

BLACKMORE, HOOK END & WYATTS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Ordinary Meeting of the Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green Parish Council held on THURSDAY 20th JANUARY 2022 at 7.30pm At Tipps Cross Remembrance Hall

Members present: R Keeble (Chairman), T Lockhart, K Bennett, A Watley, V Dean, T Thomas, T Hinton, J Lewis, K Wood, K Parkinson. S Clapham (Parish Clerk) and R Nelson (RFO). T Bridge- BBC.

0164 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr N McCarthy, H Cannon, J Clarke. Borough Cllr P Jakobsson, County Cllr L Wagland.

0165 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 16.12.21**

The minutes were signed as a correct record by Cllr Keeble.

0166 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST (for items on the agenda):** None declared.

0167 **OPEN FORUM (for Public Attendees):** no attendees.

0168 **PROGRESS CHECK** – no items.

0169 **CORRESPONDENCE** – no items.

0170 **REPORTS OF BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS –**

Borough Cllr T Bridge reported on the following items:

- **The ECC Locality Fund 2022/23** had been approved and applications could be received once it re-opened. Cllr Wagland usually notified the Clerk when this would be open for applications.
- **LDP** – The decision from the Inspectorate should be available before the end of February. BBC will then look to adopt this early to mid-March.
- **Brentwood Boundary Review** – This would inform BBC how many Cllr's would be required. Currently there are 37 Borough Cllr's but this could be subject to change. He gave a brief outline of the process and will update the PC once the report is published for inclusion on their February meeting agenda.

POLICY & RESOURCES

0171 **Finance - Payments made online:**

S Clapham -

Pension -

HMRC -

R Nelson –

£360.00 (inc.VAT) – Town & Country Landscape Co. Ltd – inv. dated 12.12.21 – Mill Lane bramble trimming and cutting the corner of Outings Lane, also strimming the ditch at Back Lane.

£384.00 (inc. VAT) – Town & Country Landscape Co. Ltd – inv. dated 12.12.21 – Bi-monthly work to strim Chelmsford Rd and the pond banks.

£20.00 - Bits and Bytes Essex – Cllr Lockhart's email issues – reimbursement.

£50.00 – L Cooper – reimbursement – Christmas lights at Kilne field – electricity costs

£1100.00 – SDS Tree Services – Trimming Tennis Court trees/shrubbery.

£259.00 – Planning application fee to BBC for the Queen's Jubilee beacon.

£182.40 (+ VAT) – Blackmore Annual CCTV inspection.

£8.90 – S Clapham – Reimbursement – Clerk’s expenses.

Payments made on the PC Credit Card: - nil

Cash drawn: - nil

Transfers: – nil

Memberships:- Essex Wildlife Trust membership renewal - £40.00 – pending Bank Account information so a Bank transfer can be made online.

Income/receipts: nil

0172 Financial Report to 31st December 2021

Mrs Nelson reported on the financial reports as distributed prior to the meeting as outlined above. All approved with no amendments.

Financial Powers

- 0173**
- a. BBC precept overcharge** – As discussed with Steve Summers and Jacqueline VanMellearts on 10.1.22, BBC stipulated that whilst the incorrect tax base information had been submitted to all Parish Councils, there was no overcharge to the PC’s residents. Action: No further action. This item can now be removed from the agenda.
 - b. Double Taxation** – This was again discussed with Steve Summers, BBC at a remote Zoom meeting held on 10.1.22. Cllr Hossack had requested further information of services and relevant parish-wide Concurrent function costs from BBC Officers so this could be formally considered at a Parish Council meeting ASAP. Steve Summers confirmed that a proposal would be made by Officers to the Council and Steve Summers will provide updates.
 - c. PC Grants** – The Clerk had received an email enquiry from Blackmore Primary School enquiring if the grants were still available for its swimming pool funds. It was confirmed that grants were still available and the Clerk will instruct the School to submit an application form, which the Clerk will send to them.
 - d. 2022/23 Budget** – A copy of the draft budget was circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. Cllr Bennett reported that there is an estimated underspend on the existing annual budget of £10-£11,000. This was mainly due to the confirmed grants received for the installation of new planters plus the insurance claim to recover the costs to replace the damaged Hay Green Lane fingerpost from the driver’s insurance company. These receipts buffered the PC’s expenditure. Reserves would be set aside to go towards the pond maintenance costs as well as necessary tree works. The budgets were carefully scrutinized and it was proposed by Cllr Bennett and unanimously agreed that the 2022/23 budget be approved without amendment.
 - e. Parish Precept 2022/23** – Based on close scrutiny of the budgets, it was proposed by Cllr Bennett and unanimously agreed that the precept amount be raised from £64.72 to £66.75 per Band D property per annum. This information would be supplied to BBC once their precept demand notification had been received - pending.

