

## **LITTLE BARDFIELD'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2004 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

**Members Present:** Cllr J Judson (Chairman), Cllr W Gardiner (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Beanland, Cllr C Canfield, Cllr P Pickering

DCllr A Wattebot & CCllr J Whitehead

10 members of the public

1. **Apologies** - DCllr Martin Foley

2. **Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting** were read, approved and signed

The Chairman closed the meeting and introduced Peter Riding, a member of the Stop Stansted Campaign Committee and asked him to give his presentation

The Chairman thanked Peter Riding for his presentation which was clear and very informative.

The Chairman re-opened the meeting.

### **3. Chairman's report**

The Village Sign now has a plinth and a plaque will be attached.

Highways- the flooding at Chequers Corner seems to have been resolved since Hugh Garmoye at the rectory has dredged the lake and put in sluices. The Council would like to thank him.

The state of the roads is still of very grave concern. A certain amount of patching has been done on the road to Hawkspur Green

Planning- John Mitchell (Head of Planning) attended a council meeting in November where various issues were raised by the councillors including retrospective planning permission, broken rules with listed buildings, Trees with TPO's removed and the problem of parking at Gridiron Villas.

Police -Inspector Moira Owers attended the same meeting to inform the council that new officer would be designated to the area. Members of the council met with him in Little Bardfield to discuss the problems. This officer has now moved to Dunmow and no replacement has been announced. The council feels that traffic calming measures would spoil the village and speed through the village should be monitored.

Rubbish thrown out of car windows is an ongoing problem. Cllr Canfield collects rubbish from footpaths on a regular basis. CPRE is starting a campaign against fly tipping.

Monitoring of litter from take-aways shows that it is being dropped 6 miles from its source ie Braintree.

The Chairman thanked his fellow Councillors, District & County Councillors and the Clerk.

Cllr M Beanland thanked the Chairman on behalf of the Councillors.

#### **4 End of year accounts & appointment of internal auditor**

The accounts had been circulated and were available for the public to view.  
Cllr W Gardiner proposed and Cllr M Beanland seconded that the accounts be adopted.  
The council was in favour.

The council agreed to approach Patrick Hall to be it's internal auditor.

RFO -the Clerk was proposed by Cllr Gardiner and seconded by Cllr Judson. All agreed.

#### **5. C Cllr's Report**

John Whitehead reported that the completion of the A120 from M11 to Braintree has been delayed and should be finished by early July. This may lead to traffic going to Dunmow rather using Little Bardfield as a rat run.

The decision on closure of the roundabout at Cooper's End will be delayed for 1 year for Essex CC to investigate.

A publication entitled Essex Matters will be delivered to every household.

The Council Tax was limited to 4.4% due to intensive lobbying of the Government by Cllrs & MPs. Rationalisation will lead to staff redundancies and the County is looking for further efficiencies.

He is unable to give a personal view on Stansted Expansion Plans but can report that the County is against any additional runways and is fighting excessive housing allocation especially on the M11 corridor.

The Regional Assembly agreed to accept that 478,00 houses be built up to 2021 of which 131,000 would be in Essex.

Barker Review in Thaxted is that the building of more houses would bring down the cost of houses.

Essex CC will fight extra housing & airport expansion.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Whitehead for his report.

#### **D Cllr's Report**

UDC is concerned with the problems of drainage, electricity, water & transport for the proposed increase in housing in the District and is prepared to take legal action.

The Council Tax has been kept down and the Council is holding Open Meetings, has a Quality of Life Plan & Focus Groups to get more people to attend by better publicity.

There is a question of devolving responsibility of smaller roads between CC & UDC.

Parking is to be taken over by UDC.

The speeding restriction will be extended from Thaxted to Bardfield End Green.

The Sheltered Housing for the area in Vicarage Mead, Thaxted will be refurbished by UDC.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Wattebot.



6. No report had been received from the **Sarah Bernard Charity**. There is one new resident.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch Scheme** - Cllr P Pickering had nothing to report.

8. **AOB**

Questions were asked about the Village Hall & Bus Service 23.

The Chairman reported that the PCC owns the Hall and it will be sold for development.

The Cricket Club have agreed for the Council to use the Pavilion for its meetings if and when the Hall is sold.

Several members of the village have signed a petition for the access beside the Village Hall to Styles be made a Public Right of Way. Essex CC is deliberating on this and the sale of the Hall has been halted.

Bus Service 23 - the Council understood that it would be suspended at the end of August. Cllr J Whitehead will investigate the matter and report back. Council to write to Essex County Council Passenger Transport.

The meeting closed at 9pm.