



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 meeting held on
Monday 13 March 2017

Present:

Cllr H Anderson
Cllr P Crimmins
Cllr J Holder
Cllr M Sharp
Cllr J Tufnell

Clerk: Mrs P Potter
County Cllr D Finch
District Cllr G Spray

Two members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Anderson, Crimmins, Sharp and Tufnell all declared a disclosable pecuniary interest regarding agenda item 15 – The Kings Head pub, as they have invested in the company.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

It was Proposed Cllr Holder, Seconded Cllr Tufnell, and unanimously resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2017 are a true record and were signed accordingly.

4. District and County Items

4.1 BDC Issues:

Cllr Spray reported that the BDC budget was approved at the end of February. Finances are very tight, as monies from central government are gradually being cut to local councils, but Officers and Members have done a very good job in cutting the budget, without cutting front line services. There will be a small increase to the Council Tax – the first for a few years, but the approval rating from the public remains good. As we are getting towards the end of the Council year, Members will be looking at Committee membership, to which some changes will inevitably take place.

Planning continues apace, although the landscape is quite a difficult one, with examples of local authority decisions being overturned on judicial review, where the original decision and appeal decision were in accord and seemed to be robust in that the authority had a deliverable five year land supply.

BDC Councillors were recently visited by the police, who presented information regarding drug offences which are taking place, especially where a group of people take over the house of a person, usually a vulnerable adult, as a base for storing and selling drugs. Some progress is being made with arrests etc but members of the public are encouraged to report anything they believe to be suspicious to the police, or to Crimestoppers so that it can be investigated. The presentation also outlined plans to put more Special Constables on the beat, particularly in the rural areas.

4.2 ECC Issues:

Cllr Finch attended the meeting and reported that the Government has provided about £2bn at the disposal of the upper tier authorities for social care funding over next three years. ECC will receive £52m over the next three years, with £26m up front, £16m in the second year and £8-10m in the third year.

This funding is very welcome, as Essex has a 'superaged' population, with 22% of residents being over the age of 65. Significant funds have been allocated to Highways for road maintenance. Investment in the region of £680m is taking place to provide new schools to cover the increase in housing, with three new schools in Colchester and two in Chelmsford. ECC are lobbying the Government regarding the funding of building schools. Currently, ECC fund the building of the school, however if they become an academy or free school, they then fall outside of ECC control, but do not take on the funding of construction repayments

Initiatives are being encouraged around growing the economy of Essex, as the second largest economy in the UK. ECC are lobbying Government to devolve skills funding to Essex and other counties, so that this can be specifically directed towards those skills needed in different areas.

Cllr Anderson asked Cllr Finch whether ECC are going to be able to find sufficient numbers of carers, when using the extra money raised from the Social Care part of the Council Tax.

Cllr Finch answered that the money will be used for either domiciliary or residential care and that the market is reasonably flexible. There are a number of initiatives being worked through at present, such as schemes which would hold details of a bank of carers who would be called upon according to their availability and proximity to where they are needed. There are issues around the shortage of carers and social workers, who are happy to be trained here but are then poached by other areas. Further developments within Social Care are centred around the prevention of problems and accidents. For example, technology is being developed to try and predict when someone is likely to fall and to be able to use this within the home to alert the person and hopefully prevent a fall happening.

Cllr Anderson asked if there are going to be any improvements being made to the road network, to cater for the amount of housing which is being proposed, preferably being undertaken before the houses are built. Cllr Finch replied that ECC are lobbying for better funding and improvements for roads and infrastructure. This is not only important for those roads and services within Essex but also for those which are near to the boundary, for example, 15,000 being built in Hertfordshire which are very close to Harlow and will inevitably have an impact on the Essex roads and services as well as those in Hertfordshire.

Cllr Finch reported that Essex has a high number of those over the age of 65, with various degrees of dementia. ECC are working with families and communities to try to prolong the amount of time which people are able to stay at home with their families, rather than being taken into residential care. Day care facilities are also being reviewed and assessed to ensure that these facilities are delivering the kind of care which is needed, both for dementia sufferers and those adults with learning difficulties, as it is evident that, currently, this is not always the case.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Finch for attending and providing a comprehensive update. Cllr Finch was also thanked for all his hard work and support over the current period of office.

5. **Public Forum**

Two members of public attended the meeting to ask if there was any further information regarding the scheme which was recently proposed regarding a 'build your own house' scheme at the football field in Pebmarsh, and whether this opportunity would be for those people who have a local connection to the village. Cllr Anderson replied that the outline of a scheme was recently brought to the Parish Council as an idea but that nothing further had yet happened to take this forward. Once further information is to hand, the Parish Council will report on progress.

