

Minutes of the Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council held at 20.00 on Thursday 15th January 2015, Parish Rooms, Adjacent Village Hall, Church Lane, Doddinghurst, Essex.

Present: Cllrs. Mrs. D. Dicker (Chairman), Mr. Alan Farrow, Mr. G W Bateson, Mr. Alan Smith, Mrs. D Rogers Harrison, Mrs. Julia Le Page, Mr. A Oliver, Mr. P Arnell, Mr. D Potter, Mr. G Smith and Mr. C Enderby; Borough Councillor Mr. Keith Parker and Borough Councillor Mr. R McCheyne.

1. **Apologies for absence.** County and Borough Councillor Mrs. Ann Naylor.
2.  **Resolved.** Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th Nov 2014 approved and signed.
3. **Declaration of Interests** from Members of any item(s) on this agenda. None declared.
4. **Information:** Clerk's report back on progress and from decisions taken at meetings from the previous meeting.
 - a) Two ashes interments involving re-opening of existing plots, and one new allotment lease has been issued.
 - b) The Children's Play equipment installation started on the 17th November and concluded with a public opening on the 11th December 2014. The opening ceremony with the "tape cutting" by the village schools / Parish Council Chairman took place and was reported upon by the Brentwood Gazette - see article of the 17th December 2014.
 - c) A VAT claim for £17,327 and a CIF grant claim for £20,000 relating to the new play area was submitted in mid-December 2014. (Both now received.)
 - d) A RoSPA safety report on the new play area has been obtained and some remedial work put in hand with the contractor, for which a retention of £1500 on final invoice has been made.
 - e) Insurance cover for the new play equipment has been taken out with an amendment to the current cover valid up to June 2015.
 - f) I have written to Brentwood Borough Council to advise them of the termination of the grass and hedge maintenance contract from the beginning of April 2015 (ref item 9 of the meeting on 6th Nov 2014). The football club have confirmed that they will deal with football related maintenance on the fields and pitch marking out for the three football fields from April 2015. MDL have been advised of the arrangements.
 - g) The Parish Council website has been updated.
5. **Information:** Noted: Schedule of Correspondence received up to the 7th January 2015
6. **Financial Reports, Minutes and Feedback from Committees.**
 - a.  **Resolved. Approved** Financial Reports for November and December 2014. Noted the Bank Statements.
 - b.  **Resolved. Approved and signed** the Schedule of Payments for November and December 2014.
 - c. **Noted and approved** comments re Planning Applications for November and December. A request from the developer of the Old Surgery site to discuss their application had been received and initiated but not followed up by the developer.
 - d. **Information:** Noted Minutes of the Finance and Resource meeting on the 19th November 2014.
 - e. **Information: Feedback from Members relating to Committees attended since last meeting.** Cllr Enderby advised that the Bus Club had appointed two new drivers who had undertaken Midas training.
7.  **Resolved:** Approved Doddinghurst Parish Council's precept request for 2015/16 of £52,070.
8.  **Resolved:** Approved the implementation of the NJC approved 2014 - 2016 pay and allowances recommendations.
9.  **Resolved:** Approved the schedule of works for Stage 2 of the Play Area upgrade. Cllr Le Page will pursue opportunities for grant funding for the project. Noted that co-funding up to £25,000 is available. The issue of seats and table provision remains to be finalised.

- 10. Information: Noted:** Brentwood Borough Council Strategic Growth Options Consultation. A further meeting was agreed for 20th Jan at 20.00 to discuss the Development Plan questionnaire and the council's response in greater detail. Overall the Council was opposed to development in the green belt unless there were overwhelming benefits to the community. It was noted that the Borough Council's 2013 sustainability assessment found that development in villages to the north of Brentwood was unsustainable for reasons of limited water supply and sewerage systems.
- 11. 🗳️ Resolved:** Approved a new Calendar of meetings for 2015.
- 12. Information:** Response to Police and Crime Commissioners letter on Gypsies and Travellers. (Ref item 5 of the meeting of the 6th November 2014) A proposal by the Clerk proposed a meeting with Essex Police Countywide Traveller Unit was agreed and a letter issued accordingly.
- 13. Other urgent information.**
- (i) With full council elections in 2016 the Chairman will be holding public awareness sessions during 2015 including a May Fair stall.
- (ii) The NAT's team are scheduled to visit the ward in the period 16th to 20 Feb 2015. Comments with full details and location description on areas for attention to Clarrie Tremain please. Please note that verge and pavement damage should be reported to Essex County Council highways on their website for reporting highway defects, not on the NAT's rota as they cannot undertake this work.

The meeting closed at 22.00

Minutes signed:

Date: 5th March 2015

Comments in public session: The meeting was attended by 2 members of the public and the press.

- (a) Borough Councillors have grant funds to allocate for 2015/16 and Cllr Roger McCheyne offered funds (£1300?) for the Children's Play Area refurbishment - possibly for a seat/table.
- (b) The new digital broadband cabinets in the village are being connected up and should be able to offer service "in weeks". In addition to the ones by the Post Office and at the junction of Doddinghurst Road and Church Lane, new ones in Outings Lane near The Gardens are being installed. The high speed service has to be applied for and will not necessarily be offered automatically to existing customers.
- (d) Sight lines to the left for cars emerging from Park Meadow into Mountnessing Lane are being increasingly obstructed by a privately owned hedgerow.
- (e) Borough Council refuse lorries are driving over verges in The Gardens without any care and attention for the damage caused. This is despite adequate space for the lorries to drive on the road without mounting the verge.
- (e) Cllr Parker advised that he would be making an application for the building rubble piled up on the old surgery site to be removed.
- (f) Burglaries by means of forced entry through rear doors are continuing, albeit at a low level and the police have made local arrests. Scams and phishing emails are on the increase and residents should never comply with requests to reveal personal and banking detail in response to unexpected emails and phone calls.