

Little Bardfield Parish Council



www.littlebardfieldparish.org.uk

Meeting of the Parish Council

Tuesday 4th May 2021

7.15pm

This meeting was held remotely due to the Covid19 pandemic

MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Cllr Andrew Davies. Cllr T Cutmore, Cllr Colin Simpson, Cllr Sandi Merifield (District Councillor), Cllr Walsh (County Councillor), Liz Williamson (Clerk) Uli Gerhard (Member of the Public – present for the latter part of the meeting).

1. Apologies for Absence/Chairs Welcome

There were no apologies for absence. The Chair welcomed Cllr Walsh and Cllr Merifield. The Parish Council welcomed Uli Gerhard to the meeting who is standing for election at District Council level for The Sampfords Ward.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2021

The minutes were signed as a true record by Cllr Davies.

2.1 Matters Arising

The budget spreadsheet has been amended. The Annual Report has been circulated to all residents within the Parish. Cllr Davies attended a Councillor Forum and found it to be very informative. Local Plan Consultation is ongoing and is requesting a call for sites. A potential site near the cricket club has been submitted.

3 Public Forum

No Members of the public were present. Uli Gerhard joined the meeting at a later stage.

4 Planning Matters

4.1 Frenches Farm

Cllr Simpson raised concern regarding the use of one of the ménages at Frenches Farm for commercial use. The site straddles two district councils and therefore Uttlesford DC and Braintree DC have both been involved with granting planning approval.

There are two ménages on the site one of which is being used as an arena for competitions. This has increased the number of large vehicles accessing the venue, along very narrow country roads. Also, the use of a tannoy system is causing a disturbance to residents.

From the research carried out by the Clerk, it would appear that the small ménage benefits from Planning Permission (approved by Braintree District Council) and an additional ménage was granted planning permission (approved by UDC).

Cllr Merifield has spoken to the Enforcement Officer at UDC – Deborah Scales, who believes that the former ménage is now the ‘arena’ and was granted retrospective planning permission in 2020 to Mr and Mrs Payne. A condition was not included as part of the decision notice which restricted the use to either commercial or personal use. Further research may be required to ascertain whether the arena that was granted retrospective planning permission is the ‘arena’ being discussed. A full planning permission would allow residents to submit representations and also provide an opportunity for the Highways Department at ECC to be consulted due to the increased vehicle movement.

Cllr Merifield suggested that in any representations submitted by the Parish Council, suggested conditions should be included if the District Council were mindful to grant permission.

4.2 Waste/Dump Site – Pauls Farm

Latest correspondence received from Cllr Walsh included information from Essex County Council and the Environment Agency who had met with the Landowner and stated that there would be some vehicle movement from the site to remove soil from the site. No timescales were given.

4.3 Agricultural Barns – Pauls Farm

An appeal has been lodged and a decision hasn't yet been issued. The Parish Council submitted comments to UDC and The Planning Inspectorate raising concerns regarding the inappropriate location for the proposed barns and access to the site which was on a blind bend causing a danger to all users of the highway adjacent the site. If the appeal is successful and the landowner is permitted to erect the barns, the only right of appeal is to the High Court.

4.4 The Parish Council raised various concerns to Cllr Merifield regarding the Planning Team at UDC. Cllr Merifield stated that the department has undergone a review by the East of England Local Government Association and they are currently awaiting the outcome of this review. The aim of the review to make the department more effective. The team are under pressure due to the amount of planning applications being submitted, the lack of a current Local Plan and the lack of a 5 Year Housing Land Supply.

4.5 Pauls Farm Caravans

The application has now been approved due to extra information being submitted to UDC supporting the need for the caravans on the site

5. Potential Donations

It was discussed and agreed by all Councillors that the following donations should be made using the money from the Community Fund Account

Hundred Parish Society	£10
Thaxted Mini Bus	£150
Stop Stansted Campaign	£100
Air Ambulance	£150
Uttlesford Food Bank	£200

Clerk to arrange for payments to be made

6. County Council/District Council Report

6.1 Cllr Walsh had circulated a report to the Parish Council prior to the meeting.

6.2 The report is posted on the Parish website.

6.3 Cllr Davies congratulated the County Council on their dealing with the Covid crisis.

6.4 Cllr Cutmore congratulated Earls Colne Surgery on the organisation of the dispensing of Covid vaccines

6.5 Cllr Cutmore confirmed that both the County Councillor and District Councillor reports were published on the Councils website

6.6 Cllr Davies thanked Cllr Walsh for his continued support.

6.5 District Councillor Report

Cllr Merifield had circulated a report to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. The report is posted on the website.

6.6 Cllr Merifield was thanked by all Councillors for her support.

7. Co-option

The Auditors report criticised the Parish Council for not being more proactive in trying to fill the vacant posts on the Parish Council. The roles have been advertised on the website, notice boards and The Bardfield Times. Despite actively trying to recruit, only one application has been received and they had not asked to attend the meeting. All three Councillors considered the application to be unsuitable.

8. Vehicle Activated Speed Sign (VAS)

The VAS was purchased by the Parish Council approximately 10 years ago and needs to be included as part of the Asset Register. It has recently stopped working.

It was agreed that Solagen should be contacted to arrange servicing.

Cllr Cutmore to arrange servicing/Clerk to update the Asset Register

9. Any Other Business

The Clerk received an email from a member of the public stating that the road signs at Oxen End had been removed. The signs had been removed by Highways and refurbished and re-instated. This is the same for the signpost a Hawkspur Green Lane.

- 9.1 The Parish Council has a surplus of the Queens 90th birthday commemorative coin. It was suggested that if a village BBQ is held this year than the coins could be given out to anyone who is interested.
Both Defibrillators are installed, fully operational, and have been registered with the East of England Ambulance Service.
- 9.2 Cllr Davies to liaise with the occupiers of Rose Cottage to ensure that the defibrillator is left unlocked.
Cllr Davies to action
- 9.3 There is the potential for a third defibrillator at Oxen End providing a suitable location can be found.
Cllr Simpson to action
- 9.5 The Parish Council advised the Parish Clerk that her hourly rate would be increased to Scale Point 20

Date of Next Meeting - 14/09/2021

Meeting Closed 20:37