

BLACKMORE, HOOK END & WYATTS GREEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Of the Ordinary Meeting of the Blackmore, Hook End & Wyatts Green Parish Council held on THURSDAY 15th JULY 2021 at 7.30pm At Blackmore Youth Centre

Members present: R Keeble (Chairman), N McCarthy, K Bennett, A Watley, T Lockhart, J Clarke, K Wood, S Clapham (Parish Clerk) and R Nelson (RFO). Borough Cllr's Thomas Bridge and Peter Jakobsson. County Cllr Lesley Wagland.

0049 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

T Thomas, T Hinton, H Cannon, V Dean, J Lewis.

0050 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 17.6.21**

The minutes were signed as a correct record by Cllr Keeble.

0051 **Co-Option – Kevin Wood (Blackmore ward)**

Mr Wood signed the Acceptance of Office register, witnessed by the Clerk and was duly co-opted

Onto the Parish Council. He would represent the Blackmore ward, leaving one vacancy for Blackmore.

0052 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST (for items on the agenda):** None declared.

0053 **OPEN FORUM (for Public Attendees):** None present.

0054 **PROGRESS CHECK** – Nil

0055 **CORRESPONDENCE** – Nil

0056 **REPORTS OF BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Wagland reported:

- The Locality fund had opened. Each allocation was for £1250 and the Clerk could apply. It was considered this could be used to replace the broken fingerpost at the junction of Hay Green Lane. Cllr Wagland confirmed that highways projects would be accepted under the scheme. ECC are not replacing or repairing fingerposts at the moment so the PC would need funding in the absence of an insurance claim with the driver's insurers. *It was noted that the Clerk had written two letters to the resident who also had their fence damaged in the RTA as they would quite possibly have the driver's insurance details. The Clerk will follow this up.*
- Cllr Lee Scott is the new Cabinet Member for Highways
- It is unknown if there will be another pot hole initiative this year.
- Discussions are being held regarding the poor condition of the Meadow Rise roads. Cllr Wagland wasn't sure what the long-term solution is for concrete roads.
- By 2040 Safer Essex Partnership want to greatly reduce serious road accidents, deaths and serious injuries, which is currently at 42 fatalities per year.
- Cllr Keeble reported the missing fence beams at Blackmore Mead and was concerned this was a health and safety issue. Cllr Wagland felt this could be a Locality Fund project.

Cllr Jakobsson reported:

- He had attended the event on the Green with the BBC Community Connect Trailer on 9th July. He said that it didn't receive overwhelming interest which was disappointing.

Cllr Bridge reported:

- The BBC CEO Jonathan Stephenson would also be stepping in as the CEO for Rochford Council in addition to his role at BBC.
- A planning application had been received for the Doddinghurst Green Belt which Doddinghurst PC had attended to recommend and support approval of it. The location for the application is 'Dag Wood Lane' and the BBC Planning Committee subsequently approved it.

POLICY & RESOURCES

0057 Finance - Payments made online:

S Clapham -

Pension -

HMRC -

R Nelson -

MD Landscapes - £1012.86 (inc.VAT) – Grass cutting & weed killing. Inv. no. 731

Matthews Plants - £580.00 – Parish planting – Inv. no. 22547

W Hart Cars - £703.40 (inc VAT) – mini bus mini service, MOT & 4 new tyres.

The mini bus will be back on the road and ready for hire from 19th July as the Covid restrictions will be lifted.

O'Riordan Construction - £3006.00 (inc VAT) – new posts on the green & pillory repairs.

New wooden frame for the Blackmore banner (village hall) and the spreading of the cockleshells on the Millennium field.

Castle Water - £190.36 (inc VAT) – water to allotment gardens

Blackmore Parochial Charity - £420.00 – balance of the quarterly figure. This settles the outstanding balance.

Payments made on the PC Credit Card - Nil

Cash drawn - Nil

Transfers – Nil

Income/receipts: Nil

Membership renewals/subscriptions: £72.60 (inc. VAT) – RCCE – 1/7/21 to 30/6/22

0058 Financial Report to 30th June 2021

Mrs Nelson reported on the financial reports as distributed prior to the meeting as outlined above. All approved with no amendments.

Financial Powers

0059 BBC precept overcharge – The Clerk reported that she has continued to chase BBC and Jacqueline VanMellaerts to no avail. No response or acknowledgement had been received since its Zoom meeting with her. Cllr McCarthy proposed a letter be sent to the local MP, Alex Burghart, seeking assistance. This was unanimously approved. The Clerk will write to the MP. She will also provide copies of previous correspondence with BBC to both Ward Members for their assistance.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

0060 There had been no planning applications received and therefore no Committee meeting this month. The next meeting is scheduled for 19th July.

