

# **GREAT BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 8 APRIL 2015**

Present: Cllrs Dyson (Chairman), Ruffle (Vice Chairman), Holmes, Hayward, Hockley, Slemmings, Walsh

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Ruffle – Planning, Bardfield Centre

### **2. APOLOGIES**

No apologies to record

### **3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11 MARCH 2015**

These were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Hockley seconded Cllr Walsh

### **4. CLERK'S REPORT**

**Scheme of Delegation:** Further to the objections raised by the Council, BDC Planning Committee had supported the Officer Recommendation regarding the proposals and it now needed to be ratified at the forthcoming Full Council meeting. A letter had been received from the Chairman of Rayne Parish Council asking if Members could attend this meeting as he would be speaking against the proposal. BALC were also going to make representation and the Clerk would write to reiterate concerns.

**Village Improvements:** Members had been asked at the March meeting to make note of any areas which they thought needed to be addressed to improve the look of the parish. The Clerk would liaise with the Village Handyman and others as appropriate to deal with the items raised.

### **5. 2015 ELECTIONS & RETIREMENTS**

The Chairman wished to record the Council's thanks for the contribution made to the community and the work of this Council by Cllr Hayward who will be retiring at the forthcoming election. Cllr Holmes will be retiring at the same time and the Chairman thanked her for her contribution over the seven years she has served.

## 6. FINANCE

### (a) April Financial Statement

	PAYMENT TO	AMOUNT	CHQ. NO.	POWERS
1	E-on	£95.61	D/D	Parish Council Act 1957
2	A&J Lighting Solutions	£67.50	S/O	Parish Council Act 1957
3	Boxtor Limited S/O	£24.00	S/O	Local Gov(MP)Act 1976
4	Powergen D/D re Pavilion Supply	£30.00	D/D	Local Gov(MP)Act 1976
5	Anglia Water wef 22.12.14	£7.00	D/D	Local Gov(MP)Act 1976
6	Community Information Point	£70.00	see below	Local Gov Act 1972
7	GB Town Hall - Substation	£107.32	093	Local Gov Act 1972
8	MDLandscapes(Anglia)Ltd	£184.80	094	Local Gov Act 1972
9	Community Transport Scheme	£20.00	095	Local Gov Act 1972
16	Sharprint Solutions Ltd Annual Contract	£288.00	096	Local Gov Act 1972
17	Employee 1	£498.83	097	Local Gov Act 1972
18	HMR&C Tax	£124.60	098	Local Gov Act 1972
		<b>£1,517.66</b>		

**The sum of £1500 to be transferred to meet the above payments  
Proposed Cllr Walsh      Seconded Cllr Hayward**

COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT				
	BT Broadband Acc 37324132	£21.00	D/D	Local Gov Act 1972
	BT Landline 810327 Acc 37653521	£23.00	D/D	Local Gov Act 1972
	BT Internet Line Acc 37653522	£26.00	D/D	Local Gov Act 1972
		<b>£70.00</b>		

MONIES RECEIVED				
	Bridge End Youth FC	£25.00		
	UK Power Substation rental	£107.32		
	FPC Shared Stationery	£24.73		
		<b>£157.05</b>		

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS AT 31/03/15				
	Treasurers Acc 17956560	£226.62		
	Business Call Account 00195929	£51,167.20		
	Special Projects Account 00655423	£6,432.72		
	New Pavilion Account 00710238	£52,156.09		
		<b>£109,982.63</b>		

(b) Confirmation that the 50p per hour increase for Employees 2 and 3 comes into effect this financial year 2015/16

(c) The Clerk would purchase refreshments for the Parish Assembly

## 7. PLANNING

UDC Solar Farm Installation Hawkspur Green: There has been strong opposition to this from Little Bardfield PC and they have asked for the Council's support. The matter was discussed in some detail and it was agreed that as almost 50 hectares of land in the area has been used for such schemes, this was one too many, and the use of

further arable land was to be avoided. It was thought that such schemes should be directed at large buildings – e.g. hospitals or school and brown field sites. Traffic was a further issue as, depending on where materials were sourced, HGVs could come from any direction.

