

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**HELD ON TUESDAY 9 JULY 2024 AT 7.00PM
AT THE COMMUNITY HOUSE, BIRDBROOK**

PRESENT: Mr Steve Rhenius (Chair)
Mr Alan Cook
Mrs Anita Chadney
Mr Tim Chadney

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Diana Garrod (BDC)
Mrs Debbie Hilliard (Clerk)
8 Members of the public

Mr Rhenius welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Questions were invited from the members of the public.

Members of the public were residents of the parish, including residents of New England and raised concerns regarding the speed and amount of traffic using the A1017/B1054 junction, particularly as it was now a diversion route whilst the B1057 Haverhill/Steeple Bumpstead road was subject to long term closure.

Residents were concerned that they had to cross the road with their children to access school transport. The national speed limit was applicable to this stretch of road. They expressed concern and the amount and speed of traffic on this stretch of road. There were great concerns about safety of pedestrians, particularly children. After a lengthy and in depth discussion, it was agreed that the parish council would put together a spreadsheet of all the issues raised (including issues previously raised regarding the A1017/Clare Bridge/Baythorne End). These would be sent to Cllr Schwier with a request for a site meeting with the Highways Liaison Officer.

It was further agreed that the parish council would contact ECC with a request for warning signs to be installed at the junction.

The Parish Council acknowledged the issue and explained the ongoing highways issues they had been raising with ECC and their frustration at the lack of engagement by ECC.

24/52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Tim Chadney, Anita Chadney and Cllr Peter Schwier.

24/53 OTHER ABSENCES

Cllr Peter Schwier.

24/54 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Anita Chadney proposed, and Alan Cook seconded with all in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 May 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed.

Action List

Minute	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
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24/45	Highways – Baythorne End A1017/A1054/Clare Bridge – Clerk to redraft letter and circulate. Send to ECC Highways	Clerk	Sent June 2024. Response received & circulated.
	Parks – Play Equipment inspection to take place. Clerk to arrange	Clerk	Booked with Fenland Leisure.
24/47	Verge Cutting 2024 – Clerk to contact Mr Pyman and arrange cutting	Clerk	Completed.

24/55 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made relating to the meeting agenda items.

24/56 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR/COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Clr Garrod presented her report which was received and noted.

24/57 MEMBERS' REPORTS

(a) Pond – It was noted that Tim Chadney continued to explore sources of funding and grants to help with the pond's upkeep.

(b) Parks –

- Lease of Baythorne End Play Area – The proposed lease had been agreed with Unwin Estates and circulated. Parish Councillors proposed and unanimously agreed that the lease be signed by the Chair of the Parish Council.
- Safeguarding Policy – It was noted that a safeguarding policy would be needed for the play areas. The Clerk and Anita Chadney will explore templates and circulate. **Action.**
- It was confirmed that the rope swing in the Birdbrook play area had been removed.

(c) Chair's Report – Steve Rhenius reported that he and Alan Cook had officiated at Helions Bumpstead for the recent elections and they had several conversations with local residents regarding issues in the village noting that there had been a great deal of minor vandalism in the area.

Steve Rhenius confirmed he had attended the last meeting of the Community House Trustees and confirmed that the Trustees continued to explore funding opportunities to support the Community House.

(d) Highways – Noted as covered at the start of the meeting.

(e) Footpaths – Nothing to report.

(f) Media – Nothing to report.

24/58 PLANNING

Nothing to report.

24/59 FINANCE

The finance report was considered and accepted with no questions.

24/60 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

None.

24/61 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

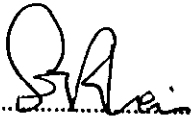
None.

24/62 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Tuesday 10 September

Tuesday 12 November

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 8.30pm.

Signed: 

Dated: 10/9/24

Action List

Minute	Action	Responsibility	Outcome
24/57	Safeguarding Policy – Clerk/Anita to explore templates	Clerk/Anita	