**BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON**

**TUESDAY 9 MAY 2023**

**PRESENT:** Mr S Rhenius (Chair)

Mr A Cook

Ms K Gentry

Mrs A Chadney

Mr T Chadney

**ALSO PRESENT:** District Councillor Diana Garrod

County Councillor Peter Schwier (arrived late)

3 Members of the Public

**CLERK:**  Mrs D Hilliard

**23/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**23/28 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY FOR 2021**

Mr Cook proposed and Ms Gentry seconded with all in favour that the minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly for 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed.

**23/29 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

**23/30 REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

The Chair’s report was read out, considered and noted with no questions.

**23/31 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR DIANA GARROD**

Cllr Garrod’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was considered by the Parish Council. Points noted were:-

* Proposed asylum centre at Wethersfield Airbase – it was noted that an appeal against the judgement was being lodged.
* Road closures – the closure of 11 May 2023 for 5 days was noted.
* It was noted that Ride London would be coming through the area on 26 May 2023.
* Information on media re increased energy bill for pubs – the District Council have sent emails to every pub in the District and offered support.
* The cumulative effect of solar farms – Essex CPRE have produced a policy and link was contained in Cllr Garrod’s report.
* Government encouraging pre-payment meter customers to redeem the vouchers.

**23/32 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR PETER SCHWIER**

Cllr Schwier reported. It was noted his annual report was circulated in March. Points noted were:-

* Increase in Council tax by 3.5% of which 2% was allocated for social care.
* Highways – reminder to parishioners to report online and/or What3Words to report issues.
* Recycling
* Parish funding – Cllr Schwier has a locality fund to use across the division of £5,000 across 30 parishes.

There was then a lengthy discussion regarding the following issues:

* Potholes in Baythorne End
* Speed of traffic through Baythorne End and along to the New England junction.
* The impact of additional construction traffic should the proposed solar farm at Wixoe go ahead.
* Responsibility of the Clare bridge speed limits/repairs etc between Essex and Suffolk County Councils.

After discussion it was agreed that:-

* The parish council will establish a working group made up of 1 or 2 parish councillors and members of the public to cover:-
  + Reducing speed limit along A1017 through Baythorne End
  + Size and amount of lorries using the Clare Bridge and A1017
  + Cllr Garrod to check if the Culina lorries are barred from using the Clare bridge/A1017 route.
  + Aim to get Essex and Suffolk County Councils to communicate with each other regarding the Clare bridge.
  + Impact of additional traffic if the proposed solar farm at Wixoe is built.

*Cllr Schwier left the meeting.*

**23/33 REPORT OF BIRDBROOK COMMUNITY HOUSE TRUSTEES**

No representative present.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.10pm

Signed: ………………………………. Dated: …………………………….