

## **BELCHAMP ST PAUL AND BELCHAMP OTTEN PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 at 7.30pm at  
The Community House, Gages Road, Belchamp St Paul

**Present:** Councillors David McKee (Chairman), Harvey Bamford, Sarah Mardon, Tony Money and Dave Winslow and County Councillor Peter Schwier (left after Item 2455). One member of the public was also present. In attendance: Diane Smith (Clerk). To comply with current Covid 19 Regulations, attendance at the meeting was limited to 9 persons.

### **2449. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies had been received from Councillors Scott Bridge, Robin Lock, David Middleditch and Stephen Nice and District Councillor Iona Parker. Cllr Jill West attended briefly but gave her apologies and left before the start of the meeting. There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **2450. Election of Vice Chair**

The Chairman had spoken to Cllr Scott Bridge and he had confirmed his willingness to take on the role of Vice Chairman of the PC. It was proposed by Cllr Dave Winslow, seconded by Cllr Sarah Mardon and unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Scott Bridge as Vice Chairman of the Council.

### **2451. Filling of Casual Vacancy**

Because of ongoing Covid 19 restrictions relating to the number of attendees permitted in The Community House, it was agreed to consider this matter again at the September PC meeting. Both candidates had been updated on the situation.

### **2452. Public Forum**

**a) Review of speed limits in Church Street, BSP** – A significant increase in the number of speeding vehicles had been noted. Local residents had erected signage in an attempt to slow down traffic in Church Street, BSP, particularly near the narrow stretch of roadway in the vicinity of Brown's Farm but further action was required to address this dangerous problem. A review of the illogical succession of speed limits in Church Street was requested (30mph / National/ 40 mph). Councillors were very aware of the problem and sympathetic to the steps taken by the local residents to try and improve the situation. ECC Highways had responsibility for setting speed limits and they followed strict guidelines. The possibility of submitting an application to the Braintree Local Highways Panel was discussed but County Cllr Peter Schwier pointed out that the LHP were oversubscribed with applications so the process could be very extended. He went on to offer to press for a review by ECC if further details, including a map and photos, could be sent to him outlining the particular problems in Church Street. This could be part of a wider ECC review covering the increasing use of highways for cycling, walking and horse riding. Members gratefully accepted this offer.

**b) Overgrown hedge between the playing field and The Savills** – This hedge was causing problems for cars using the rear access road at The Savills and needed to be cut back. Cllr Dave Winslow agreed to discuss the problem with John Pheby.

**c) Overgrown footpath near Otten Hall, Belchamp Otten** – This would be reported to ECC Highways.

**d) Dog bin opposite Otten Hall, Belchamp Otten** – The Clerk would arrange for this to be emptied.

**e) Overgrown ditches around Cole Green** – This problem was already being investigated as part of the new tree planting scheme – see Item 4359 below.

### 2453. Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting on 18 May 2021

These Minutes were unanimously approved and were signed by the Chairman.

### 2454. Matters arising from the May PC meeting

**1. Uneven block paving path at Savills, BSP (Item 2434.2)** – This would be considered again at the next meeting.

**2. Remedial tree works on Cole Green (Item 2434.3)** – It was noted that the remedial work to the small Chestnut, damaged during the felling of the adjacent larger Chestnut opposite Plough House, had not yet been completed.

**3. BSP Village Sign (Item 2434.4)** – Members thanked Cllr Harvey Bamford for repairing/repainting the sign's framework and erecting the new metal Village Sign. The previous sign would remain in place underneath the new sign.

Members also wished to record their thanks to Don Smith for his recent work on the BSP village pump and bus shelter.

**4. ECC Verge Cutting Contract for 2021-22** – The Clerk had submitted an invoice to ECC on 17 May totalling £1970.45 and Members noted that ECC would make this payment on 8 July.

**5. Community 360 IT courses (Item 2344)** – In August 2020 details had been received from Community 360 of informal computer training courses which could be held locally for residents, following funding from the ECC Locality Fund (via County Cllr David Finch). Now that County Broadband had installed broadband at The Community House, Members unanimously agreed to proceed with the project. The scheme would be advertised in Rural Rumbings and the Clerk would liaise with Community 360 to make the necessary arrangements.

### 2455. Essex County Council

The Chairman welcomed County Cllr Peter Schwier to the meeting and congratulated him on his election to ECC. Cllr Schwier introduced himself to Councillors and it was noted that he had been a BDC Councillor for 6 years as well as taking on the new role of County Councillor. Members noted that Kevin Bentley had recently been elected the new Leader of ECC and County Cllr Peter Schwier holds the positions of Deputy Cabinet Member to the Leader and Climate Czar.

Going forward County Cllr Schwier would forward e-mails to the PC, detailing ECC works and consultations as they were issued, rather than producing a report for each PC meeting. This would avoid any delays in the dissemination of the information. He would attend PC meetings whenever his schedule permitted. The Chairman thanked County Cllr Schwier and he left the meeting.

### 2456. Braintree District Council

No report had been received from District Councillor Iona Parker this month.

### 2457. BDC Local Plan

Members noted that the Inspector's Hearing for Section 2 of the BDC Local Plan had commenced on 6 July and would continue until 15 July.

### 2458. Finance

<b>1. The Income and Expenditure List was approved as follows:</b>		IN (£)	OUT (£)
13 May	Transfer		60.00
19 May	E-On – PFMC		12.26
19 May	Transfer	12.26	