



Pebmarsh Parish Council



Chairman: Cllr Harry Anderson

Clerk: Mrs P Potter, 20 Gore Lane, Rayne, CM77 6TU: 07790 598363; pebmarshpc@hotmail.com

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 30 May 2018

Present:

Cllr Anderson
Cllr Holder
Cllr Crimmins
Cllr Sharp

Clerk: Philippa Potter
County Cllr D Finch
District Cllr G Spray
Revd Gay Ellis
15 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tufnell and District Cllr Siddall.

**2. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Assembly –
held 23 May 2017, to be agreed and signed**

It was Proposed Cllr Anderson, Seconded Cllr Sharp and unanimously agreed to accept the minutes as a true record and these were signed accordingly.

3. School Road Safety and Parking Issues

Cllr Anderson introduced this item, which had been put on this agenda following complaints from parents/carers at the school regarding issues of parking and road safety outside St John the Baptist Primary School. It has been quite a long time since the last speed survey was undertaken in Pebmarsh by ECC, which, although found evidence of speeding vehicles, deduced that it was not prevalent enough to warrant traffic calming measures, at that time. The other part of the issues raised relates to parking outside the school, along The Street and even on the war memorial green. Parking is available at the village hall car park for school drop off and pick up, but it seems that this becomes full. The Chairman and Clerk recently met with the Headteacher and Revd Ellis (as School Governor), to discuss the issues and it became clear that some measures regarding both parking and road safety need to be implemented.

It was noted, particularly, that there are no yellow zigzag lines/parking restrictions exists on the road outside the school. Cllr Finch said that these were necessary and the Parish Council should apply to have these put in. Both Cllr Finch and Cllr Spray gave their backing to such an application.

During the discussion, members of the public expressed their concerns regarding speeding throughout the village and also more specific issues, including the following:

- Junction of Mill Lane and The Street, opposite the church, where visibility is difficult.
- Bridge – markings are now faint and the priority signs need straightening and cleaning.
- Street signs in general need cleaning.
- Not safe for children to cross The Street, especially from the Mill Lane junction, so it is not possible for them to walk to school entirely by themselves, once old enough.
- Children in the audience also expressed their concerns about their safety and were upset that they did not feel it was safe enough to be able to walk to school by themselves.

Cllr Finch suggested that a road safety audit be undertaken for the village, to highlight the areas which are an issue and then for some ideas to be put forward to combat these. The Clerk will follow this up with Cllr Finch, who will then report back to the Parish Council on progress.

An application will need to be put in to the North Essex Parking Partnership for the yellow lines and parking restrictions outside the school, which both Cllr Finch and Cllr Spray gave their backing to.

4. Report from County Councillor David Finch

Cllr Finch attended and gave an overview of his report, which will be available on the Parish Council website and is appended to these minutes. The report can be summarised as follows:

- ECC are looking into devolution ideas for some of the smaller things which could be devolved to Parish Councils, such as cleaning of the road signs. More information would follow as those ideas are taken forward.
- Schools in Essex are performing extremely well, with a very high percentage being rated as 'good' or 'outstanding'.
- A 'Live Well' campaign is under way to promote increased activity amongst residents, such as the 30 minutes of activity for 30 days programme.
- Housing – 150,000 dwellings being proposed for the county, together with the deliverance of infrastructure and community facilities to encourage the formation of communities in these developments.
- Funding – there are a few streams of funding available to Parish Councils and communities to apply for, to help with projects and ideas, from Essex County Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Finch for attending and agreeing to do what he can to assist with the road safety and parking issues.

5. Reports from District Councillor Spray and District Councillor Siddall

Cllr Anderson once again paid tribute to both District Councillors for their work on behalf of the Parish and District over the past year and thanked them both for

attending the majority of our Parish Council meetings and for their constant support. Cllr Siddall was not able to attend but had provided his annual report, which was distributed to those in attendance and is available to read on the Parish Council website.

Cllr Spray was in attendance and gave her report, with the key points as below:

- This is a challenging time financially for all councils, with funding cuts from central government. BDC aim to maintain services despite cost reductions and are delivering on this in the main.
- A customer survey feedback has provided a very positive response from the public to BDC and its services in general.
- Energy switching – this project has delivered around £125 worth of savings per household who take part.
- Fly tipping – BDC is coming down hard on those who are caught fly tipping and prosecutions have taken place.
- Essex Playing Fields Association – BDC have won a large number of awards for their playgrounds and playing fields this year.
- Apprenticeships – BDC have taken on staff from this scheme and are continuing to take part and promote these.
- Live Well campaign – BDC are taking part in this, encouraging more exercise for all age groups.
- Local Plan – this is currently being reviewed/revise, following Part One being examined and sent back to BDC for further work to be done, by the Planning Inspector. This will delay the Plan for some time.
- Essex Police are very stretched but are doing a good job in spite of this. Special Constables are being promoted, with around 400 having been recruited. This is a voluntary position which takes around 18 months for someone to be trained. Parish Councils can assist by paying towards the cost of a Special Constable.

Cllr Spray thanked the Parish Council for their support to both her and Cllr Siddall over the last year and for the work the Council does for the village.

6. Chairman's Report/Annual Report

The Chairman read his report, which forms part of the Annual Report, and circulated it to those present. The report is appended to these minutes and available on the website. A couple of points were highlighted as follows:

- Cllr Spray was thanked for the funding made available to the Parish Council to pay towards the updating of play equipment.
- Broadband – things are moving on this but Mill Lane still has issues regarding the requirement for the cable here to be replaced.
- Footpaths – these are cut by the Parish Council twice per year, as opposed to the ECC cut once per year.

7. John Nott Charity Report

The report was read to the meeting, is available on the website and is appended to these minutes.

8. Village Hall Report

The annual report and accounts were summarised to the meeting, will be appended to the minutes and available on the website. Cllr Anderson thanked Mr Nott for the continued hard work of all of the Committee.

9. Street Lighting Survey

The Parish Council launched a survey to ask residents for their opinions about whether the old orange lamps in the street lights should be changed to the new white LED bulbs, which are being rolled out across Essex in all of the main street lights. As the lights in Pebmarsh are all owned and maintained by the Parish Council, we won't benefit from this change, unless it is funded and undertaken by them. The other option to consider is whether to move in line with the lights owned by Essex and switch the lights off overnight (between 12.30am and 5.00am, or thereabouts). The LED bulbs will be more energy efficient than the old orange ones and switching the lights off will save electricity.

Members of the public put forward differing views on this subject, and they were asked to complete the survey to give the Parish Council those views so they can be taken into account in the findings. The survey will be available on the Parish Council website and can be returned to the Clerk either by email or in the post.

10. Public Questions

Dog walkers – some are not picking up after their dog, leaving problems for others using the paths. The Clerk will look into whether signage can be obtained from BDC.