

LITTLE BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY MARCH 5, 2007 HELD IN GARDINER'S BARN AT 7.30 pm

Members present: Cllr J Judson (Chairman), Cllr T Cutmore, D Cllr A Wattebot,
C Cllr S Walsh and 5 members of the public

1. **Apologies:** Cllr W Gardiner, D Cllr Martin Foley
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting** on November 13, 2006 were read, approved and signed
3. **Matters arising from the minutes**
 - a) Path alongside The Chapel - there has been no reply from County Council
 - b) Noticeboards - the Council resolved to accept Mick Dyer's quotation for a half size board at Hawkspur Green for £172. The quotation from Nicholls Bros was for £225 plus Vat. Cllr Terry Cutmore to liaise on position.
Nicholls Bros were unable to quote for putting doors on the full size noticeboards. The Council resolved to accept Mick Dyer's quotation for £294.
 - c) Road signs at Hawkspur Green - Clerk to follow up
 - d) Signage at Oxen End - this is still on going. Clerk to follow up
 - e) Bus Stops at Oxen End - Clerk to liaise with Cllr Beanland for positioning and contact Adrian Summons at Essex County Council for action
 - f) Footpaths - see later in report from Extra-ordinary Meeting
 - g) VDS - Mandy Boon reported that this is progressing well. There will be a meeting for the whole village to approve the statement and the Parish Council to adopt it in the Spring.
It will then be presented to UDC for approval.
The Chairman thanked Mandy & Paul Boon and the committee for their hard work.
Cllr A Wattebot pointed out that LB were way ahead of other councils in the district.
4. Extra-ordinary meeting held on February 8, 2007. The meeting discussed the problem of field access on to Styles and decided that neither the Parish Council or Styles Residents Association were in favour of granting access to any third party. Access to Styles from the field had already been given by the Parish Council to Jim Andrews with the approval of residents of Styles and members of the village had access to the car park and the mini-recycling centre by agreement with the residents association. It was determined to send a letter to Whirledge & Nott (Solicitors for Andrew Davies) pointing out that access from the field would not be available for the vendor over the Car Park & Styles.
An agreement has been reached to sell the land to Jim Andrews who already has access and walking alongside the field will be available for the residents of the village.
Overgrown leylandii will be half felled and trimmed and an original boundary wooden fence erected.
Footpaths- in response to a request from West Area Highways for details of the most important paths that need cutting the meeting resolved that the following should be listed.
 - a) Footpath No 2 alongside St Katharine's Church
 - b) No 5 from Chequers towards Beslyns (Gt Bardfield)
 - c) No 13 from Alders to Paul's Croft
 - f) No 15 from the Mill House to Copford HallThe problem of barbed wire across No 15 has been solved by the installation of gates.

5. D Councillor's Report

Cllr Antoinette Wattebot reported that the Council Tax will rise by only 2%.

Recycling figures have risen to 57% and are being monitored.

3,000 new houses have to be built in the district and the problem is where? The choices are a) spread through small communities b) build in one area c) expand housing in larger towns.

Problems are sewage, water, road & rail transport, schooling, medical facilities.

The District Council is openly opposing the expansion of Stansted Airport.

C Councillor's Report

Cllr Simon Walsh reported that the County tax increase will be 4.5%. The revenue support grant from the government is less, but 22 million pounds has been saved for the coming year. The County's results have been judged as excellent receiving 4*.

Airport expansion would lead to the closure of roads around Broxted.

6. Highways

Dairy House Lane - Cllr J Judson declared a non pecuniary interest.

This short lane running between the main road and the road to Hawkspur Green has large pot holes and the centre of the road is raised

Broken pavement at The White House has still not been repaired.

Clerk to contact Highways.

The culvert and ditch near Coopers, Hawkspur Green has been cleared.

7. Planning

The owner of 4 Styles questioned as to why the parish council had recommended refusal for his planning application. This was explained by Cllr Cutmore and a new application will be made.

8. Finances

Business Reserve Account	2,098.92	£
--------------------------	----------	---

Current Account		2,061.81
-----------------	--	----------

Cheques to sign

Mrs B V Fry (Clerk's Salary & expenses)		388.11
---	--	--------

The Council resolved to pay the invoice to Mick Dyer for the work to the noticeboards when his invoice was presented.

The Council is still awaiting an invoice from Patrick Hall (Internal Auditor) and has already resolved to sign a cheque.

9. Correspondence

a) Sarah Bernard Charity - Mary Gardiner has been appointed a trustee and a new member can now be co-opted leaving one place vacant

b) A Civic Service will be held at Chelmsford Cathedral on April 27, 2007

c) New legislation is now in force to ban drivers from using hand held mobile phones.

A fine of £60 and 3 penalty points on their licences will be issued.

d) Parish Electoral arrangements for the Local Elections on May 3, 2007

e) Parish Liaison Meetings - dates set for the year ahead

f) Mobile Library review - fortnightly for public service visits

g) Local Bus Tenders- No 23 will not be affected

D Cllr Martin Foley was welcomed by the Chairman as he had been attending another meeting.

10. AOB

a) Neighbourhood Watch - a new co-ordinator is required. Derek Whitty volunteered to try and get a volunteer. The Chairman offered to approach a previous co-ordinator

b) Litter - May Gurney signs were left on the verge after the resurfacing works. They have been taken to the local tip at Shelford. Concerns were raised about the cost to the County for replacement of such items. Cllr Walsh agreed to inform the correct authority.

Clerk to contact UDC and John Freeman, Chairman of Thaxted Parish council, concerning the amount of litter and rubbish on the road between Thaxted and Little Bardfield and generally through the district.

d) 21 galvanised steel poles will be removed from the road between Hawkspur Green and Little Bardfield this Spring. The road will be closed for one day and diversions put in place

e) Styles - the road surface & pavement are in need of repair. Derek Whitty has sent a letter to UDC requesting some financial help for the residents of Styles as it is the recycling vehicles that are causing most of the damage

f) Horses and riders are using the path alongside the Car Park and proceeding down Styles. This is not a Bridleway and will be investigated. It is thought that the riders come from Beslyns

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

The next meeting will be held in May after the election.