0174 HERALD MAGAZINE YEAR BOOK

The Clerk had spoken with Terry Smith who confirmed that he and Eileen would be prepared to publish a 2022/23 Parish Year book again if the PC wished to. The PC were very grateful to them and would plan to produce this around May time.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 0175**
- There had been no planning applications received since the last Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 25th January at 10.00am via Zoom. Cllr Lockhart read out his report which had been circulated to all members in relation to planning decisions made. The PC had a 90% agreement rate with BBC.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – SITES R25 AND R26

In accordance with '*The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960*' members of the public/Borough Council were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Following a meeting with the BVHA on 16th January, the Members considered the proposal made by them as follows.

- a. **JUDICIAL REVIEW** - In terms of a Judicial Review, the Members discussed this at great length. They took on board the risk and financial commitment this required and felt that it was not in the best interests to pursue a Judicial Review. It was not prepared to contribute any legal expenditure towards a case that it could not afford to commit to financially and see through to its conclusion. It was also not prepared to commit to contribute towards legal expenditure on a case which has no definitive total cost. The estimate of £5,000+ for a Barrister to assess the case on merit was found to be academic if it could not fund or 'partner' with the BVHA to file a case which could potentially cost in excess of £30,000. The PC also discussed the likelihood of success with Holmes and Hills before reaching this conclusion and they pointed out the complex nature of this type of case and the high risk of filing a JR. This motion was proposed and unanimously agreed.
- b. **LEGAL REPRESENTATION** - The Parish Council also agreed that should the BVHA wish to act independently of the Parish Council and instruct Holmes and Hills to represent them in the pursuit of a Judicial Review it had no objections.
As consultees, the Parish Council will be opposing any Planning Application pertaining to sites R25 and R26 once submitted. If further legal Planning advice was felt to be necessary at that stage it would consider contacting Holmes and Hills for assistance at that time. This motion was proposed and unanimously agreed.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

There had been a POS Committee meeting on 14th January 2022 at 10.00am via Zoom. The following items of business were discussed:

- 0176** **Mill Lane – New Play equipment project**
It was recommended by the POS Committee that the expenditure of £7,303.00 be approved for the new infant play equipment project, as quoted by Playquip Leisure. It was proposed by Cllr Watley and unanimously agreed. Action: The Clerk will place the order with Playquip Leisure.
- 0177** **Tennis club tree trimming**
Work is currently underway.
- 0178** **RTA – fingerpost at Hay Green Lane junction**
Work has been completed and the invoice received.
- 0179** **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Commemoration – June 2022**
The Planning Application has been submitted by Cllr Cannon with BBC.
- 0180** **Village Hall storage door**
The PC considered approving the expenditure to replace the roller door at the Village Hall. The quote received was £1540.00 (plus VAT) and the Village Hall would contribute 50% towards this. It was proposed by Cllr Bennett and unanimously agreed.
- 0181** **The re-arranged Airmen Dedication Service**
Cllr McCarthy has been liaising with the relevant organisations for this. The Dedication Service has been scheduled for 3pm on 24th September 2022. This will be held on the anniversary of the crash itself. The Clerk is in the process of sending out the invitations.

CLERK'S REPORT (Governance) – no reports.

0182

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS –

Planning – 25.1.22

Parks and Open Spaces – 11.2.22 at 10.00am – Zoom.

Ordinary Parish Council – 17.2.2022 – 7.30pm – Tipps Cross Remembrance Hall

INFORMATION EXCHANGE/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS – Cllr Parkinson read out a thank you card from Ann Davis (Parishioner of the Year).

CLOSE OF MEETING -There being no further items of business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed..... Dated