

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at
 South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
 on Wednesday 2nd April, 2014 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

- Councillor M. Dear – Chair
- Councillor J. Dear
- Councillor Henderson
- Councillor Hooker
- Councillor Knight
- Councillor Willingham

Also in attendance:-

- Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
- 8 Local Residents

14/54 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cottle and County Councillor Twitchen who was in Brussels and PC Sharpe was unable to attend due to operational matters.

14/55 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of Interest.

14/56 Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 5th March 2014 were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair

14/57 Public Participation.

Southwood Court recycling facility	Mrs Richfield brought the meeting up to date with an incident at the recycling facility whereby glass was broken and rubbish was strewn around late at night. It was noted that the issue of all recycling facilities within the borough was under review and Mrs Richfield was encouraged to report this latest incident to both Borough Cllr Moore & PC Sharpe for their information and attention.
Youth Nuisance at Langham Hall	The Clerk reported that they had been copied into a series of mails concerning youth nuisance at the recently refurbished Langham all to the extent that it was putting off both existing and potential hirers/users of this facility. Ashley Gillam Youth Worker for ECC present at the meeting indicated that ECC were actively wanting to start up a youth club at Langham Hall that would hopefully go some way to solving this problem and they were looking for volunteers from the local community to help run it. It was suggested that they contribute a small article to the forthcoming Village Voice

	which they agreed to do.
Barleylands Road – 40 mph Speed Limit Order	Came into effect on 31 st March 2014

14/58 A. Planning Applications

14/00268/FULL	6 Stockwell Close, Billericay, CM11 2QA	Single Storey Rear Extension.	Due to unforeseen difficulties when Councillors tried to view the plans on the Basildon BC planning portal it was not possible to comment on this application.
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In addition to the above mentioned application the following applications had been considered under the arrangements previously approved for dealing with consultation requests received outside the Village Council's usual monthly meeting cycle. The following comments being emailed to the Planning Dept. at Basildon Borough Council on 21st March 2014.

14/00243/FULL - 12 Patricia Gardens, Billericay - demolition of existing building & construction of 6 new houses. (*Objection on the grounds of overdevelopment & traffic congestion*)

14/00217/FULL - 11 Noak Hill Close, Billericay – raise & extend the pitch roof, erect front, side & rear extension & convert garage into habitable accommodation. (*Objection to the turning of a garage into habitable use*)

14/00236/FULL - 188 Noak Hill Road, Billericay – Single Storey rear Extension (*No objection*)

14/58 B. Core Strategy

There were no matters raised in connection with the Basildon Local Plan/Core Strategy that needed to be considered at this meeting

14/59 Village Voice – Special Edition.

Councillor J. Dear outlined the draft articles to be included in the next edition of the Village Voice which would be designated as a “special” to inform local residents of the work of the Council and the many projects that were on going at the moment. Apart from the usual information to be included it was agreed that there would be articles in this issue to cover:-

The Village Council's formal response to the Core Strategy document,
The Town Twinning proposal to gauge the interest from local residents to such a proposal,
The Outdoor Gym facility – to include the questionnaire as a pull out section,
The New Village Sign for Gt. Burstead – to bring residents up to date with the initiative and to canvas their views on this proposal,
Litter Working Party Update, Flagpole proposal update & Billericay Children's Advisory Board.
Last but not least a piece to advertise the Summer Event on the Green organised for 31st of August and the attractions that have so far been booked for the day.

14/60 Litter Working Party Update.

The meeting received an update on the arrangements for the forthcoming litter pick due to be held on 5th of April. It was noted that Councillor Knight was due to collect the equipment from Billericay Town Council and James Hendry at Basildon BC on 3rd of April. The Duke of York had also once again kindly agreed to provide light refreshments for volunteers at the end of the event.

14/61 Essex Association of Local Councils.

There were no matters to report. The Clerk informed the meeting that following on from the request at the March meeting to check the timetable for submission for the various annual EALC awards, that it had been confirmed that some changes were in the pipeline for the awards for this year. Once these were known they would be reported at a future meeting.

14/62 Association of Basildon Local Councils – Information.

