

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council,
held at South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay,
on Wednesday, 3 November 2010 at 7.30pm

Present: **Councillor Wakelin (Chair)**

Councillors Aly Khan, Chapman, Cundy, John Dear, Marie Dear and Kelly.

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

Essex County Cllr. Twitchen

Essex County Cllr. Hedley

3 members of the public

10/118 Chairman's Welcome

The chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

10/119 Apologies

No apologies were received.

10/120 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was to have been adjourned for public participation item no. 4. However, the Burstead Police Team had not arrived for the Neighbourhood Action Panel meeting. The chair therefore suggested the item be deferred to a later time in the evening, to which members were in agreement.

10/121 Minutes

Members received the minutes of the Village Council meeting of 6 October 2010. Amendments were requested to the minutes, item 10/111 the sum approved for the first instalment of the festive illuminations paid to Piggott's was actually £705 not £804.88, (the sum charged being less than the original quoted contract value). Also, item 10/108, the cost of the survey of the bell tower at St. Mary Magdalene Church is to be £80 inclusive of VAT, not £80 plus VAT as originally quoted. Members also requested that a copy of the Finance and Personnel working party recommendations be annexed to the minutes. It was then proposed, with the amendments made, that the minutes be approved by Cllr. Wakelin, seconded by Cllr. Cundy, all members present were in agreement and they were duly signed by the chair.

10/122 Committee Minutes

Members received for information the draft minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 6 October 2010.

10/123 Representation and working party updates

Members were to receive updates from representatives and the following:

Community Events working party

Finance and Personnel working party

Media working party

Cllr. Aly Khan expressed concern about the formality of working parties and the recording of the such meetings. He proposed meetings in the future be held on neutral ground, not at members homes, which was seconded by Cllr. Cundy. Cllr's. Marie Dear, John Dear, Cundy and Aly Khan approved the motion. Cllr's. Chapman, Kelly and Wakelin were against the motion.

Community Events working party – Cllr. Kelly spoke of the work undertaken to date, in the hope of providing community events. Members had been supplied with estimates for potential events. Debate ensued. Cllr. Aly Khan suggested the estimates be put to the Finance & Personnel working party. Further debate ensued.

A suggestion was made, agreed by all members, that the item continue later in the meeting to enable the public session to occur.

The meeting was adjourned

10/124 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters which are of mutual interest

Neighbourhood Action Panel – The meeting did not take place as the Burstead Police Team representatives had not arrived.

Cllr. Twitchen spoke of a site meeting held attended by herself, Highways Manager and resident representatives at Coxes Farm Road. It had been suggested the residents confer with the police regarding participation in the Community Speed Watch scheme. The clerk to raise an enquiry with the police. Mobile enforcement had been suggested in the hope of improving the parking / waiting situation at school times. PC Trevor Stubbington. Cllr. Twitchen also advised that approval of requests for speed limit introduction to the unrestricted section of the road was highly unlikely. A member of the public enquired if members were aware of letter having been sent to the school. The clerk agreed to enquire but Cllr. Marie Dear said she had been advised a letter had been sent.

Cllr. Hedley spoke of the proposed scheme for the improvement and re-opening of Langham Hall. He said community backing was essential. Members said the Village Council fully supported the vision. He advised that all Essex CC - Basildon BC representatives were members of the advisory board for the Billericay Children's Centre.

A member of the public enquired and was updated on the progress of planned improvements at South Green shopping area and the Grange Parade shops access.

The members of the public and County Councillors present left the meeting.

The meeting re-convened.

10/125 Representation and working party updates - continued

Community Events working party – The chair spoke of the need for there to be clear objectives put forward by the working parties. Cllr. Marie Dear proposed approval of a budget of £300 for the Christmas Sing Song, to probably be held on Thursday, 9 December 2010 which was seconded by Cllr. Aly Khan and agreed by all members. Cllr. Kelly proposed, which was seconded by Cllr. Chapman, that Steve Doyle, Borough Council, Community Development Officer be invited to attend as and when appropriate. Cllr. Wakelin supported the motion. Cllr.'s Aly Khan, Cundy, John Dear and Marie Dear opposed the motion.

Finance & Personnel working party – No update.

Media working party – Cllr. John Dear spoke regarding the forthcoming issue of The Mole, an initial draft was circulated to members. An increase in the number of pages was discussed, with the majority of members in agreement that the Christmas publication stay the same 4 page size. Members agreed the working party have the power to settle upon the final content. A copy of which to be circulated to members for approval prior to print.

Review of membership of working parties:

Community Events working party – To remain the same

Finance and Personnel – It was proposed by Cllr. Aly Khan, seconded by Cllr. John Dear that Cllr. Kelly be removed from membership to be replaced by Cllr. Aly Khan. Cllr.'s Cundy and Marie Dear were in agreement. Cllr.'s Chapman, Kelly and Wakelin opposed the motion. The motion was therefore approved.

Media working party - Cllr. Chapman to be added to the membership, all members were in agreement.

Locality working party – Members to be appointed at a later date.

10/126 Highways matters

1. Members were updated on recent correspondence / communications regarding:
 - a. Coxes Farm Road.
 - b. Grange Road

2. Noak Hill Road – Members considered a proposal from Cllr. Cundy that the Village Council ‘considers that a reduction in speed limit to 40mph in the section of Noak Hill Road between Church Street and the Kennel Lane roundabout would considerably enhance public safety and that a request be sent to the Highways Department asking for urgent consideration of this speed limit reduction’. All members were in agreement.