15/00072/TPOCON 31 Durham Close: Cllr Walsh had visited the property between meetings and had no objection to work on crab apple and cypress trees.

Blue Plaques: Approval has now been confirmed for Place House and the planning notice had been posted at Brick House and it was hoped this would be confirmed in the next two or three weeks.

15/00323/FUL Bardfield Centre, conversion to 10 residential units. Members supported this application because, in brief, it is on a brownfield site, it meets the need for smaller homes, is within the village envelope and would develop business units that are currently empty. However, in their response to BDC they wished to draw attention to the area of land indicated as parking on the plans which in fact belongs to the High Barn so adequate parking for residents is essential. Traffic management regarding access from Braintree Road is also key and members felt that yellow lines fronting the Bardfield Centre would prevent inconsiderate overflow parking. It is also important that the management company pay greater attention to the street view and manage the hedges etc. better than at present. It was also felt that if this development were supported it would be easier to justify opposition for any larger development that may be proposed in the future

## **8. PARISH ACTION PLAN**

**Village Map:** David Meldrum had been given details of the amendments discussed at the March meeting and would prepare a revised full scale map for display at the Parish Assembly.

## **9. PIPERS MEADOW**

There had been a problem with sewage once again and Anglian Water will be contacted as there was concern about the impact on the 10 year management programme. It would appear that there have been similar incidents on land behind the Town Hall and Finchingfield Brook.

## **10. PLAYINGFIELD / PAVILION PROJECT**

**Playground:** Quotations and plans had been received from Sutcliff Play and Wicksteed which met the Council's criteria. Although the youth club and toddlers' group had been consulted initially a further opportunity for comment would be given at the Parish Assembly.

**Pavilion/Landscaping:** Tracey Clarke was putting together a design plan for presentation at the Parish Assembly. A team of volunteers were currently clearing rubble and plasterboard from the pavilion and it was agreed that a small skip could be hired if it was of help. The Clerk would liaise with those concerned.

## **11. POLICE**

Cllr Hayward attended the Local Council Police Partnership facilitated by EALC on 25 March 2015. The keynote speaker was Nick Alston, Police and Crime Commissioner, with other speakers talking about the work of the Special Constabulary, Community Agents, Traveller Liaison and the Essex Community Message Service. Related paperwork from the day would be circulated.

## **12. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT**

**Brook Street Pavement:** The new owner of Brook House had written requesting that the keep clear sign along the drop down kerb be repainted and suggested a bollard be installed in the pavement “to ensure the safety of pedestrians and ensure there access isn’t blocked”. Over recent weeks there had been as many as nine vehicles parked here in connection with work on the property and once the work was over the situation would be monitored. However, Members were not persuaded that there was a need for a bollard and in fact this could be considered an obstacle on the footway. In the meantime a request would be made to Highways to have the sign repainted however it would be emphasised that this was originally installed because the previous owner had been a doctor who was frequently ‘on call’ and needed to ensure easy access.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

**Toilet Twinning:** This letter was noted and the Town Hall had also discussed the request for support for this charity event.

**Hall Field:** An invitation to all Members and Clerk had been received from Greenfields for 22 April to attend the official opening of this small development. Alfie Holland who had won the naming competition would be present with some of his classmates.

## **14. ITEMS OF REPORT**

Town Hall AGM 22 April 2015 – Cllr Ruffle would ensure that a notice was displayed for this meeting.

**Blocked Stream:** It was reported that the Environment Agency had been contacted by the land owner (Mr Blackwell), regarding a blocked stream, but had not responded and the PC had been asked if they could help. Members wondered if this might not be a main water course and therefore not within the EA remit. The Clerk was asked to make enquiries.

**VAS:** Although this was promised for the 2015/16 year the Clerk had not been given a date but would try again to get this information.

## **15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This will be the AGM to be held on 13 May 2015.

The Parish Assembly will be held on 24 April 2015.