

The Hennys', Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

MINUTES of the MEETING held on 14th MARCH 2016 at HENNY PARISH ROOM

Present: Parish Cllrs D Holland (Chairman), R Manby, R Barnes, A Lyster, J Symonds, M Cracknell, T Humphreys, A Scattergood.
County Cllr David Finch
District Cllr Wendy Scattergood
1 member of public

82. 2015/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted for Cllr Smart (unwell).

83. 2015/16 Public Speaking

The member of the public asked to speak at agenda Item 8, Planning, this was agreed.

84. 2015/16 Declarations of interest

Cllr Holland declared a non pecuniary interest under agenda Item 8, Planning, The Coach House, Twinstead, being a close neighbour.

Cllr Scattergood declared a non pecuniary interest under agenda Item 8, Planning, his wife being chairman of BDC planning committee.

85. 2015/16 Approval of minutes

The minutes of the January PC meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

District Cllr Wendy Scattergood joined the meeting.

86. 2015/16 District/County Councillors' & Community Agent reports

County Councillor's Report

Cllr Finch reported on ECC's reduction in budget and the difficulty in balancing their budget; a record amount of funding for Highways maintenance and flood relief money; working with district and city colleagues on devolution.

In answer to questions raised, he advised that reserves were being spent where prudent to do so; the County Council's opinion on the Sudbury relief road is neutral; there is no consistent clear plan from the Government on devolution; the Government's preferred option for Lower Thames Crossing is option C; they are looking at the A120 in relation to the expansion of Stansted Airport; there is no long term strategy on building power stations.

Cllr Humphreys raised the point on efficiency relating to road maintenance - Cllr Finch said that over £150 million of additional money over the last 10 years had been given but there is a 30% - 40% increase in traffic and the construction of rural roads was not made for large vehicles. ECC have been focusing on A roads but the new programme is for minor roads. Inspectors do check on road maintenance work for faulty works. He advised writing to Cllr Rodney Bass if there are any complaints.

Cllr Finch was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

District Councillor's Report

Cllr Wendy Scattergood reported that BDC had not used any of its reserves; BDC must build 845 houses per year up to 2033; BDC's funding to DV AONB & SVP has reduced but they are still giving more than Colchester Council; the Council Tax has increased by 3.1%.

Cllr Holland had received questions on the possible sale of the Lamarsh Lion and asked whether the adjacent space could be used as infill if the Lion was granted change of use to a house - Cllr Scattergood advised that it would be classed as open countryside and therefore could not be developed. She advised that proof would be needed for a change of use application and the community asset route would take a long time to complete.

Cllr Lyster left the meeting.

Cllr Wendy Scattergood was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

87. 2015/16 Clerks Report – Appendix A

The report was noted.

88. 2015/16 Highways/Prow Maintenance – Appendix B

Appendix B

The update from the January meeting was noted.

Middleton Drain

Cllr Manby reported that there had been work carried out and 2 additional drains have been uncovered. The Clerk was asked to write to thank Cllr Finch for his help with this on-going problem.

Byway 13, Middleton

Highways are investigating alternative solutions to close the byway to vehicles and will keep the PC informed.

89. 2015/16 Planning

Details of all planning applications and decisions were listed on Appendix C

16/00250/ELD - The Coach House, Church Road, Twinstead

The applicants have made a start on work; Cllr Barnes proposed the PC support this application, seconded by Cllr Scattergood and unanimously agreed.

16/00285/FUL – Hedgeways, The Street, Middleton

A reply of no objection to the cartlodge had been sent.

Appeal ref. APP/Z1510/W/15/3139309 - Ryes Gardens, Gt Henny

Cllr Holland proposed "this Council does not support granting this appeal", seconded by Cllr Cracknell and unanimously agreed.

16/00287/LBC – Old Applecroft Farm, Gt Henny

The PC was in unanimous agreement to support this application.

16/00319/FUL - Little Lodge, Amos Hill, Gt Henny

The member of public stated that the proposed extension would not be seen from the road. Cllr Scattergood proposed the PC support this application, seconded Cllr Humphreys.

Wrights Farm

Information that there was a building which had been let without planning permission was discussed. There was light pollution from lights that were permanently on. The PC will monitor the situation.

Applecroft Farm

Light pollution was occurring on this site and the PC will monitor the situation.

90. 2015/16 Street Cleaning Contract

The 2016/17 contract had not yet been received. Cllrs agreed to delegate the checking and signing of the contract to the Clerk, subject to terms and conditions being satisfactory.

91. 2015/16 Clerks Contract

Cllr Holland proposed the contract remain the same, seconded by Cllr Scattergood and unanimously agreed.

92. 2015/16 Risk Assessment

PAT testing on office equipment is due this year. Twinstead Cllrs to inspect the area for the missing 'pond' signs on Twinstead Green. It was considered that there was no risk from the trees on the Green. Cllr Scattergood will go through the insurance policy when next due. Cllr Holland proposed the risk assessment be adopted, seconded by Cllr Barnes and unanimously agreed.

93. 2015/16 Internal Controls

Cllr Holland proposed the PC adopt the document as presented, seconded by Cllr Barnes and unanimously agreed.

94. 2015/16 Financial Regulations

Cllr Holland proposed the PC adopt the document as presented, seconded by Cllr Barnes and unanimously agreed.

Cllrs discussed archiving files and the Clerk was asked to liaise with Cllr Lyster on how this could be progressed.

95. 2015/16 Correspondence Received/Matters for report

There was no further news on the Transparency Code funding application.

96. 2015/16 Parish Council Finance - Appendix D

Receipts & Payments

All payments listed were authorised to be paid, proposed by Cllr Holland and unanimously agreed.

97. 2015/16 Items for next agenda

Planning -Cllr Scattergood apologised for the delay in drafting a letter regarding plans to build in Ryes Lane, Bulmer, as previously agreed. The letter will oppose development on this site due to the close proximity to the accident black spot on the A131.

Environment issues - Cllr Humphreys had received complaints about an untidy property in Henny Street; Cllr Cracknell will speak to the landlord of the property in the first instance before any further action is taken by the PC. Another source of complaint is at Walthams, Henny Street. The Clerk will contact the owner regarding the current state of the site.

99. 2015/16 To fix the date of the next meeting

The next meeting dates were agreed as Monday 9th May at Henny Parish Room and Monday 11th July at venue Twinstead village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

DRAFT