

Minutes of the Meeting of the Little Burstead Parish Council,
held at Little Burstead Village Hall,
on Wednesday, 13 March 2013 at 7.30pm

Present: **Councillor Smith (Chair)**
Councillors Dean and Mohseni.

In Attendance: Mrs. Kim Barford, Clerk to the Parish Council
LB Parish Council Foot path Representative John Daffin and PCSO Chris Higginbottom.

149/12 Apologies for absence

Cllr's Roger Savage and Teresa Mence had sent their apologies. Members noted ECC Cllr Kay Twitchen had also sent her apologies.

150/12 Declarations of Interest

None.

151/12 Minutes

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of 9th January 2013. The minutes were then approved by all members present and duly signed by the chair.

152/12 Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting.

Cllr Smith commented that no action had taken place regarding the reported poor condition of white lining to Botney Hill Road. The present status of the report tracked via the ECC Highways webpage: Active – Inspected and assessed. Members asked the clerk to pursue.

The meeting was adjourned for the following two items.

153/12 Public Forum

Member of the public spoke of his concerns re excessive water draining onto his property and enquired if springs had been located further up into the village down from Broomhills Chase. The clerk advised that none been located as advised by the local water companies and ECC Highways.

An enquiry also received re Rectory Road which the chair advised would be covered at item 155/12.

154/12 Police report

As PCSO Higginbottom was present he updated members regarding the 5 crimes across Burstead Ward since 1st January 2013, two of which were metal theft/ tampering and three vehicle thefts.

Members were also advised that the Police had received three complaints in that time from local residents regarding parking by the village hall which had resulted in obstruction of the footpath in Laindon Common Road. PCSO Higginbottom said that it was an offence to obstruct the walkway by bumping up the kerb. It is legal for cars to park fully in the road alongside the footpath but they should not bump up the kerb as they may be prosecuted. He did say they would be increasing their surveillance and asked that those who use the hall are pre-warned. Parking is a problem for hall users but the clerk, as a member of the village hall committee will advise fellow members and ask that hirers are notified and notices displayed at the hall.

Cllr Dean conveyed her concern regarding excessive speeding along Laindon Common Road. PCSO Higginbottom spoke of the Speed 100 scheme. Police motorcyclists attend with speed guns and record the travelling speeds of 100 vehicles. He would make enquiries and ask that the officers add the location and attend in the near future. The parish council would be notified of the results.

Members thanked PCSO Higginbottom and Mr. John Daffin for attending.

The meeting reconvened.

155/12 Reports by designated officers of the Council

- a. Public Rights of Way including footpaths – The representative, John Daffin had kindly produced a report and gave a brief overview of the condition of the parish PROWS, updates to follow on a bi-monthly basis. The majority were in general in better condition than in recent months although some were suffering from the effects of the latest excessive rainfall. He spoke of the future and potential changes of status, up or down grading of certain Rights of Way and although paths in Little Burstead in the most part rural whether it would in the future be possible to at least provide some improved access for the disabled. Members agreed to defer the matter for consideration at a future meeting.

- b. Repairs and improvements to the Parish's roads:

Rectory Road – Excessive surface water problems

Members were updated by the clerk following a site meeting attended by herself and Cllr Savage with Cllr Twitchen and BC Cllr Arnold. The clerk spoke of recent email communication and the known discharge from Gilbray Lodge onto the highway. ECC Highways Engineers pursuing the matter and the west side ditches being cleared by the land owner. ECC carrying out more jetting and considering options to resolve the problems. All correspondence forwarded to members.

- c. Verges – 1. Deferred

2. Junction of Hatches Farm Road and Tye Common Road – Members spoke of their concern regarding the extremely poor condition of the island and consequential effect on the diminishing road surface at the busy junction.

Members in agreement that the parish council make an application to ECC Highways Panel for improvements at the junction. To comprise ideally of the installation of concrete kerbing to the island and associated verges at the junction, re-surfacing of the roads and the painting of proper road markings to improve road user safety and conserve the verges. The clerk to prepare an application for submission to Cllr Kay Twitchen.

- d. The on-going repair and improvement of the Parish pond – Deferred in Cllr Savage's absence.

156/12 Planning matters

- a. New applications for consideration – None
- b. There were no 'other' applications.
- c. There was a decision for members to note:

12/00578/LBBAS Granted 8 January 2013

Single storey rear extension and new window to side elevation
Babshole Farm, Sudburys Farm Road, Little Burstead

157/12 John Lewis 75th Anniversary Trees

Members noted that the suggested locations for planting and supply of stock had been agreed:

- 3 x birch – Village Green (approved by Lord Petre)
- 2 x malus profusion – By village pond
- 7 x Rowan (English seed) – Laindon Common

The Parish Council were in agreement to the request that a commemorative plaque be affixed to the Jubilee Beacon post or an individual plaque installed by the trees to the village green. The clerk to liaise with John Lewis representative and arrange accordingly.

158/12 Laindon Common – P4C Proposed footpath

No decision from the landowners known of at the time of the meeting.

159/12 Telephone Box – To consider adoption, future arrangements and redecoration quotations.

The matter was further discussed. Cllr Mohseni also spoke of the cost of future maintenance and power supply and members present shared his concern regarding potential additional costs for the parish. Members decided a decision best left until more present, outstanding questions can be answered and a meeting may be called before end of March, the deadline for the contract on offer

160/12 Street furniture and signage

- a. Finger post signs within Parish – Members expressed their thanks to Cllr and Mrs Savage for washing down the signs. The previous quotations for redecoration of the posts were reconsidered and members approved and accepted the quotation by L. Johnson Decorator for the sum of £220 plus materials. Renovation of the lettering to certain posts to be considered at a later date.
- b. Signage – Stolen and damaged

The gateway sign in Botney Hill Road by Blind Lane had still not be replaced by Essex CC Highways. The clerk to again pursue.

The 7.5 tonne weight restriction limits signs had never been replaced to Rectory Road, Laindon Common Road and Tye Common Road. The clerk to again pursue.

161/12 Finance

- a. Members approved the following payments:
 - Clerk Salary February/March
 - Cllr Savage – Expenses
 - HMRC PAYE to 5th April 2013
- b. Members received the accounts to date with a draft for the period 12 months to 31st March 2013. It was noted that with the net drawings from reserves in respect of exceptional Jubilee purchases (Beacon and mugs) and certain other expenses the level of reserves would be a little less than usual and preferred by the auditors but they would recover in the coming year.

162/12 Training and forthcoming conferences -

Members noted the kind offer by a neighbouring parish council to share the cost of hosting in house training to be provided by EALC. No need at present but it would be borne in mind for the future.

163/12 Clerks Report

Members were updated by the clerk on recent correspondence including 3 x current general public consultations. Where available, details had been posted on the notice board.

164/12 ABLC, LLC , EALC, RCCE and other associated bodies

ABLC - Cllr Dean updated members on current matters at the most recent meeting.
Local Liaison Committee – The clerk updated members on matters discussed at February meeting. The draft minutes to be forwarded to members for their further information.

165/12 Date of next meeting: 8th May 2013 at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish meeting is to be held on Thursday, 28th March 2013 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

Dated