

EAST BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of East Brent Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Monday 1st July 2013 at 7.30pm when the following business was transacted.

Present: Councillors: Cllr J. Bowden, Cllr V. Rawles, Cllr A. Gilling, Cllr J. Webb, Cllr W. Walker, Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones, Cllr B. Woodward, Cllr Y. Roscorla, Cllr B. Bees and Cllr S. McGreavy and the Clerk, Mr M. Shobbrook.

Apologies for absence and declarations of interest.

Apologies were received from Mr Bob Filmer and the Chairman Cllr E. Champion.

In the absence of Cllr E. Champion, the Vice Chairperson Cllr V. Rawles took control of the meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on Monday 3rd June 2013 were signed by the Chairperson as a true reflection of the business carried out by this Parish Council at that time after making two minor amendments highlighted by Cllrs Webb and Roscorla.

ONGOING ISSUES

Minute 24/12: Defibrillator Equipment. - Cllr Webb said that she had inspected the Telephone Kiosk at the Village Green and had found that its overall condition was good. It needs painting and cleaning, but is structurally sound and fit for the purpose of housing one of the Defibrillator units. She will organise volunteers to assist in the restoration works needed and anyone who is prepared to give their time and expertise in this task will be welcomed. The fund raising activities had been put on hold during the recent holiday Cllr Webb had taken, but she will now resume that task and continue to seek financial contributions from organisations, local companies and individuals. There is still a large shortfall between the purchase costs of the two units and the present balance raised. The units will not be positioned in their chosen locations until the balance of the purchase costs has been achieved. The Clerk was asked to check with the P.C.'s insurers to confirm that any such equipment will be covered for all risks. A further report will be given at the next Committee meeting.

Minute 08/13: Play Area at Pill Road, Rooksbridge, Affordable Housing Project.

Before any discussion on this topic commenced, Cllr A. Gilling declared his interest in the land in question; being its owner. Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones gave a very detailed report on the meetings he had attended and the research he had carried out, regarding this project. In summary, Phil Yorke of the Housing Association is willing to provide the fencing - P.Y. hopes to have the building of the new properties completed by May 2014 and the necessary highway for access to the playing field area adopted a month later. They will provide the P.C. with an easement for access over a small strip of their land and offered to help where they could. Also the PC can use their site location diagrams for the planning application.

Harley Cook of SDC the Parks & Open Spaces Policy Officer is supportive of the project, and so he will back a planning application and potential RTL3 grant funding.

Lights for Life are also supportive and wish to be kept informed, so that they can in time, see how they may be able to assist.

An application for funding could be made to the Nuttall Trust this Autumn.

Details for the potential lease have been provided to Cllr. Gilling and he will contact his legal advisors, so that a provisional cost can be obtained for the required budget.

In terms of a time line, a planning application is to be submitted as soon as possible, and then an RTL3 grant application should be ready for the end of September. This would then be reviewed at the Cluster meeting in November, with hopefully a grant being approved before the end of the year.

If planning and funding is obtained, then work on the site would ideally start as soon as the weather in the Spring is OK, with the facility opening around the 1st of August 2014.

Minute 14/13: Planning Appeal relating to the Pilrow wind farm. Cllrs W. Walker and S. McGreavy gave a joint address to the Committee on the meetings they and Cllr Champion had attended last Tuesday 26th June, at the office of Chris Gomms at S.D.C. Bridgwater. They felt the meeting was most helpful and it was decided that the P.C. would be a "Rule 6 party to the Appeal. The P.C.'s response has to be submitted to the Inspector by the 26th July 2013. Cllr Walker said that anyone who had made comments during the original planning application can be assured that their comments will be made known to the Inspector during the Appeal process. The original refusal by S.D.C. for the wind farm was on the grounds of firstly the visual impact on the area and secondly, on the ecological effects it would have on the neighbourhood. A subsequent study carried out by agents representing Broadview Ltd. into the ecological effects of the wind turbines, had been accepted by S.D.C. with the District Council declaring that it was, "comfortable with the report". Therefore, S.D.C. will only rely on the visual impact the development will have on the area in its presentation to the Inspector. The "NoPilrow" group will join the P.C. in opposing the appeal process and a further meeting between the two groups will take place on Tuesday 2nd July 2013 at the Village Hall. The date of the start of the Appeal has not yet been given, but it is likely to be later this year. It will be held at the Princess hall in Burnham on Sea. Two further public meetings, held jointly by the Parish Council and NoPilrow, will take place, on the 9th July at the Wellington Arms in Rooksbridge and on the 10th July in the East Brent Village Hall; both meetings will commence at 6pm. At these meetings residents will be urged to oppose the Appeal. Cllrs Walker and McGreavy will report to the P.C.'s Committee at the next meeting on 2nd September 2013.

