

LITTLE BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting held on Monday 8th May 2017 at 7.30pm in Gardiner's Barn

Members Present

Cllr William Gardiner (Chairman), Cllr Terry Cutmore (Vice Chairman), Cllr Colin Simpson, Cllr Clare Beeston, Cllr Andrew Davies, C Cllr Simon Walsh, D Cllr Simon Howell, Mrs C. Feltham-Williams (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Mrs. Debbie Candler

2. Public Forum

No members of the public present

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the 6th February were approved by all Councillors and signed by Cllr William Gardiner (Chairman)

Matters Arising

Noticeboards have been installed today, the £500 donation from D. Cllr Simon Howell will be put towards the cost. All Councillors approved the payment between meetings when the invoice arrives. Approximate amount of invoice £3733.

Meeting to discuss the naming of Hawkspur Green Lane with Uttlesford District Council has been postponed until Wednesday 10th May, Cllr Terry Cutmore will attend.

Resurfacing work is complete, however there are a couple of outstanding potholes on Cook's Lane.

The Speed Camera has been returned to Essex Police.

The mud on the road was cleaned by the people responsible.

There will be an update on the broadband at a later date by Cllr Clare Beeston.

The Sewage works have now been fixed. A letter of thanks to be send to Mr J Judson.

Action Clerk

To clarify a point from the 6th February meeting – the path between Styles and The Hydes is a permissive footpath.

4. Planning

Nothing to report on Planning.

5. Highways

Outstanding Potholes on Cook's Lane.

D. Low tender for the Verge Cutting was approved by all Councillors. The Councillors wish the first cut to be for safety reasons only this will allow the wildflowers to seed. The second cut can be a fuller cut.

6. Finance

The Council agreed put a further £1000 in reserve in the event of a Contested Election

Account balance 8/5/2017 **£11531.32**

Invoices approved for payment

Nancy Powell Davies – Internal Auditor	£150
Clerk Salary and expenses since Dec 16	£600.08
EALC affiliation fee	£84.86
Cllr Terry Cutmore Expenses	£6.24

Account Balance after payment (including £210 Donations from AGM) **£10480.14**

The Parish Clerk has completed a VAT return for the dates 1.5.2015 – 31.3.2017

Insurance Renewal

Cllr Colin Simpson has gained Insurance quotes. The Council agreed to change insurer to Zurich from AON saving approx. £100 for the same cover.

Action Cllr C Simpson to complete new Zurich insurance

Clerk to cancel existing policy once the new policy has been set up

7. AOB

- **D Cllr Report**

If the Council has a project in mind for the community D Cllr Simon Howell could help with a donation again this year.

D Cllr Simon Howell has kindly offered another donation to the Parish Council towards a community project this year. However, the Parish Council agreed that other Parishes were in greater need.

Action Clerk to send letter thanking D Cllr Howell for his offer

- **C. Cllr Report**

There has been an investment to repair roads, this is happening in two stages, to repairs potholes then to resurface.

There is a number of schemes running to encourage recycling.

Results from the A120 consultation should be available shortly

Solar Farm

Mrs Debbie Candler has spoken to Noemie Dagueneat at LightSource regarding the weed killing at the Solar Farm site that has also killed the grass. Her report was delivered by Cllr Clare Beeston. The response from LightSource is that the weed killing is usual practice to treat the site with a selective herbicide prior to establishing grazing sheep as some plants are poisonous to sheep. It was pointed out that a non-selective herbicide had been used killing off all vegetation, Ms Dagueneat is to come back with more information about the use of the non-selective herbicide.

A Clause states that the site is to be grazed by sheep within a year, Ms Dagueneat said the site will be re-sown and sheep there by the end of the year, it was also mentioned that the hedges need watering and the oak standards are already dead. Watering is to take place if dry spell continues and the oak standards will be replaced in the autumn and the plot has been re-sown in the last week.

Council to review this at the meeting in September

Affinity Water are putting sensors in the road to detect leaks

Following a flood in June 16, Culverts have been jetted, this appeared to flush out something that looked like sewage. After being investigated, with the cooperation of local residents and Uttlesford District Council, this has been declared as sludge from the drains.

Hawkspur Green Lane being recognised as a divert route. Finally, after three times, Essex County Council have removed this Lane from their database so this should not happen again Cllr Terry Cutmore aims to get the road renamed as a lane to help avoid this happening again.

Cllr Andrew Davies has an Open Farm on Sunday 11th June from 11am-4pm, Information has been put up around the parish and on noticeboards.

There is a blocked pipe by the White House, this is causing a problem with drainage with possible sewage outfall. Something will have to be done to rectify this situation.

From the Autumn, the council will need a new public venue to hold meetings, all suggestions are welcome.

Meeting Closed at 9.15pm