

BELCHAMP ST PAUL AND BELCHAMP OTTEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 7.30pm at
The Community House, Gages Road, Belchamp St Paul

Present: Councillors David McKee (Chairman), Harvey Bamford, Scott Bridge (entered during Item 2492), Ruth Carter, Sarah Mardon (entered during Item 2491), David Middleditch, Tony Money and Dave Winslow. Plus County Councillor Peter Schwier (left after Item 2491) and District Councillor Iona Parker (left after Item 2493). No members of the public were present. In attendance: Diane Smith (Clerk).

2487. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies had been received from Councillors Robin Lock, Stephen Nice and John Pheby. Cllr Harvey Bamford declared an interest in Item 2495.

2488. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

2489. Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting on 7 September 2021

Cllr David Middleditch proposed an amendment to the wording of Item 2477 (Crown reduce the 3 Lime Trees in Vicarage Road, BSP) and it was unanimously agreed that the second sentence in this Item should be shortened to read "Members briefly reconsidered this project but agreed not to proceed with it at this time." With this amendment, the Minutes were unanimously approved and were signed by the Chairman.

2490. Matters arising from the September PC meeting

- 1. Uneven block paving path at Savills, BSP (Item 2471.1)** – Cllr Scott Bridge had been informed that this work would be completed in early October. The Clerk would check whether the work remained outstanding and Cllr Bridge agreed to chase the matter again, if necessary.
- 2. Local Neighbourhood Watch Group (Item 2471.3)** – The Clerk had met with the local Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and he had provided a supply of promotional Nwh window stickers, pens, key rings etc. These would be distributed to Councillors at the end of the meeting. Residents could also request the promotional items direct from Clive Stewart or via the Clerk.
- 3. Planning application 21/00505/FUL for The Community House, BSP – Replace thatched roof with tiles (Item 2484.3)** - Following the approval of this application by BDC, the Chairman had written to District Cllr Iona Parker and Cllr Sarah Mardon thanking them both for their assistance and advice during the application process.

2491. Essex County Council

County Cllr Peter Schwier reported on ECC matters including the following: he continued to send regular e-mails to the Clerk for circulation to Members: ECC were now undertaking roving cabinet meetings at venues across Essex and whilst at these different locations they took the opportunity to discuss and view current issues with local District Councillors: ECC would be looking at their budget for the next four years in totality rather than considering each year in isolation. The annual budget was approximately £1.2 billion: Highway problems/projects had traditionally been channelled via the Local Highway Panels but County Cllr Schwier highlighted that Parish Councils (grouped or individually) could also take over responsibility for dealing with such problems under license from ECC: County Cllr Schwier had available Locality funding totalling £10,000, to provide grants towards

projects within the Hedingham Division. These grants did not require match funding but had to be spent in the current financial year. Applications were invited.

Members raised two matters with County Cllr Schwier and he responded: that the proposal to construct slip roads off the A120 direct to Braintree Shopping Village was still in the ECC programme but it had been delayed by the Covid situation: following the recent tragic death of Sir David Amess MP the security of public officials was raised. Members who had any concerns regarding the publishing of personal contact details were advised to obtain advice from the BDC Monitoring Officer.

2492. Braintree District Council

District Councillor Iona Parker reported on the following matters: the planning application for the new Doctors Surgery at Sible Hedingham had been submitted by One Medical (see Item 2500.1 below): BDC had acknowledged that their Enforcement process had not been working as well as it should. Additional staff were being employed to address the problem and staff communication skills were being improved: funds from the Councillor’s Community Grant Scheme were still available (it was noted that an application had been submitted for a street party in Belchamp Otten to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee): BDC had launched a Tree and Bulb planting scheme (see Item 2499 below): Quiet Lanes – It was suggested that Pollards Green Lane, Knowl Green might be a suitable road for this designation.

Members raised two matters with District Cllr Parker. She confirmed that the regulations for spending Section 106 monies followed national guidelines and it was noted that her application to the Braintree Local Highway Panel for Deer Warning Signs near Mashay Wood had now been included in the LHP List for consideration.

2493. BDC Local Plan

Members noted that the Inspector’s decision on Section 2 of the BDC Local Plan was expected shortly and that BDC now have a 5-year supply of deliverable homes so they are in a better position to resist speculative planning applications.

2494. Finance

1. The Income and Expenditure List was approved as follows:		IN (£)	OUT (£)
21 Sept	E-On – PFMC		14.53
21 Sept	NFU Mutual – Tractor insurance		214.81
24 Sept	Anglian Water – PFMC		26.21
27 Sept	Transfer	14.53	
27 Sept	Transfer	26.21	
28 Sept	Fred Eady – Litter picking at Belchamp Otten		66.00
28 Sept	David Smith – Litter picking at BSP		66.00
28 Sept	Diane Smith - Clerk’s salary and expenses		192.50
30 Sept	BDC – Precept second instalment	2249.00	

Current account balance at 16 October 2021 was £6080.56, Deposit account balance £15,822 and PFMC account balance £11,268.

2. Consider membership of the Braintree Association of Local Councils (BALC) - Members discussed the merits of joining BALC but it was decided not to do so.

