Councils. The clerk to attend the ½ day Risk Management training session on 30 April 2009.

8/210 Basildon District Council Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence.

Appeals & General Purposes Committee Agenda 10 February 2009

Appeals & General Purposes Committee Minutes 11 September 2008

Cabinet Agenda 12 February 2009

Cabinet Minutes 29 January 2009

Council Agenda 19 February 2009

Council Minutes 5 February 2009

Development Control and Traffic Management Agenda 10 February 2009

Development Control and Traffic Management Minutes 27 January 2009

Development Control and Traffic Management Agenda 24 February 2009

Development Control and Traffic Management Minutes 10 February 2009

Environment & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda 17 February 2009

Environment & Regeneration Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes 6 January 2009

Housing & Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda 25 February 2009

Housing & Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes 14 January 2009

Leisure, Arts & Customer Services Overview & Scrutiny Agenda 25 February 2009

Leisure, Arts & Customer Services Overview & Scrutiny Minutes 17 December 2008

Overview & Scrutiny Commission Agenda 11 February 2009

Overview & Scrutiny Commission Minutes 21 January 2009

Overview & Scrutiny Commission Agenda 18 February 2009

8/211 Other correspondence

Essex Association of Local Councils - February 2009 County update

Making the Links - February 2009

Residents correspondence.

Town and Parish Council Clerks Forum - Minutes 12 January 2009

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed.....

Date.....