

## Minutes of the Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council held at 20.00 on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012, Parish Room, (adj. Village Hall), Church Lane, Doddinghurst.

**Present:** Clrs. Mrs D Dicker (Chairman), Mrs A Richards (Vice Chair), Mrs J Le Page, Mr C Enderby, Mr G Smith, Mr G W Bateson, Mr A Farrow, Mr A Smith; Borough Councillors Mr K Parker and Mr R McCheyne.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** Cllrs. P Davenport, Mrs D Rogers-Harrison, and Mr A Oliver; County and Borough Councillor Ann Naylor.
2.  **Resolved.** Minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011 approved and signed.
3. **Declaration of Interests from Members.** None declared.
4. **Noted: Clerk's report back on progress following the meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011:**
  - i. Brentwood Borough Council partnership agreement approved, signed and returned.
  - ii. Brentwood Borough Council confirmed Discretionary Grant for 2012/13 at £13,722 (the same as 2011/12).
  - iii. Notice received of proposed changes to the Code of Conduct involving Personal and Prejudicial rules and publication of Councillor interests .
  - iv. Skate Park petitioner parents invited to Christmas Buffet but no response.
  - v. Allotment waiting list grown to 8 new applicants in total and 5 existing plot holders requesting specific plots when available.
  - vi. No burial ground interments carried out in December.
  - vii. All 40 salt bags distributed - much interest generated from article in newsletter.
  - viii. Doddinghurst Road Notice Board reinstated near Post Office Bus Shelter.
  - ix. New Bus Shelter delivered for installation on Doddinghurst Road near Church Lane (10/01/12).
  - x. Footpath diversions being implemented by ECC for Footpaths 3 and 19 (School lane to Church Lane and Solid lane to Days lane).
  - xi. Heart of Essex Planning Forum and Workshop attended (10/01/2012).
5. **Noted: Schedule of Correspondence received up to the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012.** Noted: Request for nomination to attend the asset, infrastructure and localism panel chaired by Cllr Russell Quirk, Brentwood Borough Council and receipt of £4000 as initial part of the Neighbourhood Plan preparation costs.
6. **Financial Reports and Minutes and Feedback from Committees.**
  - a.  **Resolved:** Approved the Financial Reports for December 2011.
  - b.  **Resolved:** Approved the Schedule of Payments for December 2011.
  - c. **Information:** Noted: no December 2011 Planning Committee meeting held.
  - d. **Information:** Noted: no December 2011 General Purpose Committee meeting held.
  - e. **Information:** Feedback from Members relating to Committees attended in prior month. No meetings attended by members. The Clerk provided a written report on the Heart of Essex housing workshop held on the 10<sup>th</sup> January at Hylands House.
7.  **Resolved:** Approved by majority vote, the 2012/13 precept at £47,796, a 2% increase on 2011/12. The approval followed an extensive debate on the financial challenge facing the Parish Council on a very small overall budget, especially in the face of an 8.6% increase in CPI over the past 2 years when the discretionary grant from Brentwood Borough Council has fallen and a freeze on precept by the Parish Council in 2011/12 over 2010/11. It was also noted that the Council had granted in the region of £111,000 to local clubs and societies in the past two years and no grants to the Parish Council were available to help with such assistance.
8. **Information:** Neighbourhood Plan update. It was noted that £4000 of funds had been released by Brentwood Borough Council and the Clerk presented a briefing on a proposed Building Community Planning Camp.

**9. 🖐️ Resolved:** Approved funding up to £400, for one night's accommodation and travel to and from the Building Community Planning Camp on Neighbourhood Planning to be held near St Austell in early February 2012. (The 2.5 day event, including accommodation, meals and transport is free of charge to delegates and actual cost expected to be closer to £200).

**10. Information:** Sunday Bus service. Cllr Enderby reported on the latest position and that the Clerk would be attending a meeting with Brentwood Community Transport on the 25<sup>th</sup> January to confirm the arrangements.

**11. Information:** Jubilee Event update. Cllrs Le Page and Dicker. A sample of the information guide for use on the day and as publicity material was shown to councillors for comment. The event opening time is to be 13.00 with band playing and school pageant occurring at 13.30 then with the other attractions commencing at 13.45.

**12. 🖐️ Resolved:** Approved in principle the provision of a tree near the Scout Hut area (10 year old oak) and plaque to commemorate the Queens Jubilee. A budget of £200 was suggested.

**13. Information:** A call to support the partially sighted was noted - reference the letter copied to Councillors asking for volunteer drivers from Victoria Davies. It was recommended that the matter is referred to Brentwood Community Transport since they already have drivers who are trained and insured for social transport activity.

**14. 🖐️ Resolved:** Approved action to capture and publish both highway and utility company issues that adversely impact the village on the Parish Council's website to draw problems to the attention of senior management of the service providers

**15. Other urgent information** (No council actions/letters/undertakings permissible on this item).

- Noted, that ECC had on order beams to replace/ repair the stone bridge on Footpath 10 and that the work was expected to commence in February 2012.
- Noted, that the replacement bus shelter had been installed on the Doddinghurst Road near the junction with Church Lane and had been well received.

**The meeting closed at 22.00**

Minutes signed:

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012

**Comments in public session:**

- Councillor Parker had undertaken an inspection of highway problems with Cllr Dicker. It was agreed that the communications on matters of repair with ECC were very poor since no feedback was ever given on complaints and problem reports.
- The absence of visible Police presence was raised as a concern
- Neighbourhood watch reported an increase in house burglary and associated car thefts. In addition, Speedwatch exercises observed people driving at up to 50mph in the 30 mph areas of the village.

The meeting was attended by four members of the public.