

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at
South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
on Wednesday 8th January, 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor M. Dear - Chair
Councillor J. Dear
Councillor Cottle
Councillor Henderson
Councillor S. Hooker
Councillor Knight
Councillor Willingham

Also in attendance:-

Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
3 Local Residents

14/1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Twitchen due to a prior engagement.

14/2 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of Interest.

14/3 Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 4th December 2013 were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:-

The following wording to be added to 13/160 Planning Applications:-

“In addition Councillor Hooker to co-ordinate responses to planning applications received outside the approval time frame.”

All in favour.

14/4 Public Participation.

Recycling Facility – Southwood Court Grange Road	The Clerk reported the latest information received from Basildon BC in respect of this facility. It was noted that it was a well-used amenity with some 15 tonnes per year of waste being recycled. It was felt that the Village Council had taken the matter as far as they possible could at the present moment. However, an item would be included on the February agenda to look at what further action could be taken. In the meantime the local residents present were advised that the other issues of concern that they raised in relation to this facility were matters for the police to pursue.
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Damage on the Green at South Green	Councillor Henderson brought to the Council's attention that a number of the tree supports on the Green had been damaged either due to the bad weather of recent weeks or as a result of other activities. The Clerk was instructed to inform the relevant officer at the Borough Council with a request for the supports to be repaired or replaced.
Twinning Proposal	At the request of Councillor Knight, an item would be placed on the February agenda to look at the feasibility of the Village Council exploring the possibility of twinning opportunities.

14/5 Essex Association of Local Councils.

There were no matters to report.

14/6 Association of Basildon Local Councils – Information.

It was noted that there was a special ABLC meeting on 9th January at the St. Georges Suite at the Borough Council Offices at which the Core Strategy would be the sole item on the agenda. Two places were available for the Village Council and it was agreed that Councillors M. Dear and Hooker would attend to represent the Council. They would report back at the February meeting.

14/7. A. Planning Applications

At the time the agenda was circulated no planning applications had been received for consultation. Subsequently an application had been received – 13/01283/FULL @ 9 Froden Brook, Billericay, for a two storey rear extension following removal of conservatory. This would be dealt with under the arrangements agreed at the meeting in December 2013 Minute 13/160 refers.

14/7. B. Core Strategy

Feedback would be given following the Local Councils' Liaison Meeting on 9th January together with any information subsequently received from the consultants working on behalf of CEG to the queries raised by the Village Council on 15th November, 2013.

14/8 Finance

Approved payments:

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	December salary	£ 478.78(*)
H.M.R.C. 000726	Income tax - December	£119.60
Martin Ainscough 000727	December expenses – postage, stamps,	£30.90
Piggott's Ltd 000728	2 nd & final instalment Christmas Lights - 2013	£1,523.09

(*) salary now paid directly by bank transfer on 26th of each month.

14/9 Village Council Summer Event – August 2014

Councillor Knight informed the meeting that having been through the Borough Council produced Information Pack for the hiring of the Green at South Green there was a lot of work that needed to be done between now and the event taking place in August.

Councillor Knight then went through the various checks etc. that needed to be done in order to comply with the Borough Council's hiring requirements. It was agreed that the organisation of this event should be delegated to the Litter Working Party who would meet on 14th of January to start the process and the completion of the necessary forms/check lists required. The Summer Event would be included on the February meeting to bring the whole Council up to date with the arrangements and progress made so far.

14/10 Outdoor Gym Equipment

It was noted that following a site visit undertaken by members of the Litter Working Party a preferred location had been identified for the location of the above mentioned facility, this being the grass near the path between the Sth Green Memorial Hall and the Green just beyond the two large trees and between the fences of the houses.

It would now be necessary to write to the residents of the two properties concerned to make them aware of the proposal and to ask them for their comments. It was further noted that if no response was received within 21 days of the date of the letter it would be assumed that no objections were raised to the Village Council's proposal.

14/11 New Village Sign – Great Burstead

It was noted that there was no progress to report on this initiative. Councillor Hooker had spoken to the local primary school on the day of the Village Council meeting and they had promised to get back to him with an answer as to whether they wanted to be involved in this project or not by the end of the week. If not interested then the project would continue without their input.

It was also noted that no official response had yet been received from Essex County Council Highways as to whether the preferred site was suitable or not. The Clerk was therefore requested to make contact again to ascertain their views on the preferred location and what if any more work would be required to be undertaken by the Village Council or legislation adhered to in order for a sign to be erected in due course.

14/12 Installation of Flag Pole – South Green Memorial Hall

Councillor Knight made a suggestion that the Village Council should give consideration to the installation of a flag pole somewhere within the curtilage of the South Green Memorial Hall in order that the Village Council could mark national events such as the Queen's Birthday and St. George's Day etc.

The meeting was in favour of such an initiative, but it was noted that first and foremost the views of the South Green Memorial Hall Trustees should be sought to this proposal and the Clerk was requested to write to their Chair Person asking for the matter to be included on their next agenda with a response to be received in due course. A number of other issues were also raised in respect of this project, namely:-

The cost of acquiring and erecting a flag pole,

Identifying a suitable funding stream if deemed to be necessary,

The need or not for planning permission,

Who would be responsible for ensuring the flag was raised on the days in question.

14/13 Maintenance of Flower Bed – Opposite the Shops at South Green

The meeting was informed that the flower bed opposite the shops at South Green had fallen into disrepair. It was now overgrown and full of weeds and was detracting from the flower beds at Bell Bollards which were now maintained on a regular basis by Billericay Nurseries on behalf of the Village Council.

The suggestion was made that this area could be added to and included in the contract with Billericay Nurseries but it was noted that this could well set a precedent in the future for other areas of green and amenity space that were not within the Village Council's responsibility/remit to maintain. With this in mind the Clerk was requested to write to the relevant Officer at Basildon BC bringing the state of the flower bed in question to his attention and asking that the area be cleaned up and made good at the earliest opportunity.

14/14 Dates for Information.

The meeting noted that two more Litter Picks were planned for 2014 on 5th April & 4th October respectively. Also in keeping with the previously very successful Christmas Switch on Events held in 2012 and 2013, the date for the 2014 event had been set for Saturday 6th December.

14/ 15 Future Meeting Dates.

5th February, 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July

14/16 Close of Meeting – The Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.