



## GREAT BURSTEAD AND SOUTH GREEN VILLAGE COUNCIL

Minutes of Great Burstead & South Green Annual Parish Meeting held at South Green Memorial Hall, on Wednesday 3<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

### **Present:**

Councillor M Dear (Chair)  
Councillor A Boyce  
Councillor R Chapman  
Councillor L Cowles  
Councillor S Crowe  
Councillor J Dear  
Councillor L Thomas  
Councillor L Willingham (Vice Chair)

### **Also in attendance:**

Mrs Nicki Watkins, Clerk and RFO, Great Burstead & South Green Village Council  
Ms Susan McCaffery, Billericay Food Bank  
Five members of the public

1. The Chair of Great Burstead & South Green Village Council welcomed those present to the meeting and confirmed she would Chair the Annual Village meeting.
2. There were no apologies for absence.
3. The Chair introduced Ms Susan McCaffery, who was attending on behalf of the Billericay Food Bank.

Ms McCaffery explained that the concept of a food bank in Billericay was first raised and discussed by St. John's Church, Outwood Common three years ago. Although this was not in response to a specific request, a personal case had prompted the Church to consider whether there were other local residents who would benefit from a food bank. The Church converted and renovated a rest-room which was used as the main store cupboard to keep non-perishable items. Information was sent to local services, including doctor's surgeries and schools, and gradually word had got out. The Food Bank officially opened in March 2018 and there were currently over twenty people on books.

Ms McCaffery explained that access to the food was not intended to be a permanent arrangement. Typically, the situation would be reviewed after six weeks, when the Church would expect (and hope) to see some improvements to the individual's situation.

The Chair invited questions from members of the public and asked whether Waitrose or any other local supermarkets donated to the charity. Ms McCaffery confirmed that Waitrose, Co-op and Sainsburys donated items, as did local churches. She noted that Waitrose offered

and were part of an official food bank scheme, however given it costs £300 to join, the Church felt it could not justify paying the amount, given Waitrose already donated items. She observed that Christmas and Harvest Festivals appeared to be particularly good times when people donated.

Cllr. Willingham asked how people could donate items. Ms McCaffery confirmed that the Church was open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for donations.

There were no other questions from either the Village Council or members of the public. The Chair thanked Ms McCaffery for her helpful presentation. The Village Council donated some non-perishable items which they hoped would assist with the food bank.

4. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting had previously been agreed, unanimously approved by the Village Council and signed by the Chair at the September meeting (**Minute Ref. 18/154**).
5. The Chair presented her Annual Report. She noted that the recent appointment of two new Councillors meant the Village Council has achieved its full complement. The Chair would not read her full report as this had been posted on the Village Council web-site for residents' information and copies were also available from the Clerk upon request. However, the Clerk has extracted the following points for the record:

*The Village Council had had another successful year working on behalf of residents during the past 12 months and reported the following key features and achievements:*

- consideration and submission of the Village Council responses to both local planning applications and the Local Plan on behalf of all residents;*
- despite the very wet weather, the 2018 Fun Day went ahead and was a great success, with most of the attractions still attending;*
- the Village Council agreed to using Twitter alongside the website to promote and communicate relevant news and Village Council matters;*
- the hanging baskets at South Green were beautiful last year, and thanks was extended to Billericay Nurseries for supplying and looking after these. Unfortunately, Essex County Council has refused permission for 2019 due to the condition of the lamp columns. Whilst the Village Council is very disappointed, it will continue to work with Billericay Nurseries to make other arrangements for appropriate floral displays for the enjoyment of both residents and visitors.*
- the installation of CCTV has taken longer than expected. Permission has been granted by Essex County Council for the installation to go ahead, but the delay now lies with the power supplier whilst they consider how best to agree to the connection. The Clerk shall continue to work to get the CCTV installed;*
- the Village Council still has two approved spaces for Special Constables to support the parish. We continue to work with Essex Police who are running a recruitment campaign and actively trying to fill these spaces.*

6. The Chair asked residents whether they had any matters of concern that they wanted to raise with the Village Council.

7. Three residents wanted to raise their concern with regard to the public footpath at Maple Mead / Linkdale, which had been closed since October 2018 due to a damaged retaining wall. Residents had contacted Basildon Borough Council on two occasions to complain about the state of the footpath, more recently in February 2019. Basildon Borough Council had initially removed the loose bricks and erected an orange fence around the area, however the residents had heard nothing since then. One resident noted that the Fire brigade had confirmed that they could get by, however the orange fencing was becoming a hindrance and door numbers were being obscured, which was causing post to go to the incorrect address.

The Chair was aware of the area and confirmed that the retaining wall was owned by Basildon Borough Council. She confirmed that the Clerk would write to Basildon Borough Council on behalf of, and supporting, residents' concern, noting they were extremely concerned that repairs were not making progress and requesting an update on the situation. The Clerk would advise the residents of Basildon Borough Council's response and report back at the September meeting.

8. A resident wanted to raise the state of the footpaths around The Green at South Green, which she had previously highlighted at the May meeting. She wanted to know how this issue was progressing. The Clerk confirmed that the issue had been raised with Basildon Borough Council and that she had asked for consideration to be made, not only to repairing the footpaths, but to having a "health and fitness" aspect, for example, signage showing the number of steps it takes to walk around The Green. She would contact Basildon Borough Council again to follow-up on the issue and report back to the Chair at the September meeting.
9. A resident raised concern regarding the condition of part of Stonechat Road where an oak tree had been removed. She noted there was debris from the tree and a broken curb stone which made the road look very unkempt. There were also a number of parked cars that appear to have been abandoned by the side of the road, although upon checking they were taxed and insured. She said this also impacted the road, as it meant the road sweeper could not access the curb side to keep the road clean. She said the issue with the parked cars also causes problems with residents in the road, as they all complain about the parked cars.

The Chair advised that anyone with concerns regarding parked cars should contact the police in the first instance, who would be able to advise accordingly. With regard to the rubbish and broken curb stone, the Clerk would contact James Hendry at Basildon Borough Council and ask him for his advice. The Chair thanked the resident for bringing the matter to the Village Council's attention.

10. A resident noted her disappointment at being excluded from the 2019 "Billericay In Bloom" competition. She asked whether there would be a competition for the Great Burstead & South Green area.

The Chair responded by saying there wasn't a competition planned for 2019, mainly due to the Village Council only just achieving its full contingent. She confirmed that the Village Council would support the competition going forward and asked the resident whether she

would be prepared to consider running it. The resident said that she would think about this and make a decision once she was aware of what was involved. The Chair thanked her and left it with her to contact the Village Council once she had made a decision.

11. The Chair asked members whether they had received any matters for consideration that residents had asked them to raise. There were no further items for discussion. The Chair wanted to record her thanks to the Councillors who, she reminded, were volunteers and gave their time freely to support the local community.
12. The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

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Signed .....

Date .....