

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at
South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
on Wednesday 3rd April, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor M. Dear - Chair
Councillor A. Aly-Khan
Councillor Cottle
Councillor J. Dear
Councillor S. Hooker
Councillor Knight
Councillor Willingham

Also in attendance:-

County Councillor Twitchen
PC Wyn Sharp
Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
6 Local Residents

13/38 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

13/39 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of Interest.

13/40 Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 6th March 2013 were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair.

All in favour

13/41 Co-option of Councillor

The meeting noted the co-option process that had been undertaken to fill the one remaining vacancy that still existed on the Council. Following that process one application had been received from Mr Adam Henderson of 26 Outwood Common Road, Billericay.

It was noted that Mr Henderson had lived in the South Green area for over 45 years and had worked in and around Billericay for much of that time. His interests were conservation and environmental issues and having attended a couple of recent Council meetings felt that he could make a positive contribution to the work of the Council.

Having duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form, before the consideration of Item 10 B on the agenda, which was brought forward and considered directly after the Public Participation item, Mr Henderson was welcomed to the Village Council and joined the meeting at that point for the remainder of the agenda.

13/42 Public Participation.

Coxes Farm Road Speed Restriction Order	County Councillor Twitchen informed the meeting of the latest developments on this
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	<p>matter. It was noted that there was an item later on the agenda to confirm the Council's support for the reduction in the speed limit on this particular stretch of road.</p>
<p>Problems with potholes and uneven road surfaces – Outwood Common Road & Southend Road</p>	<p>Councillor Twitchen reported that a utility contractor trench in Outwood Common Road had not been filled in very well with the result that some subsidence of the surface had occurred. The meeting noted that it was hoped that this would be dealt with as part of the County Council's commitment to deal with the huge number of potholes across the County that had arisen due to the recent bad winter and the unseasonal wet & cold spring. Southend Road within the village was one such area highlighted for attention, but it was further noted that despite a sizeable budget having been allocated to the Pothole Task Force not all identified problem areas would necessarily receive attention.</p>
<p>CIF Grant – repairs & refurbishment of the roads in and around the Grange Road shops.</p>	<p>The meeting noted that despite £6,000 having been set aside in the Council's reserves as its contribution to the aforementioned works, to date no invoice had been forthcoming from ECC. Councillor Twitchen therefore undertook to investigate this matter on behalf of the Village Council with the relevant dept. and report back at a later date on her findings.</p>
<p>Billericay School – Persistent parking on the grass verge in a Conservation Area by parents collecting their children from School</p>	<p>Concern was expressed that the continual insistence of parents collecting children to park on the grass verge was causing potentially irrecoverable damage to the grass verge & recently planted tree saplings some of which as a result had been completely knocked over and destroyed. It was noted that this was an ongoing problem/issue that despite letters from the Village Council to the Head teacher in the past no solution had been possible. It was therefore requested that an item on this matter be included on the agenda for the May meeting of the Village Council for discussion with a view to agreeing possible solutions to the problem.</p>

13/43 The Martin Wakelin Environmental Fund.

Following a meeting of the Environmental Panel held on 19th of March to consider the bids for funding received from local schools and playgroups the Council noted the following recommendations for the allocation of funding for 2013.

South Green Infant School - £400

Grenfell Pre-School - £200

Montessori Play Group - £200

It was noted that two other schools – South Green Juniors and St. Peter’s R.C. Primary had also indicated that they too wanted to take advantage of the grant scheme and apply for funding, but to date no firm bids had been received from either of them. Since the Panel had met the Clerk had contacted both of the schools in question to enquire if any prospective bids could be lodged by the end of April. South Green Junior School had indicated that they would be able to meet this deadline while no reply had been received by St. Peter’s by the time of the Council meeting. It was though noted that schools were currently in the middle of the two week Easter holiday break and that hopefully a positive reply from St. Peter’s would be forthcoming shortly.

RESOLVED; - that the recommendations of the Panel for funding as mentioned above be approved and that if any subsequent bids are received the Panel be authorised to consider them and make their recommendations.

13/44 Village Council Litter Working Party Report.

The meeting received a report on the arrangements for the first Village litter pick due to take place on Saturday 13th April 2013. The following information was duly noted.

The event would take place from 9.30 a.m. until midday with Councillors M. Dear & Willingham providing a cup of tea and a biscuit prior to the various groups setting off from the South Green Memorial Hall As mentioned previously litter picking equipment would be made available by both Billericay Town Council and James Hendry at Basildon Borough Council, Barleylands Depot while the new management at the Duke of York Public House in the Southend Road had confirmed that they would provide refreshments for all those taking part after the event.

