

In the Chair: Cllr. Clark.

Present: Cllr. Watts, Cllr. Goodman, Cllr. Ashcroft

Officers: Mrs Stephanie Robinson (Clerk & RFO)

Members of the public: 2.

Meeting started at 7.33pm.

21/22.053 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest.

Resident complained that buildings are being built which are not in keeping with the Character of the area. The parish council raise objections when/where appropriate, but ultimately the decision lies with Basildon council. The parish council is a statutory consultee only they have no decision making power.

Laindon common road – problem with cars speeding. Cllr. Moore is trying to move the problem forward, but it is very difficult to get anything done.

Hedge in Rectory road opposite old rectory running down towards the church is pushing out into the road. Clerk will contact Basildon/ECC.

21/22.054 To receive Members' Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda.

None.

21/22.055 Minutes

Members considered and approved the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8th September 2021.

All agreed.

21/22.056 Clerk's report

Defibrillator – has now been updated with a software update. It is registered with the circuit and the ambulance service and its status is ready. The clerk checks it monthly and updates the circuit when it has been done.

Phonebox – no cif application lodged as we were going through the bank account change, but lottery fund application will be completed and the clerk will also apply to essex heritage trust.

Remembrance day –the clerk will purchase refreshments, the wreath is already with the clerk. Cllr. Watts has the reading. Cllr. Clark will set up on the Saturday evening, and the clerk and Cllr. Watts will serve refreshments on the day.

Roundall – the clerk has the roundall ready for installation and needs to chase the contractor again.

Defibrillator training – the clerk has emailed the trainer and is waiting to hear back.

The clerk attended the Essex highways multitopic briefing as well as the Basildon council Liaison meeting

The clerk also had a meeting with Paul Burkinshaw the monitoring officer for Basildon council. Various subjects were discussed such as the difficulty in filling vacancies on the parish council. The clerk also raised the issue of the cost of training councillors for a parish council with a very small precept. Mr. Burkinshaw would look into the possibility of Basildon providing free training or perhaps working together with the EALC to provide subsidized training. Mr. Burkinshaw is going to try to set up regular meeting for all the Basildon council parish clerks to exchange information and ideas.

Noted.

21/22.057 Finance

- a) To approve payments signed since the last meeting on 8th September 2021
- | | |
|---|---------|
| CHQ 100832 S.ROBINSON (Oct wages, subsistence, tel & bb, microsoft) | £419.01 |
| CHQ 100833 HMRC (oct tax) | £93.60 |
- b) To approve and sign payments at this meeting.
- | | |
|--|---------|
| S.ROBINSON (nov wages, subsistence, tel & bb, microsoft) | £419.01 |
| HMRC (nov tax) | £93.60 |
| ABLC (membership 2021/22) | £20.00 |
| POPPY APPEAL | £30.00 |
- c) To review and approve the accounts and bank reconciliation for November 2021. Cashbook balance £4605.23 **All agreed.**

21/22.058 Budget 2022/23

Members discussed and decide upon the budget for financial year 2022/23 with total expenditure of £13,904. This includes £1000 to spend on the verges and £1000 on the fingerposts as well as £3500 to renovate the phonebox. Every effort will be made to obtain funding for these projects. Forecast running costs of the parish council for 2022 are £8100 **All agreed.**

21/22.059 Precept 2022

Members discussed and decided upon the precept for financial year 2022/23. Members noted that the reserves had been steadily falling over the past 4 years from £6,728 at 2018/19 to forecast reserves of £2,200 at the end of this year. The internal auditor raised this point in his report this year stating that the council needed a reserves policy. Members also noted that the current precept of £7,690 would not meet its forecast running costs of £8,100 resulting in possible insolvency by the end of the financial year 2022/23 or shortly after. Members wanted to continue to pursue projects to improve the area such as the circular walk, but noted that in order to do so and for the parish council to continue to exist they would need to raise the precept. Members also noted that it is good practice to have at least 6 months of precept in reserves. In order to re-establish a reasonable level of reserves and to continue to be able to pursue projects to enhance and protect the parish, the council decided to raise the precept to £14000 for this year in the hope of being able to then decrease it in subsequent years having established a reasonable level of reserves. Members of the parish attending also supported this motion. **All agreed.**

21/22.060 Declaration of interests forms

Members completed and signed the declaration of interests forms for the Clerk to load to the website. **All agreed**

21/22.061 Planning

To consider and approve a list of planning applications below received since the last meeting and decided under delegated decisions by the Clerk.

Planning App. No.	Address	Planning Details	Pc Response
21/01523/FULL	Oak Croft Green Lane Little Burstead Billericay	Proposed two storey rear extension	No objection
21/01480/FULL	Orchard Cottage Botney Hill Farm Botney Hill Road Billericay CM12 9SJ	Two storey rear extension, at Orchard Cottage.	No objection
21/01481/VAR	Westview The Chase Little Burstead Billericay	Removal of condition 3 (which removed permitted developments rights for householder extensions) of planning permission BAS/1365/90 for the replacement bungalow	No objection

To consider any planning applications received which have not yet been responded to.

Planning App. No.	Address	Planning Details	Pc Response
21/01637/FULL	Chase Farm Botney Hill Road Billericay Essex	Conversion of existing building to a single dwelling with the addition of a small porch extension	No objections.

All agreed.

21/22.062 Reports from councillors

Cllr. Watts –attended a meeting with Basildon and local parish council. Local plan – it will be September 2022 before there is any decision. Measure to improve air quality were also discussed.

Community gov review – order made to establish Wickford town council. Basildon council is also looking at unparished areas.

Elections 2024 National member code of conduct – deferred.

Basildon want to encourage elections in parishes rather than just uncontested elections, however they recognize the difficulty in finding people who wish to stand in many small parishes.

Reviewing waste services – weekly food & black – biweekly green sacks only summer months.

The crunch in its previous form is not compliant with current standards so they are looking at alternatives.

Basildon council is also launching a young people consultation.

21/22.063 Items for the next agenda.

Finger posts

Speeding on laindon common road.

**Members to note the next meeting will be Wednesday 19th January at the Village hall.
Meeting closed at 21.05**