

Minutes of the Meeting of the Little Burstead Parish Council,
held at Little Burstead Village Hall,
on Wednesday, 9 January 2013 at 7pm

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

In Attendance: 2 members of the public plus another who joined the meeting prior to public forum.

130/12 Apologies for absence

The clerk, unable to attend due to family reasons, had sent her apologies. The Chair thanked Mrs Carol Savage for taking the minutes and Mr. Alan Dean for his assistance in preparing the meeting room in the clerk's absence. Members noted ECC Cllr Kay Twitchen had also sent her apologies.

131/12 Declarations of Interest

None.

132/12 Minutes

Members considered the minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2012. The minutes were then approved by all members present and duly signed by the chair.

133/12 Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting.

None.

The meeting was adjourned for the following item.

134/12 Public Forum

A resident commented on the poor condition of footpath (adjacent to the Village Hall). The surface was treacherous being very muddy and difficult to walk. The clerk to notify John Daffin, PC Footpath Representative and Essex CC Highways PROW Officer.

A resident then commented that the gullies roadside where the River Crouch flows under Laindon Common Road were still blocked and required clearing. The clerk had previously notified Essex CC and will pursue.

A resident referred to the speed limit consultation. The chair answered his concerns.

The meeting reconvened.

135/12 Police report

Cllr Dean updated members regarding recent crimes within the Parish which included an accident outside the Church in Rectory Road.

136/12 Reports by designated officers of the Council

- a. Public Rights of Way including footpaths – No report available.
- b. Repairs and improvements to the Parish's roads – Regarding the surface water problems at Rectory Road members were updated by Cllr Savage regarding the clerk's on-going communications which

were now again being handled by the Essex Highways South Area Office instead of the Watercourse Regulation team. Following contact with Cllr Twitchen the investigation was continuing and members were updated accordingly. The clerk to continue to pursue and update members at the March meeting.

Botney Hill Road – Cllr Smith spoke of the very poor state of white lining recently undertaken by ECC contractors. Cllr Smith commented that the work was undertaken when it was raining and the majority of white paint had not adhered and was affected by the uneven nature of the road. The result was that the white line was ineffective being extremely patchy. The clerk to report to Essex CC Highways.

- c. Verges – Further to discussion at the November meeting an email had been sent to Hugh Reynolds, Manager Parks and Grounds Maintenance to enquire about the actual location of conservation areas within the Parish but no reply had been forthcoming. The clerk to pursue. Discussion ensued again regarding the very poor state of verge cutting undertaken by the Borough Councils contractors. The chair proposed a plan be produced identifying all of the areas within the parish. Cllr Mence offered to make enquiries to see if the Golf Club groundsman would be keen to undertake such cuts. The chair to liaise with Cllr Mence and the clerk and the matter to be further discussed at March meeting.
- d. The on-going repair and improvement of the Parish pond – Cllr. Mence had purchased a clear reflective spray paint and a reflective tape. Cllr Savage to trial the products and update members at March meeting.

137/12 Planning matters

- a. New applications for consideration – None
- b. There were no ‘other’ applications for members to note.
- c. There were no recently decided decisions.

138/12 Essex CC Highways Consultation – Proposed introduction of 40mph speed limit to sections of Rectory Road, Tye Common Road and Lower Dunton Road

An open consultation had been held prior to the meeting hosted by the Parish Council which was attended by residents and the press. A petition had been completed by residents supporting the Parish Councils initial response which supported the introduction of the 40mph speed limit to certain areas within the village but requested that the areas be extended to include:

A particularly dangerous stretch of Tye Common Road by the junction with Sudburys Farm Road and east to the Parish boundary.

Dunton Road – To extend to full length of current unrestricted stretch.

Rectory Road – To extend to full length meeting with Clockhouse Road and Laindon Common Road

Botney Hill Road – To meet with Brentwood Road.

139/12 Laindon Common – P4C Proposed footpath

Cllr. Savage updated members regarding the status of the proposed project. The clerk to continue to pursue with John Ellis.

140/12 Telephone Box – To consider adoption, future arrangements and redecoration quotations.

Whilst members were in generally in agreement it was agreed that the matter be deferred for formal consideration at March meeting.

141/12 Street furniture and signage

- a. Finger post signs within Parish – Cllr Smith had explored the redecoration of raised lettering. The cost estimated to be in the region of £200 to £300 each board. The matter to be deferred to March meeting when existing estimates obtained by the clerk will be reviewed along with an estimate to be obtained from a contractor known to Cllr Mohseni.
- 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 report to ECC.

The Rectory Road sign which was collision damaged has been repaired and redecorated by Cllr Savage. Cllr Mohseni offered to arrange for the sign to be re-fixed to the existing metal posts.

142/12 Salt Bin

Discussed and withdrawn for the time being.

143/12 Winter Salt Bag Scheme

Some bags remain and are available at the farm shop.

144/12 Finance

- a. Members approved the following payments:
 - Clerk Salary December/January
 - Clerk Expenses
- b. Update on current financial position – Deferred in clerks absence.
- c. Members considered the initial draft. Discussion ensued. Cllr. Smith proposed the precept for 2013/2014 be £5,800 (Five thousand eight hundred pounds), a 5% increase on previous year which was approved by all members.

145/12 Training and forthcoming conferences - Deferred.

146/12 Clerks Report - Deferred.

147/12 ABLC, LLC , EALC, RCCE and other associated bodies

No updates available.

148/12 Date of next meeting: 13th March 2013 at 7.30pm.

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

The meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed

Dated