



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 APRIL 2023 at 7.30pm At Tipps Cross Remembrance Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs R Keeble (Chairman), K Bennett, K Wood, K Parkinson, H Cannon, N McCarthy, V Dean, Borough Cllr T Bridge, Mrs R Nelson, RFO,

- 0448** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs A Watley, Hinton, Lewis, Clarke, County Cllr L Wagland, Borough Cllr P Jakobsson, Mrs S Clapham, Parish Clerk,
- 0449** **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 16TH March 2023**
The minutes were signed as a correct record by the Chairman with no amendments.
- 0450** **DECLARATION OF INTEREST (for items on the agenda)** – Cllrs Cannon, Parkinson and Wood reported an interest in the approval of arrangements for the May Village Fayre. Cllrs Keeble and Wood reported an interest in the Allotment Garden.
- 0451** **OPEN FORUM** - No residents were present for the Open Forum.
- 0452** **PROGRESS/CHECK REPORT**
The Bull Public House – The RFO had chased Mr Bates at BBC twice but so far has not had any response.
Bench on Elkins Green – Mrs Driver has been given the details for a bench and a reply is awaited.
- 0453** **CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS** – None
- 0454** **REPORTS OF BOROUGH / ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLORS**
Brentwood Borough Council: Cllr Bridge informed the meeting that he is currently in Purdah pending the election on 4th May.
Fly tipping – Cllr Bridge reported that he has been chasing up the relevant department regarding fly-tipping. There is a shortage of resources at the depot but he is following up on the incidents already notified. It was noted that the tip in Mountnessing Road has been cleared but the general area still needs proper cleaning.
Chelmsford Road planning application – Cllr Bridge has investigated the situation surrounding a particular property on Chelmsford Road, which had recently put in a planning application and been quoted some £3,000 to process the application. He confirmed that the cost should have been between £400-600 if the building is below 1,000 square feet and the resident will be notified accordingly.
County Council: Cllr Wagland had notified the RFO that she would be attending the PC meeting at Doddinghurst which was also on this evening. She would try to fit in both meetings if possible. (Note: Cllr Wagland arrived shortly after this meeting concluded and expressed her disappointment for not being present).

POLICY & RESOURCES

0455 Finance - Payments made online:

S Clapham –
Pension -
HMRC –
Mrs R Nelson –
Interact - £24.30 (inc. VAT) VOIP telephone service
Graham Bonney - Application of fertiliser at Walter Hobbs field - £350
Land Vista – 50% advance payment for fence posts at Allotment Garden - £414
EALC – annual membership fee for EALC and NALC - £688.88
MDL – grass cutting - £312.12 (inc. VAT)
Castle Water – water rates, Walter Hobbs playing fields - £113.43 (inc. VAT)
Blackmore Parochial Charity – balance of rent for playing fields - £15
W H Norris – Allotment Garden annual head rent - £100
W H Norris – 50% Allotment Garden rents - £425

Payments made on the PC Credit Card: Nil

Cash drawn: - Nil

Transfers: – £50,000 transferred from Barclays to Unity Trust Bank to balance accounts.

Memberships:- Nil

Income/receipts/Reimbursements: Locality Grant towards Library Green planters, £535
First half of Precept received 12th April 23 - £51,407.50

0456 FINANCIAL REPORT to 31st March 2023

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

0457 FINANCIAL POWERS

Mini bus insurance: The RFO reported that the mini-bus annual renewal request had been received, in the sum of £814.46 including Insurance Premium Tax. She had queried the increase of 6.5% with the insurers but they confirmed that this was the best deal they could obtain. It does include cover for any driver over 21, legal cover, breakdown (AA) cover and also No Claims protection. The meeting considered that this was a reasonable rate and the payment was approved.

Action: RFO

Concurrent Functions – Cllr Bennett again raised the issue of those items for which the Parishes are charged extra but which central Brentwood residents receive as part of their Council tax. Cllr Bridge felt that this matter should be raised again with Steve Summers and also the new Council leader (after the May election).

