

Little Bardfield Parish Council



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Meeting of the Parish Council

Tuesday 9th February 2021

7.00pm

This meeting was held remotely via zoom due to the Covid19 pandemic

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Cllr Andrew Davies, Cllr Terry Cutmore, Cllr Colin Simpson, Liz Williamson (Clerk)
District Councillor – Cllr Sandi Merifield; County Councillor – Cllr Simon Walsh
Apologies for absence – Cllr Paul Eastall.

1. Chairs Welcome/Apologies for Absence/Declarations of Interest

- 1.1 Cllr Andrew Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting.
The meeting was held remotely via Zoom which was hosted by Cllr Andrew Davies.
Cllr Eastall sent his apologies for not attending the meeting. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

- 2.1 Cllr Merifield requested that the minutes of the November Meeting were amended to include reference to the District Councillor Report that had been submitted. Cllr Davies approved the amendment and agreed that the minutes were an accurate account of the meeting.

2.2 Matters arising

- 2.3 Cllr Cutmore has contacted Charles Thompson, the Church Warden, has been asked for any historical information on the wooden grave marker in St Katherines churchyard so that it can be passed to the UDC Heritage List co-ordinator.
- 2.4 Cllr Cutmore has also sent a response to the query received regarding solar farms.
- 2.5 The wooden bench which is to be gifted to the cricket club is being stored in William Gardiners barn and will be given to the cricket club once the club re-opens.

Clerk to amend minutes to reference District Councillors report

3. Public Forum

- 3.1 There were no members of the public present at the meeting
- 3.2 The Chair welcomed Cllr Walsh to the meeting. A report has been submitted by Cllr Walsh and circulated to Members which provides details of Covid related issues that he is currently involved in dealing with, as well as the Energy Switchover which has been very successful and has had around 7,500 sign up and a further 5,000 after a media interview took place. The report also contains details of how and who to report flood related issues to, as the ground is currently water logged due to extreme weather conditions. Further details can be found in the County Councillor Report which is published on the Parish website together with the District Councillor Report.
- 3.3 Cllr Davies attended a Zoom Webinar which discussed climate change and found it to be very useful. Cllr Walsh is very involved in this project and the aim is to work with the District Council/landowners and local businesses to reduce the carbon footprint in Essex. Lord Randall is the Chair of the Climate Meeting and wants achievable goals to be made. Cllrs expressed their appreciation of prompt responses in relation to parish matters.

- 3.4 Cllr Merifield was thanked for her report which was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Merifield requested that the Parish Council takes part in the Local Plan Consultation. The deadline for comments is 24/04/21. The new plan will effect everyone and sites are required for housing growth. Small and medium sites are required, and Cllr Merifield encouraged everyone to consider potential sites and submit these sites to the district council for consideration.
- 3.5 Cllr Merifield provided an update regarding the floodlights which have been erected at Frenches Farm. A retrospective planning application was granted permission for a menage, but a condition was included that stated no floodlighting/external lighting should be installed. To enable the District Council to investigate a formal complaint needed to be submitted to UDC Enforcement Team. Cllr Merifield is happy to try and assist with any queries arising from this complaint.

Clerk to lodge formal complaint to UDC Enforcement Team

- 3.6 Cllr Davies thanked Cllr Merifield for her continued support. Due to the elections in May this would be the last parish council meeting that Cllr Merifield attended.
4. Health and Safety Issue Dump Site
- 4.1 No response yet received in relation to correspondence sent.
5. Proposed Barn
- 5.1 No response received and therefore there is currently no update.
6. Budget 2021/2022
- 6.1 It was discussed and agreed that in future all S137 Donations should be taken from the Treasurers account and not from the Community Account.
- 6.2 Maintenance for the Vehicle Activated Sign was discussed, Cllr Cutmore suggested allocating £400 to the budget as the sign is the responsibility of the Parish Council and it is currently not working. Cllr Davies agreed, and Cllr Cutmore seconded this proposal. The budget was agreed by all Councillors. **Cllr Cutmore to amend the budget spreadsheet**
7. Planning Appeal Glebe Barn
- 7.1 The Parish Council supported the planning application which was refused by UDC. Therefore, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate which re-iterated the Parish Councils support for the proposed works.

Clerk to draft letter to the Planning Inspectorate

8. Vexatious Complaints Policy
- 8.1 Hayden Parish Council have adopted a policy which Cllr Simpson had circulated to PC Members. A discussion took place as to whether the policy should be adopted for Little Bardfield PC. It was suggested that legal advice be sought.

Clerk to contact EALC to seek assistance

9. Any Other Business
- 9.1 Cllr Cutmore will draft an annual report which will be circulated to Councillors before being circulated to parishioners. Cllr Davies thanked Cllr Cutmore for carrying out this task.
- 9.2 The Almshouses Report had been circulated to Members of the PC. It was approved by all Members.
- 9.3. Cllr Walsh and Cllr Merifield were thanked for attending the meeting and for their ongoing support with issues within the Little Bardfield Parish. Their support is welcomed.
- 9.4 A Councillor Forum is being held remotely on Thursday 11th February and will be attended by Cllr Davies. **Clerk to register Cllr Davies details**
- 9.5 Date of next meeting 11/05/2021 – start time – 7pm Meeting closed at 19:45