13/45 Planning Applications

13/00136/FULL	14 Tyrone Road Billericay Essex CM11 2RU	Rear conservatory	As there were no plans or details available on the BBC Planning website the Council was unable to comment on the application(*)
13/00164/FULL	Blackmore Farmhouse 2 Noak Hill Road Billericay Essex	To reduce the length of an existing redundant motorcar garage of brick construction within the curtilage of a Listed Building, and to convert it to a potting shed after re-roofing and cladding it to make it in keeping with surroundings.	No Objection.

(*) In view of this the Clerk was requested to bring this to the attention of the Basildon BC Planning Dept. when lodging the Village Council’s comments on the application concerned.

13/46 Finance

A. Approved payments:

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	March salary	£478.78 (*)
H.M.R.C.	Income Tax – March	£119.60 (+)
Martin Ainscough 000682	March Expenses – stamps, postage,	£9.00
EALC 000683	Affiliation Fees – 2013/14	£779.64

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

(+) tax refund of £119.65 due for 2010/11 so therefore no payment required for March 2013
(Notification dated March 2013 received from HMRC refers)

In respect of the following item (13/46 B) the Council resolved to exclude the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. PC Wyn Sharp was asked to stay as an advisor who had a direct interest.

B. The Village Council – Bank Authorised Signatories letter dated 5th December 2011.

Councillor Knight took the Chair for this item. The meeting considered recommendations in connection with the Council's reputation and good name in the light of the continued allegations in respect of a general administrative letter to the Council's bank and what action to take as a Council if the situation continued or escalated.

Following a discussion on this matter and a recorded vote being undertaken on the 3 resolutions before the Council - the meeting resolved that:-

- (a) As the matter in question had been independently investigated on 3 separate occasions and on each occasion no case was found to be answered the Council will not enter into any further discussions either written or verbal in respect of this matter.

FOR: - Councillors - M. Dear, J. Dear, Henderson, Hooker, Knight, Willingham
AGAINST: - Councillors - Aly-Khan
ABSTAINSTION: - Councillor – Cottle
The resolution was duly carried

- (b) Following on from resolution (a), if the Village Council, Councillors or employee(s) continue to receive any communications on this matter or become aware of it being raised in any other public forum, then the originator(s) of such correspondence will be debarred from the Council and from attending meetings of the Council.

FOR: - Councillors - M. Dear, J. Dear, Henderson, Hooker, Knight, Willingham
AGAINST: - Councillors -Aly-Khan
ABSTAINSTION: Councillor - Cottle
The resolution was duly carried

In the event of (b) mentioned above the Clerk of the Council would be authorised to refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer of Basildon Borough Council.

FOR: - Councillors - M. Dear, J. Dear, Hooker, Knight, Willingham
AGAINST: - None
ABSTAINSTION: - Councillors - Cottle & Aly-Khan
The resolution was duly carried

Councillor Aly – Khan left the meeting at this point.

13/47 Essex County Council – (Coxes Farm Road Great Burstead & South Green) (40 MPH & Restricted Road) Order 201*

The Council noted the above mentioned Order & Essex County Council's formal proposal to designate the length of road specified as a restricted road for the purposes of Section 81 of the Act. The restriction being imposed on Coxes Farm Road, Billericay would be from a point approximately 130 metres north east of its junction with the A129 Southend Road in a generally north easterly direction for a distance of approximately 50 metres.

The Council were fully supportive of this proposal and the Clerk was instructed to respond to Essex County Council accordingly.

13/48 Use of Church Notice Board and its refurbishment.

The Council noted that following the request to the PCC to share the Church Notice Board, confirmation had been received from them that they were happy to give the Village Council exclusive use of the Notice Board which was situated at the bottom of the churchyard, near the corner of the car park (the one with the glass front, facing on to Church Street).

However, it was noted that the notice board in question was in need of some repair although it was still perfectly usable. As Councillor Hooker lived quite close to the location of the notice board he agreed to make contact with the Church Warden to obtain the keys for the board and to assess the level of repairs that might be required. The Council was also minded to try and engage a local contractor to carry out the repair work once it had been determined what work needed to be done.

13/49 Report on ALBC Meeting held on 21st March 2013.

Councillor Hooker reported on his attendance at the above mentioned meeting. It was noted that according to information supplied at the meeting 40% of all roads in the country are apparently covered tracks which might go some way to explaining why the problems with potholes is so great. Councillor Hooker also confirmed that at the ALBC meeting it was confirmed that there would be a new junction built off the M11 motorway which would be numbered 11A. No further information was given as to the reason or need for this new junction.

13/50 Future Meeting Dates.

1st May 2013, 5th June 2013, 3rd July 2013

13/51 Close of Meeting – The Meeting closed at 9.13 p.m.