



BLACKMORE, HOOK END & WYATTS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES

**Of the Annual Meeting of the Blackmore, Hook End &
Wyatts Green Parish Council held on
THURSDAY 18th MAY 2023 at 7.30pm
At Tipps Cross Remembrance Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs R Keeble (Chairman), K Bennett, K Wood, H Cannon, V Dean, T Lockhart, A Watley, T Hinton, K Parkinson, J Lewis, Essex County Cllr L Wagland, Borough Cllrs T Bridge, R McCheyne, Mrs S Clapham, Parish Clerk, Mrs R Nelson, RFO

- Item 1 Election of Chairman –Cllr Bennett proposed Cllr Keeble, who confirmed his agreement to stand. There being no other nominations, Cllr Watley seconded and Cllr Keeble was unanimously elected.
- Item 2 Election of Vice Chairman – Cllr Lockhart signified his agreement to stand. His appointment was proposed by Cllr Bennett, seconded by Cllr Keeble. There were no other nominations and Cllr Lockhart was unanimously elected.
- Item 3 Election of Committees – All Councillors indicated their agreement to stand. Cllr Cannon proposed, Cllr Hinton seconded and it was unanimously agreed that all Councillors are reappointed with immediate effect.
- 0463 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs Thomas, McCarthy, Clarke
- 0464 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 20th April 2023**
The minutes were signed as a correct record by the Chairman with no amendments.
- 0465 DECLARATION OF INTEREST (for items on the agenda)** – Cllrs Cannon, Parkinson and Wood reported an interest in the arrangements for the May Village Fayre and Village Hall. Cllrs Keeble, Watley and Wood reported an interest in the Allotment Garden.
- 0466 OPEN FORUM** - No residents were present for the Open Forum.
- 0467 PROGRESS/CHECK REPORT**
The Bull Public House – Mr Bates at BBC had continued to chase Mr Keeble and his Historic Buildings Consultant but without any success. It was noted that the building is in a dreadful state and Cllr Bridge will discuss this with Mr Bates. **Action: Cllr Bridge**
Bench on Elkins Green – Mrs Driver has been given the relevant details and is happy with the Council’s recommended choice of bench.. She will now liaise with the Parish Clerk.
Action: Clerk
- 0468 CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS** – None
- 0469 REPORTS OF BOROUGH / ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
Brentwood Borough Council: Cllr Bridge reported that following the elections, the Conservatives no longer have overall control and the other two parties have formed a group to run the Borough Council. He confirmed that Cllr Barry Aspinall has been elected the new Leader and Cllr Mynott is Leader of Planning.

Cllr Bridge requested that planning issues should continue to be handled through the Parish. The Local Development Plan will come up for review in the future and he did not anticipate any changes to former planning decisions.

Cllr McCheyne, who was elected two weeks ago, reported that as both he and Cllr Bridge were members of the Planning Committee, they would be unable to act on Blackmore's behalf.

Essex County Council: Cllr Wagland expressed her delight that Mrs Clapham is back at work and hoped that they would soon start their regular liaison meetings. She was unhappy about the new housing developments in Blackmore but now that these have been approved, she explained that it is important to carefully consider how Section 106 monies are used, concentrating on infra-structure and conditions. Cllr Wagland referred to the "Elf" seat on Chelmsford Road and confirmed that the engineers are going to rectify the problem of the very short legs. £17.4m has been put back into the Highways budget but Cllr Wagland stressed that residents will have to be patient when it comes to road repairs. She was disappointed that someone had reported on the Parish website that there were 47 potholes still to be repaired in the Parish. She had not been given details of this number of potholes and she asked Councillors to record any instances on the inter-active site. She also said that if roadside grass verges needed to be cut for safety, access etc., they should be reported to BBC. Cllr Bridge confirmed that, in response to a recent query, the hedge on Nine Ashes Road will be cut back. Cllr Lockhart drew attention to very faded white lines in the local area and Cllr Wagland stressed that such problems must be reported on the Highways system. If nothing is done, she will progress the worst ones for action. The poor state of Blackmore Road was discussed but Cllr Wagland recommended that such areas should be dealt with as part of the planned schedule rather than having "stop-gap" repairs.

POLICY & RESOURCES

0470 Finance - Payments made online:

S Clapham –

Pension -

HMRC –

Mrs R Nelson –

Castle Water – water supply to War Memorial, £10.09 + VAT

Payments made on the PC Credit Card: Renewal of blackmore-gov.co.uk domain and blackmorepc.co.uk email accounts registration via UK2, £81.58 including VAT

Cash drawn: - Nil

Transfers: – Nil

Memberships:- Nil

Income/receipts/Reimbursements:

0471 FINANCIAL REPORT to 30th April 2023

All in accordance with the Finance reports circulated ahead of the meeting, with no amendments.