Cllr Lockhart had attended the recent BBC Planning Committee meeting (as discussed above) which he had attended as it is on the neighbouring boundary. He was surprised that the planning application had been supported as the land in question relating to Dag Wood Lane is in the Green Belt. It was explained that the application was supported by Doddinghurst PC as it was a way to guarantee suitable restoration of the land which had been used for dumping inert materials and toxic waste and had evaded BBC enforcement for many years. The

contaminated land would have to be dealt with by the land owner prior to any development taking place and this seemed a more reasonable alternative to the ongoing land contamination concerns.

Note: Cllr Bridge asked that all planning referrals be made to Cllr Jakobsson in the first instance.

PARKS & OPEN SPACES

There had been a POS Committee meeting on Monday 12th July 2021 at 10.00am via Zoom. The minutes, as circulated, were approved by the Council. The following items of business were discussed:

0061 Annual (RoSPA) play area inspections 2021

The Clerk has set up meetings with all Contractors/Playquip to obtain quotes. The following items were discussed:

- **Ted Marriage (Toddler swings)** – Replacement metal legs to the ground sections of the wooden toddler swings had been ordered with Playquip Leisure – pending installation date.
- **Expenditure approval** –
Ted Marriage play area requires 2 new gates as recommended by the POS Committee – each costing £985 (reduced to £886.50) with Playquip Leisure – It was proposed by Cllr Keeble and unanimously agreed that this be approved. The Clerk will place the order.
Mill Lane play area replacement gate – One gate (£886.50) required. As above, this was approved.

0062 Wooden Memorial Seat (near to the War Memorial) – The existing seat is dedicated to Dorothy Mears and is in urgent need of replacement. Cllr Cannon is investigating if the family can be contacted to discuss this with them as the seat is past its usable shelf-life. If the family cannot be located then the Parish Council will consider replacing it with a new plastic seat dedicated to the fallen as it is suitably near to the War Memorial. Pending updates from Cllr Cannon.

0063 Two new planters outside the Old Post Office – Cllr Keeble proposed that two new plastic planters be considered to replace the old wooden ones. This proposal was recommended by the POS Committee. Cllr Keeble will provide the sizing to the Clerk and she will obtain quotations.

0064 Draft Policy Document (drafted by Cllr McCarthy) for Memorial requests and sponsorships - This was circulated to all members for further consideration at a later POS Committee meeting.

0065 Millennium Park – cockleshell footpath – The work had been completed and Cllr Keeble advised that the 40CBM ordered was the right amount of cockleshells.
Hedging - Cllr Keeble had obtained a quotation to trim the hedging running along the Millennium field on the car park side - £450-£500 as previously quoted by MDL. Cllr Watley proposed that up to £500 be approved and this was unanimously agreed. Cllr Keeble will get the work actioned.

0066 CLERK'S REPORT (Governance)

- **Accessibility compliant website** – Cllr McCarthy advised that the website is up and running and he is currently trying to build momentum and interest by driving traffic to the website from the PC Facebook page. Could Members send him any items and articles of interest which he could include.
- **Parishioner of the Year Award** – Cllr Keeble wished to propose Nurse Anne at the Doctors surgery. Previously, nominations had been set and agreed by PC Members but the setting up of a formal qualification and application process was discussed and found to be best practise going forward.
The Clerk was asked to enquire with BBC what its policy is for the Civic Awards as this may help inform the PC’s own policy for future award nominations.

0067 **DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS** –

Planning – 19/7/21 – 10.00am - Zoom

Policy and Resources – 19/08/21 – 10.00am - Zoom.

Parks and Open Spaces - 13.9.21 at 10.00am – Zoom.

Ordinary Parish Council -16/9/21 – 7.30pm – **Tipps Cross Remembrance Hall**

INFORMATION EXCHANGE/NEXT AGENDA ITEMS

0068

Cllr McCarthy reported on the site meeting at Mill Lane with the Clerk and Neil O’Riordan. The fast growing and overgrown brambles and shrubbery along the back perimeter ditch line with the properties was an ongoing problem. Neil O’Riordan suggested mowing 4 x 6foot wide pathways into the shrubbery keeping the remainder as a natural area to encourage wildlife. Wild flowers could also be set to encourage this. However, encroachment onto the recreation field and nearby public footpath from the field side would have to be monitored and maintained.

The Clerk will obtain a price for ongoing regular maintenance of this area and this will be considered by the POS Committee at its next meeting.

Cllr McCarthy advised that footpath No.19 along the outside play area fence line belonging to ECC was seriously overgrown and now impassable. The Clerk will report this to ECC and add it to the Highways List.

CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further items of business, the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed..... *Dated*