



Minutes of the Meeting of Little Braxted Parish Council held in The Braxted Bakery, Witham Road, Little Braxted on Tuesday 23rd April 2019 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: Bendall, Dobie and Speakman

Also Present: Twenty-one members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Barke.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Speakman declared an interest in item 7, Affordable Housing, as a local landowner. No other Members declared any interests in matters on the agenda.

3. To Consider any requests from Members for Dispensations

There were no requests from Members with pecuniary interests for dispensations to enable them to participate on the item in which they have a pecuniary interest.

4. To Note the Resignation of Councillor Chapman

The Chairman noted, with regret, the resignation of Councillor Chapman and thanked her for her contributions, not only to the Parish Council, but to the village in general, as Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator and the village's "eyes and ears" on security matters. The Chairman also thanked Councillor Chapman for her work on the Remembrance Day parade.

5. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 26th March 2019

The Council agreed and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2019 which were then signed as a true record.

6. To Invite Members of the Public to speak on Matters Regarding and Affecting the Parish

Councillor Speakman left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Dobie, as Vice-Chairman, announced the meeting was inquorate and no decisions could be made until Councillor Speakman returned, but that she was willing to take questions from the public.

Key questions on affordable housing included:-

- i) Should the Housing Needs Survey be repeated ?
- ii) Should other ownership methods other than rental be considered ?
- iii) Did the alleged over-provision of affordable housing in Wickham Bishops have an impact on the assessed need for Little Braxted ?

Key questions on traffic and speeding included:-

- i) Would Essex County Council install "Give Way" outstands if the Parish funded them ?
- ii) Should the Parish Council give greater emphasis to traffic matters over affordable housing ?

7. To Consider the Outcome of the Call for Sites and Initial Site Appraisal in Respect of the Affordable Housing Scheme

In the absence of Councillor Speakman the Council remained inquorate and this item was deferred to a meeting to be agreed in May if not the Annual Meeting scheduled for 14th May.

Councillor Speakman rejoined the meeting.

8. To Receive an Update on Highway Matters raised with the Local Highways Panel

The Council received an update on highway matters raised with the Local Highways Panel. The Clerk was asked to enquire if Essex County Council install "Give Way" outstands if the Parish funded them. The Clerk was also asked to ask the County Council for details of current vehicle speeds following installation of the "pedestrian in road" signs.

9. To Agree the Arrangements for the Remembrance Day Service 2019 and Beyond

The Council agree that the Clerk would be responsible for the road closure notice and that the Clerk would call a further meeting with the neighbouring Parish Councils to agree volunteer and stewarding arrangements for the Remembrance Day Service 2019 and beyond.

10. To receive a financial statement as of 29th March 2019

The Council received a detailed financial statement as of 29th March including income and expenditure to date, a comparison against budget, and a bank reconciliation which showed £27,636.89 as the Council's balances.

11. To Approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Document Reference	Payable To	In Respect of	£
554	G N Mussett	Clerk's Salary	£125.15
555	H Bendall	Litterpicking	£41.60
556	Essex Association of Local Councils	Annual Subscription	£63.74
557	G N Mussett	Paper and Inkjet Cartridges	£42.50

12. Clerk's Report – for Information Only

a. Repairs to Bridge

The Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a decision from Essex County Council regarding the bridge refurbishment

b. Internal and External Audit Fees

The Clerk reported that the receipt of the bridge refurbishment grant, in March 2019, and its projected spend in the 2019/20 financial year, meant the Parish Council was now in a higher bracket for both internal and external audit purposes, with resultant increased charges.

13. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.20 p.m.