0472 FINANCIAL POWERS

Mini bus insurance: The RFO reported that the Parish Council insurance was due for renewal on 1st June 2023. The premium will increase from £1,880.79 to £1,949.81 (£69.02, 3.7%). The Council has an ongoing contract with Zurich which has kept annual increases to a very reasonable level. Cllr Watley proposed, Cllr Cannon seconded and the meeting unanimously approved renewal of the policy at £1,949.81. **Action: RFO**

Concurrent Functions – Following the recent elections, it was agreed that discussions should restart with the new Chairman of the Council, Cllr Aspinall and officials at BBC.

Action: Clerk

Presentation of draft Annual Accounts – Mrs Nelson had circulated the draft accounts to all Councillors and she reported that these are due for audit on Wednesday 7th June, following which they will be presented for signature at the June Council meeting.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

0473 The Planning Committee had met on 5th May 2023. To accept the planning reports as circulated ahead of the meeting by Cllr Lockhart. TL

23/00492/FUL – Oak Tree Farm, Chelmsford Road, change of use to horses and caravan site – *Objection*

23/00434/FUL – Kiln Farm, Mountnessing Road – demolition of barns and erection of dwelling and cartlodge/swimming pool - *Objection*

23/00465/TPO – Horselocks Cottage, Fingrith Hall Road – tree surgery – *No objection*

23/00452/HHA – Greenleas, Blackmore Road – demolition of existing rear extension, new rear extension and window changes – *No objection*

23/00192/HHA – Fine Oaks, Hook End Road – demolition of conservatory; new rear extension and front porch; detached garage into outbuilding – *No objection*

Cllr Bridge reported that the Fishers Yard planning application has been recommended for refusal.

Cllr Keeble reported that a new area of hard standing has been laid at Oak Tree Farm. The existing site represented the local area's commitment to Travellers and he stressed that the site must not be allowed to expand.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

A meeting had been held on Friday 12th May 2023 at 10.00am. The minutes were accepted without amendment. The following items were discussed further:

- 0474 **Contribution of £1,000 to Blackmore Youth Football Club re sanding of the football pitch** – Cllr Keeble reported that regular sanding has improved the quality of the field surface considerably. Cllr Watley proposed, Cllr Lewis seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a contribution of £1,000 be made by the Council to the Blackmore Youth Football Club.
Action: Cllr Keeble
- 0475 **Grass cutting** – Cllr Keeble reported that he had discussed the cutting of Walter Hobbs field with the Council's contractor, MDL. It has been agreed that the Football Club will undertake the regular cutting while MDL concentrates on the areas around the main field and cutting the field itself when this is not done by the Football Club.
- 0476 **New rocker animal for Walter Hobbs** – Cllr Parkinson proposed, Cllr Keeble seconded and it was unanimously agreed that a new rocker animal be purchased for the Walter Hobbs play area, at a cost of £700.
Action: Clerk/RFO
- 0477 **Village fayre and Music Festival** – Cllr Cannon reported that arrangements are progressing rapidly. The necessary road closures have been granted and all is in hand. Volunteer marshals are welcomed for the Cycle Day on Monday 29th May. Cllr Cannon complimented Essex County Council on their assistance with road closures and BBC regarding recent rubbish collections. The Clerk is dealing with insurance cover for the event through our insurers, Zurich Insurance.
Action: Clerk
- 0478 **Route Change on the 61 Bus** – Vectare buses wish to remove the Wyatts Green loop from the regular 61 bus route. Essex County Council have suggested a joint meeting with the Parish Council, ECC and Vectare to consider this request. The Clerk will liaise with Cllrs Wagland, McCarthy, the ECC (and the bus operator) to arrange a meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- 0479 **CLERK'S REPORT** – Nothing to report.
- 0480 **Date of next meeting(s):**
POS – Monday 12th June 2023– 10.00am - Zoom
Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 15th June 2023 at 7.30pm – Tipps Cross R Hall Committee Room
Planning – To be confirmed

INFORMATION EXCHANGE/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

Blackmore Minibus – The Clerk confirmed that residents outside of the Parish are allowed to hire the minibus. Cllr McCheyne considered that the Blackmore bus is much better than the Brentwood minibus. It was agreed that the hire charges for the bus should be reviewed with a view to increasing these to a more economic rate. **Action: Clerk/Cllr Bennett**

Grant for lighting the Village Hall extension car park It was noted that a letter from the Parish Council is required confirming that it owns the said land, to enable the Village Hall to submit a grant for the lighting of the carpark extension **Action: Clerk**

Speed watch training – Cllr Keeble reported that the Parish now has trained speed watch teams.

Locality Fund - Cllr Wagland reported that the Essex Locality Fund is now open for applications and she encouraged the Council to apply for suitable projects.

CLOSE OF MEETING –

There being no further business the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.40 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....