

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

Present: Councillor Aly Khan (Chair)

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

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

3 members of the public

9/106 Apologies

There were no apologies.

9/107 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

9/108 Coxes Farm Road - Item 6 - (The item was brought forward, with the agreement of the chair to precede the public participation session.)

The clerk advised members the petition from residents of Coxes Farm Road for a reduced speed limit on the unrestricted section of the road and supporting letter from the Village Council had been sent. Acknowledgements had since been received from the Cabinet Minister for Highways and Transportation and the South East Essex Highways Manager, Essex CC.

A response to a letter sent to the Head Teacher of St. Peter's RCCE Primary School had also been received and was read aloud. This supported the requests of the residents and the Village Council. The chair updated members on the conversation he and Cllr. Saunderson had had with the District Councillors on the matter. Discussion ensued. Cllr. Wakelin proposed that the clerk send a second letter to the Cabinet Minister for Highways and Transportation detailing Cllr. Cundy observations of the traffic and pedestrian usage of Coxes Farm Road, copied again to the County Councillors and Highways Manage, for their information. The proposal was seconded by Cllr. Marie Dear and agreed by members.

The meeting was adjourned for public participation.

9/109 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 and a copy of the letter from the Head Teacher of the primary school was given to the residents present for their information.

The meeting re-convened.

2 members of the public left the meeting.

9/110 Minutes

Members received the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 7 October 2009 and the Extraordinary General Meeting of 27 October 2009. Cllr. Cundy proposed that the minutes of both meetings be approved as a true record, which was seconded by Cllr. Marie Dear and agreed by all members.

9/111 Noak Hill Road - Pedestrian safety

Cllr. Kelly expressed concern regarding the speeding by motorists and the safety of pedestrians crossing Noak Hill Road. Road traffic accident statistics had been obtained from the Police, discussion ensued and all members were in agreement with her proposal that the Village Council suggest ways in which the road could be made safer with speed limit reduction if possible and to request pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the junction, with Church Street.

Essex County Cllr. Hedley who was in attendance suggested the clerk write to Cllr. Hume, Chair of the Casualty Reduction Board expressing the concerns of the Village Council.

Cllr. Cundy proposed and Cllr's Kelly, Saunderson and Aly Khan agreed that a letter be sent. Cllr's John Dear, Marie Dear and Wakelin abstained.

9/112 Clerk & members report

The clerk updated members on the following:

Vehicle Activated Signs - The locations of the 2 x signs at Kennel Lane and Outwood Common Road had been approved and an order placed by Essex CC Highways Dept.

Youth shelter - The recent vehicle collision damage by a delivery vehicle had been reported by the District Council. The clerk was liaising with an officer and had advised them that the shelter was actually owned and was to have been insured by the District Council following the donation by the Parish Council, which took place in 2002. The Village Council were solely responsible, as agreed at that time for future maintenance. The clerk had provided copies of correspondence from that time detailing the above. The clerk had enquired if the shelter should be cordoned off but the officer from street scene maintenance had checked and stated that although unsightly the structure was still sound. The District Council will be pursuing a claim against the delivery company for the necessary repairs.

Christmas Illuminations - The installation is planned for Sunday, 15 November. However one more check related to the lamp column fixings is awaited by the County Council appointed engineers before the installation take place. The clerk is liaising with the Highways Officer concerned.

9/113 Financial Report

a. Members approved the following payments:

Piggotts - 1st instalment re Christmas illuminations £787.75

Billericay Nurseries October maintenance of hanging baskets £227.70

Essex CC - Superannuation October 2009

Cllr. Aly Khan - Mileage expenses £25.60

Audit Commission - 2008/09 external audit fee £327.75

Clerk - Salary adjustment to reflect 2009/10 1% salary scale increase from 1 April 2009

The Royal British Legion - 2009 Poppy Appeal wreath £16.50 plus donation (under Section 137) -

Members agreed the payment total to include a donation and be for the sum of £50

b. The clerk advised members the external audit for the year to 31 March 2009 had been completed and the accounts approved. Reference was made that the standing orders are being updated in the current year.