10/127 Members to consider financial arrangements for the sharing of office equipment, computer and printer, with Little Burstead Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. Cundy, seconded by Cllr. Aly Khan that for the period 1 October 2010 to 22 January 2011, the Village Council requests payment of £100 as a contribution to costs. All members were in agreement apart from Cllr. Kelly who opposed the motion and Cllr. Wakelin who abstained.

10/128 Clerks Report

Members received a verbal update regarding:

PROW’s – The progress of works to the footbridge across the River Crouch

Vacancy – No candidates had come forward as yet for co-option

EALC Competition – 3rd place in the Working with the Community Award

Christmas Illuminations – Licence received, installation to take place on 28 November 2010

10/129 Basildon District Council Correspondence

Members noted the following:

Appointments Committee Agenda 9 September 2010

Audit & Risk Committee Agenda 29 September 2010

Audit & Risk Committee Minutes 13 July 2010

Cabinet Agenda 23 September 2010

Cabinet Minutes 9 August 2010

Council Agenda 16 September 2010

Council Agenda 23 September 2010

Council Minutes 24 June 2010

Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Agenda 7 September 2010

Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Agenda 21 September 2010

Development Control & Traffic Mgt. Committee Minutes 7 September 2010

Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Agenda 15 September 2010

Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Minutes 7 July 2010

Leisure & Health Scrutiny Committee Agenda 8 September 2010

Leisure & Health Scrutiny Committee Minutes 9 June 2010

Licensing Sub Committee Agenda 21 September 2010

Licensing Sub Committee Minutes 8 September 2010

Licensing Sub Committee Agenda 23 September 2010

Overview & Scrutiny Commission Agenda 22 September 2010

Overview & Scrutiny Commission Minutes 29 July 2010

Standards Committee Agenda 14 September 2010

Standards Committee Minutes 1 June 2010

10/130 Other correspondence

Members noted the following:

Billericay Community Archive – Press Release

Making the links – October 2010

Bus Passenger news October 2010

County Update – September 2010

BATPC Minutes 16 September 2010

10/131 Great Burstead Conservation Area Review – Site survey of Bell Tower, St. Mary Magdalene Church

Members were updated by Cllr. Wakelin regarding the recent site survey completed by Whitechapel Bell Foundry.

10/132 South Green shopping area

Members were updated on recent correspondence / communications regarding:

- a. General improvements – Progress on scheme to date – Members received copies of the proposed scheme as supplied by Highways. Cllr. Wakelin expressed concern about the placing of bollards kerbside by Grange Parade. He commented that permission could be sought to plant an Ash on the verge by the exit from the parking bays. All members were in agreement.
- b. Shop access on privately owned forecourts – The clerk updated members on her continued correspondence. Still no action had been taken by the property management company for Andree House regarding repairs and improvements. Members requested the clerk contact the enforcement team at the Borough Council to see if they could assist.
- c. Bins replacement /installation – Cllr. Wakelin advised there had been no progress regarding the street furniture audit. Further discussion took place regarding style of bins

10/133 Bus shelters – Members noted the installation by Essex CC of new shelters at the Memorial Hall Stop and the Duke of York stop. It was suggested an article appear in the Mole. Members deferred response to a proposal from Cllr. Cundy that the Village Council consider the cost of the replacement and associated installation cost of a new shelter at Maple Mead, Southend Road.

10/134 Allotment Provision

Cllr. Wakelin updated members on the response to consultation and project progress. An event was suggested to publicise, associated cost to be explored.

10/135 Mission Statement

Members received and considered a further draft submitted by Cllr. Wakelin. To be re-considered at the December meeting.

10/136 Training

Cllr. Wakelin proposed that the Village Council has a local training session, available from the EALC, to be attended by all members. A majority of members were not in agreement. Debate ensued and Cllr. Chapman expressed his concerns regarding respect between members.

10/137 Website

Members considered the structure and content of the council web-site. Debate ensued. Cllr. Wakelin proposed the responsibility be referred to the media working party. Cllr's Kelly and Chapman supported the motion. Cllr's Aly Khan, John Dear and Marie Dear opposed the motion. Cllr. Cundy abstained. The vote was therefore carried as the chair, Cllr. Wakelin had the casting vote.

10/138 Remembrance Service

Members appointed Cllr. Chapman to represent the Village Council at the Annual Remembrance Service, Sunday 14 November 2009.

10/139 Langham Hall and site

Members discussed and considered a funding request from the Advisory Board Billericay Children's Centre concerning renovation of Langham Hall. Cllr. Marie Dear proposed, which was seconded by Cllr. Cundy, that a provision of £8,000 be made within general reserves to assist with the costs of the renovation. Cllr.'s John Dear, Chapman and Aly Khan supported the motion. Cllr.'s Wakelin and Kelly abstained.

Members noted the 'Save Langham Hall' event planned to be held at the site on Saturday, November 20th 11am – 2pm. Also, the meeting of the management group planned for Wednesday, November 17th 8pm at

South Green Memorial Hall.

10/140 Tabards – Item deferred.

10/141 Finance

Members approved the following payments:

Essex Pension Fund – Superannuation October 2010

Clerk – Salary November 2010

Billericay Nurseries – October maintenance of the hanging baskets £234.86

10/142 Budget 2011/2012 – Item deferred

10/143 Terms of Reference – Working Parties – Item deferred

10/144 Resignation

Members noted the resignation by the clerk, effective 22 January 2011 (on completion of 3 months notice in line with the terms of her contract). Thanks were conveyed.

Discussion took place regarding the advertising of the vacancy and a budget of £150 was agreed.

10/145 Basildon District Council Correspondence – Item deferred

10/146 Other correspondence – Item deferred

The meeting closed at 10pm.

Signed

Dated