PLANNING MATTERS

1. Decided applications. The Chairperson read out the list of decided applications shown on the Agenda, since the last meeting.

Before dealing with the new applications, Cllr A. Gilling declared his interest as a member of the Planning Committee of S.D.C.

2. New Applications.

Application number 24/13/00016. Mr & Mrs. R. Chilcott; relating to "Osier Meadow", Ham Lane, Rooksbridge. Cllr S. McGreavy reported to the Committee in his new role as Planning Co-ordinator and said that following an inspection of the site, neither he nor his fellow Sub-committee members could see any reason why the application could not receive the support of the P.C. It was in effect a retrospective planning application, as the work had already been carried out. It will have no impact on the neighbouring properties and can only be seen from the M5 motorway. Cllr Webb said that she was in favour of the fields being used in the way they are, rather than possibly being neglected.

Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones proposed that the application should be approved and this was seconded by Cllr McGreavy. A unanimous vote in favour of support then followed.

Application number 24/13/00018. Mr A. Puddy; relating to "The Corner House", Brent Road, East Brent. The Clerk advised the Committee that he had received an email from S.D.C. earlier that day advising him that this application had been withdrawn.

Cllr McGreavy told the Committee that he and his colleagues had inspected the site the previous day and had found that there was nothing they would oppose in this application.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Approval was proposed by Cllr B. Woodward for the payment of the item listed on the Agenda and this was seconded by Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones. A unanimous vote was then passed to pay those amounts. Cheques in payment thereof were then signed by Cllrs V. Rawles and J. Bowden.

The Clerk advised the Committee that he had been successful in recovering from H.M.R.C. the full amount of V.A.T. the P.C. had paid during the previous financial year. This amounted to £814.56. This sum has been deposited in the P.C. account.

MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr J. Bowden reminded the Committee of the Harvest Home celebrations on 25th August 2013 and he asked the Clerk to contact the grass cutting contractors to ensure that the road verges along the A38 were cut before then.

Cllr B. Woodward told the Committee that Mrs Mary Rose, one of the residents of the houses adjoining the Village Green which has been affected by tree root damage, was prepared to supply a copy of a report if one can be prepared by Wessex Water. If a report becomes available, the Clerk will then contact both S.D.C. and Wessex Water to attempt to resolve the issue of the Chestnut trees on the Village Green. The P.C. will continue to deny legal responsibility for these trees or the damage they have caused by root incursion into the surrounding drains.

Cllr Walker told the Committee that an email sent by a parishioner concerning the building site at Brent Road was still outstanding. He reminded the Committee that the Chairman, Cllr E. Champion had agreed to approach the developer to discuss the completion of the development in an attempt to resolve the concerns of many local residents. It is hoped that this action can be taken so that a formal response can be sent to the parishioner.

Cllr N. Lloyd-Jones told the Committee that he and the Clerk had had active talks and investigations, into buying a new laptop computer for the P.C. it is expected that by the time of the September meeting everything will have been concluded for the purchase of the laptop, back-up hard drive and an authorised edition of "Microsoft Office" suite of programmes.

He said he was pleased to report that S.D.C. has attended to the repairs needed to the gates on the Football playing field. In addition he is arranging for the hedges and other plant growth on the paths and car park to be cut back next to the play area.

He gave an update on the local magazine, as it appears there are insufficient funds to produce all the editions to the year end. A proposal was made by Cllr Bowden and seconded by Cllr Walker to continue to support the Magazine. A unanimous vote in favour of the proposal, was passed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund 2 editions at a cost of £650, which equates to some 30 pence a copy based on 500 being printed per edition for distribution throughout the parish.

The editor, Molly Richards has suggested producing 6 editions in 2014, due to both the amount of effort which is required to complete each one and to reduce the overall amount of funds needed. This proposal will be given further consideration in the coming months and a decision reached in time to make any necessary adjustments for next year.

Cllr J. Webb told the Committee that she had approached S.C.C. in order to establish if it will be possible for the P.C. to submit a proposal to take over the land adjoining the War Memorial. She has been told that in principal there should be no difficulty with this. At the previous Committee meeting in June, it had been suggested that this land could be turned into a community garden area or orchard. Cllr Webb asked the Clerk to place this matter on the September Agenda for further discussion.

Lastly, Cllr Webb reported that she did not have any news regarding the proposal to clean the War Memorial. She is still waiting to hear from the War Memorial Trust and she will report to the next meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

The next meeting of the East Brent Parish Council will be on Monday 2nd September 2013 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.