

Minutes of the Meeting of the Great Burstead and South Green Village Council, held at
 South Green Memorial Hall, Southend Road, Billericay
 on Wednesday 6th November, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

Present:-

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

Also in attendance:-

Martin Ainscough – Clerk to the Council
 Chris Higginson - Police Community Support Officer
 Clare Boreham – Police Community Police Officer
 3 Local Residents

13/138 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cottle due to a prior long standing engagement and PC Sharpe who had been called away on an urgent police matter. County Councillor Twitchen sent her apologies due to a prior engagement.

13/139 Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of Interest.

13/140 Minutes.

The Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd October 2013 were recorded as a true record and signed by the Chair. All in favour

13/141 Public Participation.

<p>Recycling Facility – Southwood Court Grange Road</p>	<p>The meeting noted that following on from the action agreed at the October meeting a total of 175 signatures had been collected requesting that Basildon BC give consideration to the removal of the recycling facility from its present location. The Clerk would now write to the appropriate officer at the Borough Council requesting consideration be given to this request enclosing a copy of the signatures in support of such a decision being taken.</p>
<p>Street Lighting Switch Off</p>	<p>The meeting noted the ECC proposal to turn off street lights between the hours of midnight & 5.00 a.m. As mentioned previously the Village Council had made representation to ECC for certain streets within the Village to be exempt from this initiative and was pleased to report that most of the locations suggested for exclusion had been recognised. It was also</p>

	noted that the start date for this initiative to be introduced and been put back until 18/11/13.
Report from Police Community Support Officers	<p>Following on from the above mentioned matter, the PCSOs present reported that the Police would monitor the situation and if it was found that there was an increase in crime & incidents as a result of the Switch Off, then they would make representations for the lights to go back on again.</p> <p>In addition in the lead up to Christmas it was noted that there had be in spike in the number of burglaries being reported. This it was thought was due to in part to the Gt. Burstead & South Green Area being more affluent & residents as a result perhaps being more relaxed about the threat or risk of burglary.</p>

In addition to the matters discussed above Councillor Knight made the following statement to the meeting:-

I have been a VC for nearly 18 months now. During that time the VC has, apart from its statutory duties, taken forward many initiatives perceived to be of benefit to our electorate. These have included Litter Picks, a Christmas event, improvements to the Grange road Shops, a notice board etc. We are also striving to provide further services such as a summer event, a village sign for Great Burstead and an adult gym on South Green. These initiatives have been enthusiastically supported by all village councillors except one. That Councillor, Councillor Aly-Khan, only contributions have been negative through his seemingly obsessiveness over “Bank Authorised Signatories” of December 2011” despite the matter having been investigated on three separate occasions with on each occasion “no case to answer” being the conclusion. This obsession has had and continues to have adverse impacts on our current Chair and our Clerk.

At the April 2013 Village Council, three recorded resolutions were put forward and were duly carried. Since the April meeting, Councillor Aly-Khan has raised this issue again and again particularly prior to the October meeting and this meeting.

I did not become a VC to waste time and see colleagues upset through his obsession. I therefore would like to formally propose that Resolutions 1 & 2 from the April meeting be implemented and that the Clerk be instructed to enact Resolution 3 and that Councillor Aly-Khan is excluded from meetings of the Village Council with immediate effect.

Councillor Willingham seconded the proposal and following a vote the proposal was unanimously carried. As a result Councillor Aly-Khan left the meeting accompanied by Chris Higginson & Clare Boreham, the two PCSOs, at 7.45 p.m. The PCSOs returned 10 minutes later.

13/142 Royal British Legion – Remembrance Sunday 10th November – Wreath Nomination.

It was noted that Councillor Adam Henderson would be the Council’s representative and would lay a wreath on behalf of the Village Council at the Remembrance Day Service on Sunday 10th of November.

13/143 Essex Association of Local Councils.

It was noted that there was nothing to report from the EALC.

13/144 Association of Basildon Local Councils – Information.

Councillor Hooker circulated a list of dates of the future meetings of the ABLC for information purposes. It was noted that a stand in would be required to attend the Liaison Meeting scheduled for 9th January 2014 as he would be out of the country on that day. Councillor Knight agreed to attend the meeting on 9/01/14 to represent the Village Council.

In addition to the list of meeting dates for the ABLC the meeting also received and noted a Local Health Services Update provided by Councillor Hooker.

13/145 Village Council Litter Working Party Report.

The meeting received a report from Councillor Knight following the 2nd Litter Pick event held on 5th October. It was noted that the occasion had been another success with an increase in resident volunteers attending on the day.

Thanks were due to James Hendry at Basildon BC and Billericay Town Council for the loan of equipment and suitable clothing, while the Duke of York pub again supplied refreshments. Letters had already been sent by the Clerk thanking them for their help and assistance in making the event a success. Due to the success of the litter picks the Council agreed to hold another couple of events in 2014 with the emphasis being concentrated on different areas within the Village, e.g. footpaths. Dates would be confirmed after Christmas.

The Village Council also wished to thank Councillor Knight for instigating the litter pick initiative and for ensuring that both events to date had been a success.

