



Pebmarsh Parish Council



Chairman: Cllr H Anderson

Clerk: Mrs P Potter: 20 Gore Lane, Rayne, CM77 6TU: 07790 598363;
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MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held Tuesday 7 July 2015

Present:

Cllr H Anderson (Chairman)
Cllr P Crimmins
Cllr S Nott

In attendance:

Mrs P Potter (Clerk)
District Cllr G Spray

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jim Holder and Cllr Jackie Tufnell.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held 18 May 2015

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed accordingly.

4. District and County Items

4.1 BDC Issues: Cllr Spray attended the meeting and reported on the first Full Council meeting at Braintree District Council since the recent election. Topics raised by Councillors included:

- Affordable housing and housing in general. There is concern about the number of houses needed and the lack of infrastructure, which will come once the houses are built.
- Standards at schools in Braintree are some of the lowest in Essex – looking at how to tackle this.
- Obesity – a worrying trend, especially in young children.
- Broadband – poor coverage in the rural areas, especially north of Halstead. It was suggested that the Parish Council write to the Leader and Chief Executive at BDC to complain about the poor service.

Cllr Spray gave an explanation of the Mi Community fund and encouraged the Parish Council to get a project ready to put in for funding in the next round, which will open in September. Cllr Crimmins will be looking into making an application.

4.2 ECC Issues: County Councillor David Finch was not available to attend this meeting.

5. Public Forum

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

6. BDC Planning Issues

6.1 Planning Applications:

15/00831/FUL: Grove House, Cross End – erection of first floor extension.

This was discussed and further details will be looked into before the deadline for comment of 27 July.

6.2: Planning Committee

None

6.3 Planning Results:

The following cases were permitted – these were noted:

- 15/00415/LBC: Hunts Hall, Colne Road – Retention of internal and external alterations including lean-to, extension and replacement windows.
- 15/00394/FUL: Honeypot Cottage, Cross End – Rear kitchen/utility room extension.
- 15/00055/FUL: New Barn Farm, The Street – Loft conversion, dormer and external escape staircase.

7. **Telecommunications Mast – Survey**

Cllr Anderson has circulated a summary of the current situation, especially regarding the last round of consultation, where many of the objections to the proposed site contained inaccuracies. The current round of funding for these projects has now come to an end and the situation with any further funding will not be known until later in the year.

The survey results were as follows:

- Out of the 234 households in the parish, 159 responded – approximately 2/3rds of the village.
- Of the 159 responses, 141 stated they had either a poor (54) or non-existent (87) signal.
- 95 households said that a good mobile signal was very important to them and a further 48 said it was quite important.
- 142 households said they would support the erection of a mobile phone mast (provided it was not intrusive to nearby residences), whereas 14 said no and 3 didn't answer directly.

A number of responses also asked for better broadband speed and coverage. This is being promised over the next couple of years but the Parish Council are pressing for this to be rolled out as quickly as possible.

8. **Telephone Kiosk/Defibrillator**

The insurance position regarding the defibrillator and telephone box needs to be clarified. The Clerk will look into the possible replacement cost of the red telephone box and enquire with the insurance company as to what change in premium would result from this being insured. The position regarding the defibrillator is not known and this will be checked. If the Parish Council needs to insure this, the Clerk will arrange this with the insurance company.

9. **Strutt & Parker – Glebe Land Rent Increase**

The Parish Council are awaiting a response from Strutt & Parker. The next rent review is due on 29 Sept 2016, to be agreed in the preceding six months. The Clerk will monitor the situation early next year.

10. **Employee Pension Scheme – New Regulations**

The Parish Council received information about the new pension regulations which will come into force in March 2017. The Clerk will keep the Council up to date as and when information is received.

11. **Finance**

11.1 Finance Report

The latest finance reports were received by Councillors.

11.2 The following cheques were approved for payment:

11.2.1	£ 413.84	Clerk Salary (June-July 2015)
11.2.2	£ 185.77	Clerk Expenses (May-June 2015)
11.2.3	£ 17.00	New Councillor File
11.2.4	£ 48.00	RCCE Subscription 2015/16
11.2.5	£ 18.00	BALC Subscription 2015/16

11.3 The following payments were made between meetings:

11.3.1	£ 26.40	A& J Lighting Maintenance (June 2015)
11.3.2	£ 26.40	A&J Lighting Maintenance (July 2015)
11.3.3	£ 36.00	Chris Mortimer – Playground Inspection
11.3.4	£ 220.80	Chris Mortimer – Grass cutting (9 May and 23 May)
11.3.5	£ 627.07	Zurich Insurance
11.3.6	£ 36.00	Chris Mortimer – Playground Inspection
11.3.7	£1056.00	Chris Mortimer – Playground Maintenance/Repair

11.4 The following monies have been received since the last meeting

11.4.1	£ 848.50	ECC – P3 payment 2014/15
11.4.2	£ 114.25	ECC – Grass Cutting payment 2014/15
11.4.3	£ 400.00	Pebmarsh Parochial Church Council donation to War Memorial renovations.

12. **Footpaths**

The cutting of the footpaths has been handed back to ECC to undertake and maintain, as they are now only offering to pay for one cut per year. Unfortunately, this information came after the budget and precept had been set for this financial year and therefore no extra monies were available to plug the shortfall. The Parish Council felt that one cut per year was unacceptable and that the state of the footpaths could become very overgrown and cause a danger. Therefore, the decision was made to hand the responsibility for this back to ECC. There have been many complaints made to the Parish Council regarding the overgrown state of the footpaths, which have been passed on to ECC, with whom the Parish Council are liaising with to rectify the situation.

13. **Car Park Maintenance**

The Village Hall Committee are concerned about the state of the car park surface and have received quotes for the repairs. The Parish Council have not budgeted for this kind of work in this financial year and cannot fund this, at present. However, there is the chance to bid for funding via the Mi Community fund, which is run by BDC. Cllr Crimmins will be putting together the evidence showing the need for this work, by obtaining information from hirers and users of the hall. The Mi Community fund launches in September and the Clerk will forward on any information received on this next round, to Cllr Crimmins so that a bid can be put together.

14. **Clerk's Report**

- The ECC and Southend-on-Sea BC Joint Replacement Waste Local Plan is currently out to public consultation, until 30 July 2015. Please see the ECC website for details.
- A temporary road closure notice has been received regarding Church Road, Twinstead, commencing on 27 July. The alternative route is via Lorkin's Lane, Pebmarsh Road and vice versa.
- Cllr Crimmins attended the recent Community Speedwatch training. To set this up in Pebmarsh, there would need to be three teams of three people on a rota. The initial set up is a long process, which could take 18-24 months.

This involves training, traffic surveys, analysis and approval of speedwatch sites. Once set up, equipment would be shared with a nearby Parish Council and a buddy system would be put in place so that volunteers can be shared to ensure that everyone has cover. The site for monitoring speed also needs to have a good mobile signal, for health and safety reasons. The likelihood of being able to set this up in Pebmarsh will be investigated.

15. Date of Next Meeting

The date of Monday 14 September was provisionally agreed, subject to availability and venue hire.

16. Closure

The meeting closed at 9pm.