2495. CIF Grant application / Tree Planting Plan for Cole Green

1. Quotations to trim the ditch in front of The Savilles - Members considered two quotations to undertake this work. It was proposed by Cllr Scott Bridge, seconded by Cllr David Middleditch and unanimously agreed that the Clerk would contact one of the companies and confirm if they would be willing to adjust their quotation, within certain pre-agreed parameters, prior to any decision being made.

It was also agreed to obtain a quotation for regular twice yearly strimming of the ditch going forwards. This would be considered at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that a local resident had strimmed and cleared the ditch in front of his property, alongside Cole Green, and the work had significantly improved the appearance of the area. Members recorded their thanks to Russell Watson for undertaking this work.

2. Damaged Chestnut tree opposite Plough House – The Clerk confirmed that Graham Nicholl had undertaken remedial work on this tree, which was damaged when the large Chestnut adjacent to it had been felled. The growth of the tree would continue to be monitored.

2496. Playing Field Management Committee

a) Application for Section 106 funds – Members were pleased to note that BDC had approved the revised application, to purchase Monkey Bars and a Baby Swing plus necessary safety matting, at a total cost of £4178.20 plus VAT. Cllr Dave Winslow reported that Wicksteed had indicated that timber supply problems would delay the work until February 2022. Articles had been placed on Facebook and in Rural Rumbings to explain to residents the reason for the delays with this project.

b) Remembrance Day Poppy Display – November 2021 – Cllr Dave Winslow reported that arrangements were underway to create a Poppy Display on Cole Green to mark Remembrance Sunday. Further volunteers to make the poppies would be very welcome.

c) Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022 – Cllr Dave Winslow reported that initial ideas for marking this significant event were being discussed (including possible dog show, cricket match and children's sports day). Members unanimously agreed that elements of the event could be held on Cole Green.

2497. Village Design Code

The Clerk reported that information on a Village Design Code had been placed on all noticeboards and the website but that the scheduled edition of Rural Rumbings had been slightly delayed. This matter would therefore be considered further at the next meeting.

2498. Arrangements for the 2021 Christmas Tree on Cole Green

Cllr Robin Lock had stated that he and his team were again willing to source and collect the Christmas tree, as in previous years. Members expressed their thanks to the team of volunteers and agreed that the budget for the project would be £175.

2499. Correspondence

Members considered the Correspondence List which had been circulated by the Clerk. The following items were noted: BDC Consultation on Verge Cutting Trial (PC to comment objecting to a single annual cut but suggesting a compromise solution): BDC Community Tree and Bulb Planting Scheme (PC to apply for 400 mixed bulbs to be planted under village signs and adjacent to the ditch on the northern edge of Cole Green): BDC online session to provide free advice to PC's on using social media (Clerk to attend if spaces are available): Letter of thanks from resident for PC support of the latest application at Mill House, Gages Road, BSP.

2500. Planning applications and decisions

1. Applications – Members considered the following applications:

- 21/02733/HH – **Dollery, Bakers Road, BSP** – Erection of porch extension, changes to fenestration, cladding of dwelling and removal of existing conservatory. NO COMMENT.
- 21/02899/HH – **1 Lodge Cottage, Knowl Green** – Retention of vehicular access. NO COMMENT.
- 21/02947/HH - **Rose Cottage, Fowes Lane, Belchamp Otten** – Construction of 1 bedroom annexe ancillary to the main dwelling (and holiday letting). COMMENT: VEHICULAR AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO FOWES LANE AND FOOTPATH 21 MUST BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES DURING WORKS.
- 21/02738/HH – **Dollery, Bakers Road, BSP** – Construct a replacement detached garage with annexe accommodation. NO COMMENT.
- 21/02384/PLD – **Ashdowne House, Gages Road, BSP** – Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed replacement of the oil heating system with an air heat exchange pump. FOR INFORMATION ONLY.
- 21/03099/FUL – **Land north of Osier Way, Sible Hedingham** – Erection of 2 storey medical centre with parking. COMMENT: INADEQUATE ON SITE PARKING PROVISION WILL RESULT IN PRESSURE ON EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO ON ROAD PARKING IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA.

2. Decisions –

- 21/02389/HH – **Mill House, Gages Road, BSP** – Demolition of part of existing outbuilding and replacement with a single storey addition. Conversion of existing outbuildings and use of single storey addition as annexe. GRANTED.

2485. Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

2486. Urgent matters and proposals for future Agenda

- 1. Highways road signs left behind after recent accident** – Cllr Harvey Bamford reported that a collection of highway barriers and signs had been left at the rear of the bus shelter in Bakers Road. The Clerk would ask ECC Highways to collect the items.
- 2. Replacement Vicarage Road sign** – Members noted that BDC had erected a new road name sign to replace the sign damaged in the recent accident.
- 3. Potholes in Pollards Green Lane** – Cllr David Middleditch reported a number of potholes in Pollards Green Lane and the Clerk agreed to inform ECC Highways accordingly.
- 4. The Community House** – It was suggested that investigations should be undertaken to establish if grant funding was available to improve the energy efficiency of this community building.
- 5. The Cherry Tree, Knowl Green planning application appeal (Refs: 3270942 and 3270944)** – An update was requested. [CLERK'S NOTE: As of 29 October 2021 the status on the BDC website showed the appeal to be "in progress"].

Next meeting

The meeting closed at 8.46pm.

The next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 30 November 2021 at 7.30pm in The Community House, Gages Road, Belchamp St Paul.

Signed: (Chairman) 30 November 2021