

BELCHAMP ST PAUL AND BELCHAMP OTTEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 March 2019 at 7.30pm
at the Community House, Belchamp St Paul

Present: Councillors John Pheby (Chairman), Dave Crook, Tony Money, Ian Paton and Jill West.

In attendance: Diane Smith (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of the public were present.

2152. Apologies for absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillors Norman East, Robin Lock, David Middleditch, Stephen Nice and Dave Winslow, District Councillor Iona Parker and County Councillor David Finch. There were no Declarations of Interest.

2153. Public Forum

1. Recording of all historic Public Rights of Way (PROW) – Recent publicity had highlighted that all historic PROW must be recorded on the Definitive Map by 2020 or be lost. The Chairman, who had previously been the Footpath Warden, believed that within the two parishes all historic PROW were already recorded.

2154. Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting on 22 January 2019

These Minutes were approved and were signed by the Chairman.

2155. Matters arising from the January meeting

1. 17/01808/VAR Land at Claredown Farm, Hickford Hill – Battery energy storage scheme (Item 2140.1) Landscaping commitment – District Cllr Iona Parker had requested that the BDC Planning Enforcement team follow up the PC query and they had established that the site had been sold by Energy Reservoirs and was now owned by Zenobe Energy. The new company had recently agreed to complete the required planting scheme ‘within 4 weeks’ which would be monitored by BDC. Members recorded their thanks to District Cllr Iona Parker for her assistance with this matter.

2. ECC verge cutting payment (Item 2140.2) – Members were pleased to note that the payment of £1970.45 had now been received.

3. Repayment of BDC Councillors Community Grant to BDC (Item 2142.4) – Members noted that repayment of the £200 had been made.

4. BSP Defibrillator cabinet access code (Item 2148) – Members noted that on two separate occasions in the last few months the Ambulance Service had issued the wrong code number to open the defibrillator cabinet on the wall of The Community House. On both occasions the correct code had been obtained from local sources and in the end the defibrillator had not actually been used. Once this problem had been identified both Cllr Jill West and the Clerk had made contact with the East of England Ambulance Service and were confident that the problem had now been rectified.

5. Cycle event on 30 March (Item 2148) - The Clerk had circulated further details of the cycle event which would involve almost 1000 cyclists travelling through Belchamp Otten and along Church Street and Hickford Hill, BSP over a 4 hour period on 30 March. This was not a race and the cyclists would be staggered rather than in a large group. There would be no road closures and marshalls would be situated along the route.

2156. Essex County Council / Braintree District Council

1. Essex County Council – No report had been received from County Cllr David Finch this month.

2. Braintree District Council – The Report from District Cllr Iona Parker focussed on BDC Achievements during 2018-19 and this had been circulated to Councillors. The Report was noted.

2157. Finance

1. The Income and Expenditure List was approved as follows:

		In (£)	Out (£)
22 Jan	E-On (PFMC)		16.70
28 Jan	Transfer	16.70	
29 Jan	ECC – Verge cutting payment	1970.45	
31 Jan	Fred Eady – Litter picking at Belchamp Otten		63.00
31 Jan	Mike Ebeling – Litter picking at BSP		63.00
31 Jan	Diane Smith – Clerk’s salary and expenses		242.40

1 Feb	Transfer (50% Tractor shed costs)	224.31	
4 Feb	Clarkes – Tractor shed materials		448.62
14 Feb	Transfer	54.00	
15 Feb	ECC P3 Footpath funds	367.34	
18 Feb	Wicksteed Leisure – Playground inspection		54.00
18 Feb	Community Heartbeat Trust – Maintenance of BO Defibrillator		162.00
20 Feb	E-On (PFMC)		28.80
26 Feb	Transfer	28.80	
27 Feb	Transfer	200.00	
1 Mar	Community House rent		108.00
1 Mar	Diane Smith (Clerk's salary and expenses)		183.75
1 Mar	BDC – Refund of District Councillors Grant		200.00
8 Mar	R & R (part of BSP PCC grant)		228.20

Bank Current Account balance on 2 March 2019 was £7374.56. Deposit Account balance £15,809. Playing Field Management Account balance £7187.

2. Approval of 2019-20 Budget – Members noted that Mike Ebeling was willing to continue the litter picking at BSP. Cllr Tony Money informed Members that he may now carry on as RFO for 2019-20. Members considered the budget schedule for 2019-20 which had been prepared by the RFO and it was unanimously agreed to approve it.

2158. BDC Local Plan

BDC work on their Local Plan was ongoing but it was noted that the timetable for re-submission may slip to 2020.

