



Little Braxted Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Little Braxted Parish Council held in The Braxted Bakery, Witham Road, Little Braxted on Tuesday 29th January 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Barke, Bendall and Dobie

Also Present: A member of the public from Wickham Bishops

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Dobie, Vice-Chair, took the chair for the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Chapman, Speakman and District Councillor Bass.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bendall declared an interest as the husband of an employee mentioned in item 15. No other Members declared any interests in matters on the agenda.

3. To Consider any requests from Members for Dispensations

Councillor Bendall sought a dispensation to speak and vote on item 15, which the Council granted, as otherwise the Council would have been inquorate for that item.

4. To Agree and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 27th November 2018

The Council agreed and approved the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2018 as a true record.

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

The member of the public explained that he, and others in Wickham Bishops, were seeking this Council's support in opposing Essex County Council's plans to close Wickham Bishops Library. It was explained to the Council that one possible option was to run the library on a community basis, but ideally, having Essex County Council review its decision was the preferred option.

With the approval of the Council the Chair re-arranged the order of business to deal with item 9 next.

9. To Support Wickham Bishops Parish Council Campaign to Retain their Library

The Council agreed to support Wickham Bishops Parish Council campaign to retain their Library by writing to Essex County Council and publicising the campaign to Little Braxted residents.

6. To Receive an Update on the Availability of Hi-Speed Broadband throughout the Parish

The Clerk gave a verbal update on the future availability of Hi-Speed Broadband throughout the Parish, which was subject to a successful grant application by County Broadband.

7. To Note the Receipt of a Further Quotation for the Bridge Repairs/Repaint and the Grant Submission to the Essex Community Foundation

The Council noted the receipt of a further quotation for the bridge repairs/repaint and the grant submission to the Essex Community Foundation. The Clerk confirmed that Essex County Council had indicated that only their appointed contractors could work on the bridge.

8. To Note the Increased Funding Available under the Essex County Council Highways Devolution Project and Confirm the Previous Decision not to Participate

The Council noted the increased funding available under the Essex County Council Highways devolution project and confirmed the previous decision not to participate.

10. To receive a financial statement as of 31st December 2019

The Council received and approved a financial statement as of 31st December 2018 including detailed income and expenditure, budget comparisons and a bank reconciliation supported by a bank statement, showing total funds as £5,636.91

11. To Approve the following payments:-

The Council approved the following payments:-

Document Reference	Payable To	In Respect of	£
540	G N Mussett	Clerk's Salary December	£122.80
541	H Bendall	Litterpicking December	£46.60
542	HMRC	NI/Tax Oct-Dec	£104.40
543	G N Mussett	Clerk's Salary January	£122.80
544	H Bendall	Litterpicking January	£56.70
545	G N Mussett	New Litterpickers	£20.48

With the approval of the Council the Chair re-arranged the order of business to deal with items 14 and 15 next.

14. The Council Agreed to Exclude the Public and Press from the Following Item in Accordance with the Local Government (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the Confidential Nature of the Business to be Discussed

The member of the public left the meeting.

15. To Note the Revised National Salary Scales for Parish Clerks and Agree Implementation

The Council noted the content of the confidential report and agreed to increase the Clerk's salary by one increment, and that of the litterpicker by 4% with immediate effect.

12. To Agree the Budget and Set the Precept for 2019/20

The Council considered and agreed the budget and set the Precept for 2019/20 at £3,600, representing £42.45 for a Band D property per annum.

13. To Review the Council's Risks

The Council reviewed the Council's risks and agreed the action being taken to minimise them.

16. Closure

The meeting was closed at 8.00 p.m.