Action: RFO

PLANNING COMMITTEE

0458 The Planning Committee had met on 3rd April 2023. To accept the planning reports as circulated ahead of the meeting by Cllr Lockhart. TL

23/00279/LBC – St Lawrence Church, replacement of shingles & tiles on tower and brickwork repairs to lychgate – no objection

23/00238/HHA – The Brackens, Chelmsford Road, new hip to front gable – no objection

22/01325/FUL – Fishers Yard, Wrights Lane, demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment of 6 new properties – objection. Cllr Lockhart explained that the former objections to Fishers Yard had been ignored by BBC so they have been resubmitted.

0459 BLACKMORE ALLOTMENT GARDEN

There were no outstanding matters to report.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

A meeting had been held on Monday 17th April 2023 at 10.00am. The minutes were accepted without amendment. The following items were discussed further:

Ted Marriage field - Damaged picnic table – Cllr Lockhart recommended that the burnt/damaged picnic table on the far side of Ted Marriage should be removed and not replaced. This was approved and the RFO will ask Broadmead or Total to remove this.

Action: RFO

Parish floral displays – it was agreed that the War Memorial and two tubs on the village green should be replanted for the Coronation/Village Fayre. Cllr Keeble will source suitable plants and volunteers are invited to take part in planting. **Action: RK**

Village fayre and Music Festival – arrangements are progressing rapidly. The music festival will now be held on the village green on the Saturday evening. Programmes have been finalised and will be offered to all residents. The Senior Citizens tea party is scheduled for Friday afternoon – volunteer helpers are welcomed. The Prince Albert pub will be selling from their own premises and the Sports & Social Club is having a tent on the village green. The Leather Bottle will also be selling from their premises and it had been learned that they wished to extend onto Horsefayre Green. A similar request had been made by the Blackmore Tea Rooms during the pandemic and that had been refused. It was therefore agreed that permission will **not** be given for the pub or the tea rooms to extend their “premises” onto Horsefayre Green as this will set a dangerous precedent for the future.

Coronation Volunteer Day – suggestions for suitable activities include litter picking, cleaning road signs, preservative on the stocks etc. Volunteers will be informed that any work they do must be undertaken at their own risk. (Note: Councillors are covered for such work by the Parish insurance). Litter picking equipment will be provided by the RFO to Cllr Keeble and others nearer the day.

0460 **CLERK’S REPORT** – In Mrs Clapham’s absence, Mrs Nelson had nothing to report.

0461 **Date of next meeting(s):**

POS – FRIDAY 12TH MAY 2023– 10.00am - Zoom

Annual Meeting – Thursday 18th May at 7.00 p.m. followed by the Parish Council Meeting – at 7.30pm – Tipps Cross R Hall Committee Room

Planning – To be confirmed

Cllr McCarthy tendered his apologies for the Parks & Open Spaces meeting on 12th May and possibly also for the Annual Meeting. He will give the Parishioner of the Year awards to the Chairman or RFO so that they are available for the PC meeting. **Action: Cllr McC**

0462 **INFORMATION EXCHANGE/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS**

Football club

Cllr Keeble reported that the Football club has requested funding towards pitch improvements, in addition to what is currently provided. It was agreed that they should submit a formal proposal setting out their plans and costs involved.

Action: RK to speak to football club

With a grant of £30,000 from the Football Association, the football club has recently purchased dedicated grass cutting equipment and a plainer (to brush the surface of the grass). They now wish to take over the cutting of football pitches regularly throughout the football season, up to end of April. Should this be permitted, MDL would not be needed to cut the grass at Walter Hobbs and the responsibility for cutting the pitches would be taken from the Parish Council. The meeting was unhappy that the Football Club had taken this action without any prior discussion or liaison with the Parish Council. There was also a query as to whether they were insured up to £10m for any accidents occurring whilst grass cutting was underway. It was agreed that a letter will be sent informing them that the Council will still use its contractor to cut the grass. Should they wish to supplement with additional cutting, they would be permitted to do so but they must confirm that they have the necessary insurance cover in place. It was again stressed that the Village Hall complex is a community, not just a Football, facility. **Action: RFO**

CLOSE OF MEETING –

There being no further business the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.20 pm

Signed.....

Dated.....