

## **LITTLE BARDFIELD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY MARCH 1, 2010 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. C Cllr S. Walsh, D Cllr M Foley.  
3 members of the public

**1. Apologies** D Cllr A Wattebot

**2. Minutes of the last meeting** on November 23, 2009 were read, approved and signed

### **Public Forum**

The Council resolved to write to UDC concerning the state of the road and pavement surfaces in Styles. These are now becoming extremely dangerous.

D Cllr M Foley asked for any correspondence on this matter to be sent to him.

No 5 Styles - PDSA have removed some of the dogs and the tenants have been served a notice to clear up in six weeks or be evicted. Huge amounts of rubbish have been left outside and hazardous waste has been collected.

Theft of copper cables has been taking place and is being investigated.

D Cllr M Foley to investigate and report back to the Parish Council.

**3. C Cllrs Report** - Simon Walsh reported that the gritting services were out for 69 consecutive nights due to the extreme winter weather. This was reduced as salt reserves declined and the price went up. This has left the roads in a very poor state with many potholes. Temporary repairs will be made and proper repairs carried out later.

Highways ask that members of the public report pot holes.

The Council Tax increase will be 1.9% keeping it as low as possible.

More money will be put aside for front line services such as highways, apprenticeships, Foster Carers, Public Transport.

The Essex Book Festival starting at Chelmsford Library is being promoted by the County Council.

The problems with Footpath 15 between Little & Gt Bardfield will be looked into.

**D Cllrs Report** - Martin Foley reported that the Council Tax rise will be 2.9% and serious cuts need to be taken.

The Icelandic Bank investment has not yet been resolved.

The possible development of Sainsbury's on the outskirts of Saffron Walden could have a detrimental effect on local shops plus the number of supply trucks going through Thaxted could cause highway problems and disturbances.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

a) Bus Shelter - the council has been awarded a grant of £5,000 towards the erection of a shelter below Gridiron Villas

b) Red Telephone Box - the council is not interested in adopting it and will ask BT for its removal.

c) Footpath 15 to be discussed at the next meeting

d) Emergency Plan - Cllr Terry Cutmore has produced three separate plans for Little Bardfield, Hawkspur Green and Oxen End. These templates are being circulated to all councillors with names of contacts. Sandbags will no longer be issued by UDC. People will have to fend for themselves.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cutmore on a fantastic report.

**5. Highways**

Grit Bins need to be placed in strategic places..

The council resolved to investigate the placing of a bin at Hawkspur Green.

Cllr W Gardiner to be consulted about the location.

Clerk to contact West Area Highways for more information. Each Bin will cost £350 but will be kept filled by Highways for no extra cost when contacted that it is empty.

Flooding has occurred at Furthermoor Hall with water pouring across the road , also at Stones, Lucas Cottage and Bard Hill with again water flooding across the road as the culvert is blocked.

At Little Bardfield Hall below Blackbirds and near to the Hall entrance water is running across the road.

Clerk to contact Highways.

The council resolved to pursue its request for a 40 mph at each end of the village outside the 30 mph limit.

**6. Planning** - Grove Bungalow, Oxen End. New plans had been circulated and the council had no objections.

**7. Finance** as at March 1, 2010

	£
Instant Business Reserve	2,066.39
Current Account	4,274.60
<b>Cheques to pay</b>	
Essex County Council - Photocopying 03/2009 - 02/20010	33.92
Cllr T Cutmore expenses	31.31
Clerk's Salary	325.00
Clerk's expenses	102.28

The council resolved to pay £400 towards the costs for the restoration of the large plaque in the centre of the Almshouses as it is part of the history of the village.

**8. AOB**

a) The council has no objection to Mandy Carter being appointed as a Trustee to the Sarah Bernard Charity.

b) Reports of sewage in ditches and fields at Hawkspur Green is to be investigated.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting followed by the Parish Council Meeting to be held on Monday May 24, 2010 at Gardiner's Barn at 7 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.