

BRENTWOOD BOROUGH PARISH COUNCILS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Meeting of the Brentwood Borough Parish Councils Association held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 via Zoom

Meeting opened at 7:30PM.

PRESENT:

Roger Keeble (Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green), Sue Clapham (Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green), Debbie Dicker (Doddinghurst), Caroline Fuller (Doddinghurst), Paul Jeater (**Chairman**, Ingatestone & Fryerning), Jane Winter (Ingatestone & Fryerning), Peter Davey (**EALC**, Ingatestone & Fryerning), Hugh Gorton (LHP rep, Kelvedon Hatch), Richard North (Kelvedon Hatch)

APOLOGIES:

No one was available from Navestock PC. Cllr Alan Kingsford (Herongate & Ingrave PC)

No.	Item
1	<p>Working with Brentwood Planning Department and how much cooperation we get from our Borough Councillors</p> <p>Debbie Dicker introduced this topic. She wanted to know about the experience of other PCs with the Planning Department and the Borough Councillors who represent their parishes.</p> <p>In Doddinghurst there had been a recent planning application for a controversial development and the PC had wanted to speak at the planning meeting to decide it. However, they were informed that the application had already been approved.</p> <p>The PC made a formal complaint to the council leader. The planning department admitted their mistake but the Borough Councillors representing the parish, who should have intervened to get the application discussed at the meeting, were not sanctioned for failing to do so.</p> <p>There was a discussion about other instances where Brough Councillors have failed to support the parishes they represent. Also, cases where BBC or ECC have failed to respond to correspondence from PCs or to take action were mentioned. In a case in Blackmore a local landowner had made a land grab blocking a bridleway, despite a stop order, but ECC had failed to resolve the problem, claiming the land belongs to the PC.</p> <p>In another instance, Jane Winter, chair of the Ingatestone Neighbourhood Plan, had been barred from a planning meeting on site arranged by the BBC at which the plan was being discussed.</p>
2	<p>Report from Brentwood Local Highways Panel</p> <p>Hugh Gorton reported on the work of the panel. The panel is supposed to meet quarterly but the September meeting had been cancelled because apparently it had no decisions to make. A promised update on the 2022/23 programme had not been received and therefore he could only report on July meeting (see separate report). He also mentioned that there were many inaccuracies in the lists of schemes discussed by the panel, e.g. some schemes in non-parished locations being listed in parishes and vice-versa.</p> <p>Funding has been agreed for making permanent the 20 mph limit in Ingatestone Town Centre but final signoff is still awaited from the ECC Cabinet Member for Highways, Lee Scott. Funding for the grasscrete scheme in New Road, Ingatestone had also been agreed and work scheduled for July – September. However, to date no work has started.</p> <p>It was agreed that Hugh should write to Lee Scott requesting start dates for both schemes.</p> <p>It is understood that Lee Scott is to review the working of LHPs across the county but has had no update on this.</p>

Signed:

Paul Jeater
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1st. December 2022

3	<p>Update on CIL and S106 Agreements with Developers and Local Benefits updates</p> <p>Peter Davey introduced this topic. He had asked Phil Drane (Director of Planning at the BBC) for an update on allocation of S106 monies in the borough, including the housing developments planned for both the Ingatestone Garden Centre and CARLA Homes sites. Such money is provided by the developer to the local authority to fund local services and infrastructure improvements. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is gradually taking the place of S106 but BBC has not as yet progressed very far with this process. PCs should benefit more from the CIL if they have in place a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). They should get 25% of the CIL if they have a NP in place, compared to 15% without such a plan.</p>
4	<p>To receive an update regarding LDP developments and local infrastructure upgrades and discuss matters arising</p> <p>Peter Davey introduced this topic. Phil Drane attended the last BBPCA meeting. He agreed to investigate the issues around the REDROW and CARLA Homes developments with a view to ensuring that the existing infrastructure of all services to the sites in question was either up to standard to cope with additional use or to ensure that the relevant modernisation was put in place by both developers prior to any further building works taking place. He agreed to look into this and report back.</p>
5	<p>Update on Neighbourhood Plans across the Borough</p> <p>Peter Davey introduced this item. The BBC had been through a learning curve with the Ingatestone & Fryerning PC regarding the significance of NPs. Planning officers must consider the requirements of any NP in place when making any planning decision including for LDP sites. West Horndon PC is currently putting a NP in place. The chairman expressed the view that BBC should assume that proposed NPs would be approved in local referenda and plan their work accordingly. Roger Keeble mentioned that Blackmore PC has had two consultations with developers of LDP sites in the village. He was concerned about the lack of energy saving features, such as solar panels, in the planned new homes.</p>
6	<p>Carbon Neutral Builds</p> <p>Peter Davey introduced this topic. Ingatestone & Fryerning PC had challenged via the BBC both CALA Homes and Redrow over their lack of energy saving initiatives and they both stated that they will comply with the latest legislation which will not change until 2024.</p> <p>Roger Keeble mentioned that Blackmore PC has had two consultations with developers of LDP sites in the village. He was concerned about the lack of energy saving features, such as solar panels, in the planned new homes.</p>
7	<p>BBC update on Environmental initiatives</p> <p>Peter Davey introduced this topic. He had consulted with Phil Drane. Peter was concerned that little or no provision had been made for increasing the capacity of mains services when new developments in the LDP are built. Also, there had been no progress in providing more charging points for electric vehicles in the borough.</p>
8	<p>Update on NALC and EALC</p> <p>Peter Davey had organised the recent AGM of the EALC at Hylands House, Chelmsford. The meeting had included a PFCC conference with a very good video by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.</p> <p>There was also an ECC conference chaired by Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader of ECC and County Councillor for Brentwood Hutton. She has drawn up a list of resources available across the county to help with the cost of living crisis. She is looking at ways to help 'level up' the more deprived areas of the county.</p> <p>There was also a discussion on civility and respect in the workplace. It is important that there are effective measures in place to stop bullying, including making sure councils have the powers to suspend anyone being abusive.</p>

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9	<p>BBPCA organisation – Secretary/Treasurer</p> <p>The chairman introduced this topic. Following Terry Portch’s notice that he was returning to teaching full time. The association has been without a secretary and treasurer. We have advertised the role but there have been no takers. We could advertise the role more locally and put out feelers.</p> <p>Cheques can still be issued because Debbie Dicker and Richard North but we need to remove Terry as a signatory and find a replacement.</p>
10	<p>Future Meetings</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about the format of future meetings. Face to face meetings are generally preferred and borough councillors should be invited when appropriate. However, joint meetings with BBC at the town hall are not favoured as the borough councillors tend to dominate. The next meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 23rd November at Tipps Cross Remembrance Hall.</p>

Signed:

Jeater
Paul Jeater

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