6. **BDC Planning**

6.1 Planning Application

- 17/00251/Scotts Farm, Cripple Corner: Erection of single storey side extension. *The Parish Council had no comment and no objections to this application.*

6.2: Planning Committee – *this was noted:*

- 16/02128/FUL: 3 Mill Lane – Erection of single storey side extension. *The Parish Council had no comment and no objections to this application.*

6.3 Planning Results – these were noted:

The following application was withdrawn:

- 16/02003/FUL: Spoons Hall, Levitts Corner – Dismantling and rebuilding of an outbuilding. *The Parish Council had no comments and no objections.*

The following application was granted:

- 16/02135/FUL: Grove House, Cross End – Erection of first floor side and rear extension. *The Parish Council had no comments and no objections.*

7. **Grass Cutting**

Following the comparison of quotes, it was agreed to appoint Robert Henn to undertake the grass cutting in the village for 2017/18 – Proposed Cllr Crimmins, Seconded Cllr Sharp and unanimously agreed.

8. **Playground**

It was Proposed Cllr Crimmins, Seconded Cllr Sharp and unanimously agreed to purchase two bags of bark for £115 each, to undertake the playground repairs.

9. **Glebe Land – Deed of Variation**

Cllr Anderson has drafted wording for the Deed of Variation regarding the circumstances in which the Diocese can serve notice to end the lease, to ensure that this can only happen if planning permission is granted on the land. Proposed Cllr Anderson, Seconded Cllr Holder and unanimously agreed.

10. **Review of Operational and Financial Risk Assessment**

The Operational and Financial Risk Assessment was reviewed and it was Proposed Cllr Tufnell, Seconded Cllr Anderson and agreed approve it.

11. **Review of Asset Register**

The Asset Register was reviewed and it was Proposed Cllr Sharp, Seconded Cllr Crimmins to approve it.

12. **Finance**

12.1 Finance Report

The latest finance reports were received.

12.2 Cheques for Payment

It was Proposed Cllr Tufnell, Seconded Cllr Anderson and unanimously agreed to approve the following cheques for payment:

12.2.1	£209.08	Salary (1 – 31 March 2017)
12.2.2	£ 47.29	Clerk Expenses (January to March 2017)
12.2.3	£ 38.40	C Mortimer: Play Equipment Inspection (January 2017)
12.2.4	£ 38.40	C Mortimer: Play Equipment Inspection (February 2017)
12.2.5	£ 60.00	Grass Cutting Payment
12.2.6	£ 40.00	EALC – Clerk training

12.3 Payments made between meetings were noted and approved:

12.3.1	£ 26.40	A & J Lighting Maintenance (February 2017)
12.3.2	£ 26.40	A & J Lighting Maintenance (March 2017)

12.4 Monies received since the last meeting were noted:

12.4.1	£ 8.97	NS&I interest 2016
12.4.2	£1063.80	HMRC – reclamation of VAT
12.4.3	£ 23.34	Kelvedon Parish Council – contribution to Clerk's training

13. **Parish Paths Partnership**

It was Proposed Cllr Crimmins, Seconded Cllr Sharp and unanimously agreed to join the ECC Parish Paths Partnership Scheme for 17/18 and sign the Service Level Agreement. The Chairman signed the SLA, which the Clerk will return to ECC. This will see the Parish Council paying for one cut during the season and ECC paying for a second cut.

Cllr Sharp informed the meeting that (as an individual) he is arranging a footpath clearing event with volunteers from the village, to assist with maintenance at the start of the season.

The first cut of the season will be due around the beginning of May, subject to weather and other conditions, which will be co-ordinated by Cllr Sharp.

14. **Broadband**

During a recent review, it came to light that some houses in Mill Lane in Pebmarsh were being claimed as being reachable by County Broadband but this is not the case. It seems that due to issues with the cabling in Mill Lane these properties cannot be included in the Phase 2 upgrade of the Superfast Essex Broadband project. Superfast Essex were contacted and following discussions, for these properties, the map has been changed to reflect that they are to be included in the Phase 3 plans which are expected to start from July 2019. A report by the Broadband Champion, Roger Cuthbert was read out to the meeting.

15. **Kings Head Pub**

Due to the number of declarations of interest, this item was not discussed.

16. **NALC Local Council Award Scheme**

The Clerk outlined the scheme and recommended that the Parish Council undertake this, as the majority of the criteria can already be met and the remainder can be met once some work has been completed. It was Proposed Cllr Tufnell, Seconded Cllr Anderson and unanimously agreed to pursue the award and pay both the registration fee of £50 and the fee on obtaining the award, of £50. The Clerk will progress this over the next few months.

17. **BDC Community Governance Review**

The Parish Council discussed the contents of the review and decided that nothing needs to be put forward for change, with regard to the number of seats on the Parish Council, or the Council's name. The other criteria under review did not apply.

18. Date of Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Parish Council Meeting

The Clerk will canvass Councillors for a mutually agreeable date and confirm this on the website and noticeboards as soon as possible.

19. Closure

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date