13/146 Planning Applications

13/00998/FULL	213A Noak Hill Road, Billericay	Single storey to rear of property with roof lantern & bi-fold doors overlooking the garden, walls rendered with feature stone slips. Alteration to front elevation to incorporate ground to eaves glazed screen to entrance area, including new door set.	No objections
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The meeting was also informed that application in respect of the development at Melbourne, Coxes Farm Road, Billericay had been refused on the grounds that the application site was located within the Green Belt and that the proposal to construct a stable/hay store building was on pasture land that had not previously been developed. Furthermore the size of the proposed building would have been harmful to the openness of the Green belt in the open field position where it was intended to be sited. It was also considered that the long term use of the building was also questionable due to its size and that the proposed building could lend itself to residential conversion at some time in the future.

13/147 Finance

approved payments:

Payee / Cheque number	Details	Amount
Martin Ainscough	October salary	£ 478.78(*)
H.M.R.C. 000718	Income tax - October	£119.80
Martin Ainscough 000719	October expenses – postage, stamps & envelopes	£10.75
Billericay Nurseries 000720	Maintenance costs of hanging baskets and Bell Bollards for:- September October Total	£518.00 £271.20 (+) £789.20
Royal British Legion 000721	Remembrance Sunday Wreath/Donation	£50.00

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

(+) w.e.f. 22/10/13 the hanging baskets have been removed & put into storage for the winter
In addition it was noted that that the flower beds at Bell Meadow had been cleared and replanted with primroses and pansy ready for the winter/spring months.

13/148 Refurbishment of the Village Church Notice Board

The meeting received an update in respect of the recently acquired Notice Board. Following on from the work undertaken by Councillors Henderson & Hooker to make the Notice Board serviceable once again, it was noted that due to the recent heavy rainfall that water was getting in behind the doors and running down the inside. This was apparently due to the original design of the Notice Board. However, Councillor Henderson was fairly confident and assured the meeting that a piece of beading fixed to the outside of the frame would allow the water to run off and so solve the problem.

13/149 Christmas Event – South Green Parade of Shops – Saturday 7th December.

The meeting noted the arrangements that were in place for the above mentioned event. Building on the success of last year's event the One Stop Shop had once again agreed to hand out sweets to the children attending and provide a chocolate Father Christmas gift to the two children chosen by the Infants School to officially switch on the Christmas Lights. The Billericay Town Crier would also be attending as would members of the local Baptist Church to sing hymns and carols having read about the event in the Village Voice. The Clerk confirmed that Piggott's engineers would be attending in order to switch off and put back on the lights at the appropriate times on the day. Last but not least Father Christmas himself would be putting in an appearance at some point during the festivities!

13/150 Outside Gym Equipment Proposal.

Councillor Knight offered his apologies for his non-attendance at the Site Visit with Nick Sears from Basildon BC arranged to identify possible suitable sites on South Green for the installation of Outdoor Gym Equipment.

Councillor M. Dear informed the meeting that the site visit had been very informative and that 4 possible sites on the perimeter of the Green on the side away from the Youth Shelter had been identified as being suitable for such equipment. Mr Sears had assured Councillor Dear that the maintenance cost of the equipment would be low and the Basildon would undertake to inspect the equipment on a regular basis and inform the Village Council if any problems were found. It would of course be necessary to add the equipment to the Council's insurance policy if the Outdoor Gym Initiative became a reality. However once a preferred site had been identified those residents directly affected by the location of the Gym would have to be consulted before the proposal was passed to the appropriate Cabinet Member and Committee at the Borough Council for subsequent approval.

Therefore in view of the decisions that still needed to be agreed upon in respect of this project, the Village Council agreed to have a meeting of the Litter Working Party between 11th & 19th of December at which the various locations for the Gym would be discussed with a view to agreeing on a preferred choice. In addition it was felt that the meeting would also provide a good opportunity to formulate the plans for the Summer Event as well as setting the dates for the 2 Litter Picks in 2014 as mentioned at 13/145 above.

In the meantime possible funding streams for the purchase and installation of the equipment would be investigated with the Heritage Trust, Community Initiative Fund and Veola being suggested as likely schemes that might be appropriate for such an initiative.

13/151 Great Burstead Sign

The meeting received an update from Councillor Hooker on the progress made with this project. Having surveyed the relevant area only one suitable site had been identified. The site proposed for the Great Burstead Village Sign is as follows: - Turning right off the A176 into Church Street, Great Burstead, on the left is a 30mph speed limit sign, continuing on the left is the first of a row of sycamores, between this first sycamore and the second sycamore is the site for the sign. Basically in the middle of the first two sycamores on the left hand side of Church Street approaching from the A176 and going towards the St Mary Magdalene Church. A very rough estimate of producing a sign in this location with the specifications as previously mentioned would be in the region of £800.00.

Based on this information, the Clerk was requested to contact the County Highways Department outlining the proposal and the likely location to see if there were any restrictions/covenants that would prohibit a sign being erected in this location. It was also felt that the Village Sign project should also be added to the agenda for discussion at the Litter Working Party meeting arranged for December (13/145 refers). All the matters discussed at that meeting would be included on the agenda for the January meeting of the Village Council.

13/ 152 Future Meeting Dates.

4th December 2013, 8th January 2014

13/153 Close of Meeting – The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

