

LITTLE BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2008 IN GARDINER'S BARN AT 7.30 pm.

Members present: Cllr J Judson (Chairman), Cllr W Gardiner (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Beanland, Cllr T Cutmore, Cllr R Wren. D Cllrs A Wattebot & M Foley, C Cllr S Walsh
4 members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies** there were none.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** on November 12, 2007 were read, approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) Hawkspur Green road signs - nothing has happened. Clerk to investigate as well as C Cllr Walsh and D Cllr Wattebot at the East Area Plan Meeting
 - b) The Footpath Map has been amended and is ready for printing with the VDS
A Waymarker is needed on the boundary between Gt Bardfield & Little Bardfield at the driveway to Copford Hall to designate Footpath No. 15. Clerk to contact a PROW officer at County Hall
 - c) Bulb planting - the council resolved to plant snowdrops in the green along the verge through the village. Daffodils have been planted around the Village Sign and under the noticeboards at Hawkspur Green & Oxen End
 - d) The VDS statement is virtually at the printing stage. Draft copy will be presented to the Parish Council
 - e) Styles Road repairs - Mr Whitty reported that he had received several quotations and would be meeting with Mr Hurrell on site on February 26 to discuss who owns the road and is responsible for the repairs. There is a Health & Safety issue at the Almshouses as the pavement has been damaged. It is to be looked at by UDC
 - f) Bore Hole at Hawkspur Green - Anglia Water are drilling test bores to find good quality/ quantity of water. If successful it will apply for planning permission. If unsuccessful the hardstanding will be removed.
 - g) May Gurney signs have been removed
 - h) The School Bus problem has been solved.
4. **District Councillors & County Councillor Reports** - Martin Foley reported that UDC had cleared litter from the verges between Little Bardfield and Thaxted. Antoinette Wattebot reported that the East Area Plan Meeting was to be held on Tuesday, February 26
Simon Walsh reported that the County Council tax would increase by 4.2%
There had been a nasty burglary in Gt Bardfield threatening elderly residents.
Proposed development at Elsenham - decision has been delayed due to a huge response by the public
Post Office closures may be due to lack of housing.
C Cllr Walsh's report is attached to these minutes.
5. **Highways** - the 40mph is still in the pipeline
A serious accident at Fallows Corner demolished a BT Telegraph Pole which blocked the road. It has been knocked down twice. The road surface is cracked and pitted so water enters and freezes causing the road surface to become lethal.
Council resolved that the clerk should write to BT suggesting the pole be relocated or wires put underground & to highways suggesting a non skid surface be put down.
Dairy Lane is in a terrible state though some pot holes have been filled.

6. Planning

Furthermoor Hall was granted permission and the Council's objections were not considered.

The council resolved to write to planning about this issue. Cllr Cutmore agreed to draft a letter.

Brazenhead Cottage, Oxen End - granted permission

Little Bardfield Hall - the application has gone to appeal.

A planning workshop on Thursday 20 March. Cllr Cutmore agreed to attend

7. Finance

£

Instant Business Account

2,186.70

Current Account

1,797.64

Cheques to pay

Essex County Council - photocopying

26.55

UDC - recharge for election May 2007

86.39

Richard Wren - cost of daffodil bulbs

15.00

Mrs B V Fry - salary & expenses

395.90

The council resolved to draw a cheque for the cost of the snowdrop bulbs when they were delivered.

The council resolved to appoint Christopher Butcher of CJB Countryside Services as a general handyman He will plant the bulbs and cut the verges as necessary during the year. The council resolved to draw a cheque on receipt of his invoices.

The council resolved to transfer £1,000 to the Business Account.

8. Correspondence

- a) Replies from Thaxted Parish Council who is aware of parking problems & from Gt. Bardfield Parish Council re parking of Discovery at junction
- b) Letters had been sent to Councillors re meeting on Thursday, March 13 called by Sir Alan Haselhurst concerning proposed housing; letter from Alistair Bovaird; update on emergency planning
- c) Invitation to a service at Chelmsford Cathedral on April 17,2008
- d) St George's Day celebrations
- e) Rural Excellence Conference on March 13, 2008 at Thaxted Hall
- f) Concessionary Bus fares for over 60's.
- g) Essex Validation. Check list for planning applications
- h) Stop Stansted Expansion - a representative would like to give a presentation. The council resolved to accept this request and invite a speaker to the Annual Meeting.

9. AOB

The council resolved to update the emergency plan. A sub-committee meeting would be held to finalise it. Proposed by Cllr Judson and seconded by Cllr Beanland. It would hope to have it ready for the May Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting on Monday, May 19 2008 at 7.30pm in Gardiner's Barn followed by the Parish Council meeting.