

**Minutes of the Meeting of Doddinghurst Parish Council held at 20.00 on Thursday 7th June 2017,
Parish Room, Adjacent Village Hall, Church Lane, Doddinghurst, Essex.**

Present: Cllrs. Mrs D. Dicker (Chairman), Mrs. D Rogers Harrison, Mrs. Julia Le Page, Mr A Farrow , Mr P Arnell, Mr. A Smith, Mr. G Smith, Mr G Powell and Mr M Capon; Borough Councillors Mr Cliff Poppy, Mr Roger McCheyne and Mr K Parker and Essex County Cllr Leslie Wagland.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Mr. D Potter, and Mr. A Oliver
2. 🖐️ **Resolved.** Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th May 2017 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 prior meetings.
 - I. *Burial Ground: One full burial and one new ashes plot.*
 - II. *Allotments: Arrangements are being made to remove accumulated rubbish left behind by allotment holders.*
 - III. *The Internal audit has been completed with no issues.*
 - IV. *A grant of £3000 has been received from the Dagwood Trust towards the new teenage facilities.*
 - V. *A promised donation of £600 has also been received from the Rotary Club, also towards the new teenager facilities, following the half marathon.*
 - VI. *A "61" Bus user forum meeting was held with over 40 people in attendance. Ensign have now decided to withdraw their service on the 21st July following a dispute with the re-tender action taken by Essex County Council. This is 5 weeks earlier than the anticipated date when the current funding was due to expire on the last Saturday in August 2017.*
 - VII. *Santander have suddenly stopped sending monthly paper statements and we have no on-line banking facility with them. As I am not a cheque signatory they would not discuss the account but did say that we would now only get a statement when there was a transaction on the account. I pointed out that interest was payable on the 1st April 2017 which should have triggered a statement but we have received nothing. They refused to help saying that a bank signatory would need to go into a branch and have a statement faxed to them.*
 - VIII. *The security post at Peartree Field was towed out of the ground by people reported as joy riding in the field on a quad bike. The post, ground fixing, and padlock remained attached to the gate by a steel security cable. I have arranged for farm machinery (Courtesy of Cllr McCheyne) to be placed in the entrance whilst the security post is repaired. A stronger and deeper ground anchor is needed.*
 - IX. *A letter of objection over the provision of a third static home at The Willows Place Farm Lane, in addition to the original approved Traveller pitch, has been sent to the Borough Council Planning department since it is a Green Belt site.*
5. **Information:** Noted: Schedule of Correspondence received up to the 30th May 2017.
6. **Financial Reports and Minutes and Feedback from Committees.**
 - a. Information: Noted the Financial Reports for May 2017.
 - b. 🖐️ **Resolved.** Approved the Schedule of Payments for May 2017.
 - c. Information and 🖐️ Resolution: Noted planning applications status at end May 2017. Appeal against enforcement for Belle Vue, Brook lane - noted 20+ page report and split decision from Inspector. Resolved: Objection to 1 Barn Mead - application to divide the property into 2 dwellings - impact on street scene. Noted Essex CC enforcement action re Water Works Spring farm and the result of a legal action against the landowner.
 - d. Information: Noted minutes of the Finance and Resource Committee of the 17th May 2017.
 - e. Information: Noted the sign off and report of the Internal Auditor for the 2016/7 accounts.
 - f. Information: Feedback from Members relating to Committees attended since last meeting including the 61 bus forum meeting - The notes of the bus user forum meeting were accepted and the topic led to an extensive debate with all members of the Parish Council firmly behind the continuance of the 261/61 service - see also comments made in the public session.

7. 🖐️ **Resolved:** Approved, the Annual Governance Statement of the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2017.
8. 🖐️ **Resolved:** Approved, the sign off of Accounting Statements for the Annual Return year ended 31st March 2017.
9. 🖐️ **Resolved:** Approved a revised cheque signatory arrangement of the Parish Council's Santander Bank Account 41465154, to include Roger Blake, Clerk and RFO to the Parish Council.
10. 🖐️ **Resolved:** Approved the abolition of a tandem account arrangement between Doddinghurst PC's Barclays Business Savings Account and its Barclays Community Account and the merging of the two accounts into the one community account.
11. 🖐️ **Resolved:** Approved Doddinghurst Parish Council's Annual Report for 2016/17.
12. 🖐️ **Resolved:** Approved the implementation of NALC/SLCC 2017/18 revised pay scales for all employees.
13. **Information:** Teen shelter equipment selection. The Council accepted a paper setting out the design objectives for the teen shelter and a list of suppliers for consideration. Councillors Dicker, Farrow, Arnell, Rogers-Harrison, A Smith and G Smith had agreed to team up to work to select a preferred value-for-money supplier. This would include inspecting examples of the equipment and establishing the preferences/ wishes of the local teenagers. The topic is to be raised at the next GP meeting on the 21st June and the Clerk is to circulate the set of papers that were reviewed to the Councillors concerned. The final decision would rest with full Council - the next scheduled meeting after July will be on the 7th September 2017.
14. **Other urgent information** (No council actions/letters/undertakings permissible on this item) The GP meeting is scheduled for the 21st June 2017 and the next PC meeting on the 6th July 2017.

The meeting closed at 22.00

Minutes signed:

Date: 6th July 2017

Comments in public session:

(i) Cllr Wagland updated the Council on the latest position of the County Council on the 261/61 Bus Service. The new County Councillor for Bus Transport (Cllr Gooding) is supporting the provision of funds to keep the service running and a new operator is being actively sought. Any decision has to go to the ECC cabinet for approval. Members of the public reiterated how important the 261/61 bus was to the community.

(ii) Cllr Parker advised that he had become responsible for Brentwood BC Environment and Enforcement committee, which includes planning issues. The Borough Council would be using modern techniques to apprehend and prosecute fly tippers etc. and implementing on the spot fines. The Council also now had the means to rapidly seal off entrances (and exits) to areas where illegal incursions occurred.

The meeting was attended by three members of the public