9/114 Budget 2010 / 2011

Members considered the initial draft budget for the forthcoming year 2010 / 2011. Discussion ensued with particular reference to reserves and certain amendments were noted. A further draft to be produced for a meeting of the Finance and Personnel working party which will be held prior to the December Village Council meeting.

9/115 Finance & personnel working party

Members were notified there had not been a meeting of the working party since the October meeting of the Village Council. The chair asked that the clerk be invited to attend any future meetings of working parties, unless it was of a confidential nature and related to her terms of employment.

9/116 Media working party

The Christmas issue of 'The Mole' was nearing completion. The final copy will be emailed to members.

9/117 Christmas event - South Green shopping area

Members received an update from Cllr. McConnell and the clerk. The Ladybirds singing group were available for the event, the clerk to liaise and confirm Thursday, 10 December at 5pm as the preferred date and time. The clerk had been in contact with the District Commissioner, who had advised some Brownies would probably also be available to sing Christmas songs but will confirm following further discussion with their leaders and obtaining the approval of their parents. The Village Council had previously approved a budget of £200 to assist with associated costs.

9/118 Training

Members considered details provided of forthcoming training events by the Essex Training Partnership. The chair expressed interest in attending the Chairman's Day '3' - 25 November 2009. Cllr. Cundy proposed

and Cllr. Kelly seconded, that the Village Council approve his attendance and the associated travel cost should he be available to attend.

9/119 Village Council premises

Members were updated by the clerk on recent correspondence with Basildon District Council and developments concerning the production of the feasibility study to identify the possible need, for a consultation of residents.

A letter of acknowledgement had been received from the District Council regarding the Village Councils request that, it be included in any future consideration regarding Langham Hall. Cllr. Wakelin advised the feasibility study would be undertaken shortly.

Cllr. Aly Khan proposed the following motion, which was seconded by Cllr. Kelly:

Should, the Village Council actively seek its own premises (village hall) from where it could interact with its residents in a manner which is befitting a Village Council?

Those in favour: Cllr's Aly Khan, Kelly, McConnell, Saunderson and Wakelin.

Those against: Cllr's Cundy, John Dear and Marie Dear.

The motion was therefore agreed by a majority vote.

9/120 Parish Paths Partnership

The clerk updated members on recent projects completed which included the installation of way mark posts at a number of locations within the Parish and the clearance of the path plus replacement of a badly deteriorated bridge, on the path behind Noak Bridge fish farm. The foot paths officer had asked that the clerk also convey a request for a storage facility for tools which the County Council would be able to provide. The clerk suggested she could make enquiries, within the Parish and report back at the next meeting which members were in agreement with.

9/121 Remembrance Service

Members appointed Cllr. McConnell to represent the Village Council at the Annual Remembrance Service, Sunday 8 November 2009.

9/122 Basildon District Council Correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence.

Cabinet Agenda 15 October 2009

Cabinet Minutes 24 September 2009

Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Agenda 20 October 2009

Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Minutes 6 October 2009

Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Agenda 14 October 2009

Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Minutes 9 September 2009

Leisure & Health Scrutiny Agenda 13 October 2009

Leisure & Health Scrutiny Minutes 16 September 2009

Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee Agenda 14 October 2009

Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee Minutes 25 September 2009

9/123 Other correspondence

Members noted the following correspondence.

Essex Association of Local Councils - October 2009 County update

Making the Links - October 2009

Bus passenger news September/October 2009

Essex CC Trading Standards - Doorstep Calendar 2010 - The clerk said 150 x calendars had been requested for distribution within the Parish, to sheltered housing developments and clubs for senior residents. Cllr's Marie Dear, Kelly and Saunderson requested additional copies for distribution in their neighbourhood. The clerk will enquire if further copies would be available if required.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