Councillor Hooker reported on his attendance at the latest meeting of the ABLC. It was noted that the EALC were now in their new premises and that the new apprentice was also in post. Mick Page from ECC Highways reported that pot holes could not be repaired unless the air temperature was 12 degrees or higher as below this figure repairs would not be sustainable. Items agreed for discussion at the next Liaison meeting had been identified as: - Street Lighting, Charter, Rubbish and the BC Core Strategy

14/63 Grant Application – South Green Memorial Hall Trustees.

It was noted that the Trustees prior to the meeting had indicated that the application for grant aid that had been considered at the March meeting and subsequently deferred pending the receipt of further information would now no longer be pursued.

14/64 Finance

Approved payments:

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	March salary	£ 478.78(*)
H.M.R.C. 000737	Income tax - March	£119.60
Martin Ainscough 000738	March expenses – postage, stamps, envelopes	£10.58

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

14/65 Southwood Court Recycling Facility

It was noted that following on from the concerns expressed by local residents at the nuisance caused by the Southwood Court Recycling facility, Basildon BC had undertaken a review of all such facilities throughout the Borough with a view to having them all removed. It was however further noted that this would take quite some time to complete before any results/outcomes would be made public.

14/66 Annual Audit – 2013/14

The timetable for the completion of the Village Council's Annual Audit process for 2013/14 was noted.

14/67 Village Council Summer Event – August 2014

The meeting was brought up to date with the on-going arrangements for the above mentioned event. Councillor M. Dear reported that the ice cream, tea and coffee vendor that had been previously provisionally booked for this event prior to approval being given by Basildon BC for the hire of the Green and subsequently now indicated that they were no longer able to attend. An alternative was therefore needed and Councillors were asked to give the matter some thought.

It was noted that a contract had now been received from Basildon BC for the hire of the Green on 31st of August which the Clerk had duly signed on behalf of the Council and returned to the appropriate officer at the Borough Council. An invoice for the cost involved would be forthcoming in due course.

All vendors/stall holders that had been provisionally booked could now all be confirmed and directed to send copies of their public liability insurance cover to the Clerk as had been previously agreed.

14/68 Outdoor Gym Equipment

Councillor M. Dear presented a draft questionnaire to be included in the next edition of The Village Voice in order to ascertain the views of local residents to the provision of an Outdoor Gym facility at the location previously agreed at the March meeting. Copies of the questionnaire would also be given to the local shops and placed on the noticeboards and VC website to ensure that no residents missed the chance to comment and make their views known.

14/69 New Village Sign – Great Burstead

Councillor Hooker reported on a site visit held with officers of ECC Highways Dept. in connection with the preferred location for the proposed new village sign for Gt. Burstead. It was noted that ECC had indicated that they would now check their records and plans to see if any services or land issues would prohibit a sign being erected in this location and whether any other legislation needed to be adhered to in order for that to happen, for example, planning permissions etc.

14/70 Village Council Twinning Proposal.

Following on from the discussions at the March meeting, Councillor Knight reported on the results of his research as to whether it was feasible for the Village Council to consider being twinned with another community either in the UK, Europe or further afield. Research had shown that a number of different communities across Europe and the wider World were looking for twinning partners. It was noted that there were 10 keys to a successful partnership which included the “right” partner for the community being selected, involving residents in the process, identifying common objectives with prospective partners and ensuring strong links with schools and young people. Links to Asia & Africa to help development in those countries was also highlighted in the course of Councillor Knight’s research.

Therefore, local residents would be consulted on this issue before the Village Council made any firm decision on the matter and with that in mind Councillor Knight was asked to write an article for inclusion in the next edition of the Village Voice as mentioned at item 14/59 above.

14/71 Installation of Flag Pole – South Green Memorial Hall.

The Clerk reported that it had not proved possible to obtain the views of the Royal British Legion to the proposal to install a flag pole somewhere within the curtilage of the South Green Memorial Hall. It was hoped to have some further information in time for the May meeting of the Village Council.

14/72 Future Meeting Dates 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July

14/73 Close of Meeting – The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

