

Little Bardfield Parish Council



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Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 1st December 2021
7.00pm

Cricket Pavilion Little Bardfield
MINUTES OF MEETING

Present: Cllr Andrew Davies, Cllr Terry Cutmore, Cllr Colin Simpson, Liz Williamson (Clerk)
Member of the Public – Juliet O'Brien, Jan Warren, Stuart Elliot

Apologies for absence – Cllr Foley

1. Apologies for Absence/Chairs welcome/Declaration of Interest
- 1.2 Cllr Andrew Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting. A brief introduction by each Councillor took place to inform members of the public of their time on the parish council and their reasons for joining
- 1.3 Cllr Foley had emailed to apologise for his absence
- 1.4 There were no Declarations of Interest
- 2 Minutes of Last Meeting held on September 2021
- 2.1 One amendment was required on para 8 of the minutes. The word should read 'now' instead of 'not'. All action points have been dealt with. The minutes were agreed by Cllr Cutmore and seconded by Cllr Simpson.
3. Public Forum
- 3.1 Concern was expressed regarding the proposed prison on Wethersfield Airfield. Particular concerns related to the potential increase in volume of traffic, impact on the landscape and on the protected species on the land. Also, concern was raised regarding the impact any proposed lighting would have on the night sky. The roads around the area are classified as 'B' roads and not capable of dealing with the increased traffic. It was suggested that the Parish Council could join forces within other Parish Council and raise an objection to the proposal when a planning application is received. It was suggested a viable alternative for the site would be to re-plant and re-wild the land selling off plots of land to individuals. It was also stated that the museum on the site should be preserved.
- 3.2 Two potential new Councillors attended the meeting (Juliet O'Brien and Jan Warren) who both gave a brief introduction of themselves, their background and why they wished to join the Parish Council. Existing Parish Councillors thanked them for their interest and would have a discussion during a closed session to discuss the possibility of co-option.
4. District and County Updates
- 4.1 Reports had been received by both the District and County Councillors for November which are on the PC website. Although a representative from the District or County did not attend the Parish Meeting, Cllr Foley sent his apologies.
5. Finances
- 5.1 Cllr Cutmore explained to members of the public present that the Parish Council received an income of £5000 per year following the approval of the Solar Farm at Hawkspur Green. The income is held in a separate account to the precept money and couldn't be used for the day to day running of the Parish Council but could be used for community benefits. Cllr Davies gave examples to the public of various community donations which have been made so far this year.

5.2 Cllr Cutmore reported that the Treasurers account and Community account both tallied with the accounts being kept by the Clerk. As of today's date, the Treasurer's a/c contained £12600 and the Community Fund £6842.

5.3 (a) Account Transactions and balances were approved.

(b) As previously requested as a procedure by our Auditor, the Clerk produced a list of transactions since the last meeting which were formally approved at the meeting.

6. Setting of Precept

It was explained that the word "Precept" was used for the Parish part of the local council tax. Last year the precept was set at £3000. Councillor Cutmore produced an analysis of spending and budgets plus predictions for next year. Cllr Cutmore recommended that the precept was not increased and therefore suggested it remained at £3000 for 2022/23. This was unanimously agreed by all.

Clerk to submit precept to UDC

7. Update on Oxen End

7.1 For the benefit of members of the public attending the meeting, Cllr Simpson provided a brief outline as to the issues at Frenches Farm. Since planning permission has been granted to use the site as a commercial business there has been a significant increase in traffic along a single track road which provides the entrance and exit route to the site. There are no passing places along the lane and there is a blind corner when exiting the lane leading to the premises. The vehicles are large, often with horse boxes and are causing to road surface to be destroyed. The owner has now applied for a licence from The Caravan Club to install caravans on the site. Providing certain conditions/criteria are met, the use does not require planning permission. Concern was raised regarding the 'exemption' licence which has been applied for from the Caravan Club as it would attract more people and subsequently vehicles. The existing highway is not fit for purpose, the road surface is being destroyed, nearby residential properties are being affected by increased traffic flow as vehicles are being directed past houses. Increased noise pollution is also an issue. It was suggested that if there are listed buildings within the vicinity of the site which would be affected by the siting of caravans then an objection could be raised by the Local Planning Authority.

Clerk to draft a letter to Cllr Foley regarding highway issues

Clerk to draft a letter to UDC regarding the siting of caravans within the vicinity of Heritage assets

8. Planning Applications

8.1 No new planning applications have been received. An objection was raised to the application for four houses to be built on the field next to Gridiron Villas and submitted to UDC

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Cllr Cutmore has a surplus of Queens 90th Jubilee coins purchased by the Parish Council to gift to any children within the village. If anyone wants one, Cllr Cutmore has a supply which he is happy to give to anyone wishing to have a commemorative coin.

9.2 In celebration of the Queens Jubilee there will be a national lighting of beacons on 2nd June 2022 at 19:15. The Parish Council are prepared to fund a beacon(s) if any members of the parish wishes to arrange the lighting of the beacon.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

10.1 Wednesday February 16th

Wednesday May 11th (Annual Parish Meeting/Annual General Meeting)

Wednesday September 14th

Wednesday November 2nd

Meeting closed at 20:07

11. Closed Session

11.1 Cllr Davies will contact the potential new Councillors

Meeting closed at 20.20