2159. Playing Field Management Committee

1. Play equipment improvements – Section 106 funding application – The Clerk had been in contact with BDC but had been informed that the Section 106 funds could not be used exclusively for repair and maintenance works to the play equipment. It had been suggested that a scheme combining the purchase of new equipment and improvements to existing equipment was likely to be considered by BDC. This matter would therefore be referred back to the PFMC.

2. Tractor shed – Members noted that 98% of materials for the tractor shed doors had now been purchased. The tractor had been serviced which included the replacement of the front tyres and re-greasing of the steering box. The tractor was now in full working order but the condition of the steering box would continue to be monitored.

2160. Footpaths

1. ECC Parish Paths Partnership (P3) - The P3 Group now had 18 volunteers and would be focussing on the area around BSP church and Sheering Place, in their next schedule of works. Peter Hesketh had submitted an application to ECC for £280 to fund the P3 scheme during 2019-20.

2. Setting of traps near footpaths – Members discussed the legality of signage on footpaths which stated “Keep dogs under close control because traps have been set”. Members concluded that the signs were lawful but that landowners must adhere to the strict rules regarding the setting of traps.

2161. Highway Matters - Community Speedwatch Group

Members noted that since the last PC meeting a total of 11 Speedwatch sessions had been undertaken and 45 vehicles had been reported to Essex Police. One of the local Community Police Team had also been touch and arrangements were being made for the Police to carry out occasional Speed monitoring sessions in the village in the coming months, to support the Speedwatch Group.

2162. Monitoring the condition of trees on Cole Green

The Clerk would contact Graham Nicholl and request that he inspect the trees on Cole Green and advise on their condition and any safety issues

2163. Defibrillator training session

The training session had been arranged for 27 March at 7.30pm in The Community House. The session had been advertised in Rural Rumblings, on the website and notice boards and 11 volunteers had booked places to attend.

2164. Parish Council Election on 2 May 2019

The Clerk had received a leaflet from BDC to provide guidance to prospective Councillors in the forthcoming election. All Councillors attending the meeting were given a copy and the Clerk would hand deliver copies to the remaining Councillors in the next couple of days. Members noted that Nomination documents had to be downloaded from the BDC website and the Clerk would provide the details as soon as they were available. All nominations must be hand delivered to BDC between 27 March and 3 April (9.30am to 4pm each weekday).

2165. BDC Street Cleaning Agreement 2019-20

The Agreement for 2019-20 had recently been received from BDC. Members noted that the payment for 2019-20 had increased by 2% to £1301.13 to cover inflation. It was unanimously agreed to accept the Agreement and the Clerk would complete the document and return it to BDC with an Activity Report and an invoice for the payment due.

2166. Correspondence

Members considered the Correspondence List which had been circulated by the Clerk. Members noted the BDC Statement of Community Involvement Consultation, the EALC registration for VAT from 1 February 2019, the closure of Otten Road and The Street, Belchamp Otten on 11 March for 5 days (which coincided with the closure of Rodbridge and caused considerable disruption) and the response sent to a letter from a resident questioning the PC process for dealing with planning application 18/02239/FUL for 3 poultry sheds at Hole Farm, Knowl Green.

2167. Planning applications and decisions

1. Applications - Members considered the following new applications:

- 18/00154/FUL – Land north of Shearing Place Road, BSP – Erection of a ‘workers dwelling’.

(No comment).

- 19/00341/FUL – Locks bungalow, Bakers Road, BSP – Proposed new vehicle access

(No comment).

- 19/00430/AGR – Wood Barns Farm, Knowl Green – New agricultural barn housing grainstore and sprayer store (For information only)

2. Decision - Members noted the following planning application decision:

- 19/00070/HH - Walnut Tree House, Gages Road, BSP – Proposed single storey rear extension.

GRANTED.

2168. Urgent matters and future Agenda items

1. Overhanging hedges - Members noted that the roadside hedges outside The Rectory, The Street, Belchamp Otten and on Fowes Lane were overhanging the carriageway. The Clerk would report these problems to ECC Highways.

2169. Next meetings

The meeting closed at 8.53 pm

The Belchamp Otten Annual Parish Assembly will be held in The Red Lion, Fowes Lane, Belchamp Otten on Monday 15 April at 7.30pm.

The Belchamp St Paul Annual Parish Assembly will be held in The Community House on Tuesday 16 April at 7.30pm.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 April 2019 in The Community House, Belchamp St Paul at 8.00pm

Signed: (Chairman)

16 April 2019