



**MINUTES OF NOAK BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT NOAK BRIDGE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2023 at 7.00pm**

CHAIRMAN: Cllr Terri Sargent

CLLR'S PRESENT: Cllr Jacqui Dowton; Cllr Paul Daft; Cllr Lynn Gilliam; Cllr Christopher Bateman

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Cllr Stuart Allen

17/2023 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Cllr Mark Cottrell; Essex County Councillors, Malcolm Buckley; Tony Ball

18/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other pecuniary interests or non-pecuniary interests by Members relating to any agenda item.

None Declared

19/2023 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

To receive and agree the minutes of Noak Bridge Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 25th JANUARY 2023, proposed by Cllr Gilliam, seconded by Cllr Bateman that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting and signed by the chairman - **Agreed**

20/2023 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION 15 MINUTES:

Residents reported: 3 lights remain out in Coppice Lane

Light still out in the Tudor Style Bus Stop

On 20 March 2023 road works are taking place which mean a partial closure of Wash Road from the junction of Barleylands Road to the junction of Eastfield Road and a diversion via Wash Road, Harding Elms Road

21/2023 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE:

An update on the Neighbourhood Plan will be reported at the next meeting

22/2023 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR 2022 - 2023 ACCOUNTS:

After consideration of appointing an Internal Auditor for the 2022 – 2023 accounts, Cllr Dowton proposed Michael Letch, seconded by Cllr Gilliam - **Agreed**

23/2023 KINGS CORONATION 6TH - 8TH MAY 2023:

The chairman reported, the Kings Coronation weekend would consist of the Coronation on Saturday 6th, Street Parties on Sunday 7th and the 'Big Help Out' of volunteers on Monday 8th.

The council considered that volunteers of the parish be sought to carry out a mass litter pick for the 'Big Help Out' to be advertised in the newsletter, proposed Cllr Sargent, seconded by Cllr Daft - **Agreed**

24/2023 COMMUNITY PROJECTS UPDATE:

The Coronation 'Big Help Out' volunteer Litter Pick to recruit volunteers

A resident group in attendance informed the Council of the fund-raising activities they had organised over the past year

The group are now organising a Yarn Bombing exercise for Noak Bridge over the Coronation weekend with many residents knitting all kinds of craft items to adorn areas around the parish to include, the playground, duck pond, village hall, Petanque Court

Basildon Council to be informed of all activities taking place

25/2023

WORKING TOGETHER COMMISSION:

Cllr Gilliam reported the commission received a presentation from Chippenham Town Council They had taken over a number different of services from Wiltshire Council and were doing remarkable work which included a clean and green project. Basildon Council were looking at ways for smaller Town/Parish Councils to deliver services as precepts were much smaller

26/2023

NEWSLETTER:

The newsletter would be ready for March

27/2023

ELECTIONS MAY 4TH 2023 --VOTER ID:

The chairman informed members that from May 2023 residents visiting polling stations to vote or to vote by proxy would need voter ID. Posters were on the notice boards with information on how to apply and on the Basildon Council website. No voting in the Parish or Crouch May 2023

28/2023

FINANCE:

1. Monthly Bank Reconciliation
2. Monthly Budget Sheet
3. February Payments

Bluestone Planning from Locality Grant - £1,800.00
Bluestone Planning - £416.10
Noak Bridge Community Association Annual Rent - £550.00
NBPC Contribution to Nature Reserve Pathway - £5,000.00
BT Broadband - £164.24

Members considered the items, proposed by Cllr Bateman, and seconded by Cllr Dowton - **Agreed**

29/2023

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

23/00067/FULL Location: 10 Tudor Court, Noak Bridge

Replacement windows to front and side elevations

Parish Council comments:

No objection providing the application complies with the Conservation Area Management Plan

PLANNING APPLICATIONS DECIDED:

22/01758/FULL Location: Braeside, 14 Wash Road

Raise ridge height, replacement roof to form second storey. Two storey front extension and first floor rear extension - **Granted**

30/2023

BOROUGH/COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

Cllr Allen reported that Basildon Full Council had set the Council tax at 2.9% the maximum allowance to ensure the continuity of services. An annual charge to collect garden waste had been agreed and financial help from the Government towards energy bills and the cost of living

31/2023

TO NOTE CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

The Council discussed a resident media post on the local discussion page, quote:

“Having seen where funds have gone, I would like an investigation into just how much of Parish and Borough funds have gone to Peter Thomas, a resident volunteer, and Councillor Sargent. There is a lot more evidence I have and happy to share privately as I know they follow my comments”

The Parish Council concluded the media post made allegations of financial misconduct against the Parish Council and others and advised the resident making the allegations who was present at the meeting, to give any evidence in their possession, against the parish council of financial crime or otherwise to the police and ask for an investigation to be carried out. The Parish Council finances are reported and agreed at each meeting by the Council as a whole. No one member of

the Council can make a decision, the standing orders and financial regulations are strictly followed and updated annually. The Council fully comply with the Annual Audit (AGAR) requiring an internal and external audit, which are recorded in the minutes and published on the PC website. During the AGAR period the Council publish an annual Notice of Public Rights to allow any resident to view the parish accounts. The resident present was reminded of a request they made to the parish council to view the 2021/2022 accounts, but the request was not taken up by the resident. The Parish Council are no longer prepared for the resident to continue to make false allegations of financial misconduct against them or others when given opportunity to view the parish accounts was not kept. The resident's allegations against the parish council have been ongoing since May 2018 without being substantiated by the resident and will have to stop because of the unproven negative impact caused to the parish council

32/2023

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 29TH MARCH 2023 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm

Signed

Chairman.....

Date.....