

# WETHERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held at Blackmore End Village Hall on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018 commencing at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr J Barker (Chairman)  
Cllr A Bowers (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr K Daniel  
Cllr N Godley  
Cllr D Martin  
Cllr Mrs E Newell  
Cllr B Vincent

In Attendance: 8 Members of the Public  
Mrs A Lucas (Clerk)

## **17/209 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Butland (Essex County Council), and Cllr Schwier (Braintree District Council)

## **17/210 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Godley and Cllr Martin declared a non-pecuniary interest in Wethersfield Village Hall, Agenda Item 7 parts (i) and (ii).

Cllr Vincent declared a non-pecuniary interest in Blackmore End Village Hall, Agenda Item 8.

## **17/211 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 were approved. Cllr Mrs Newell proposed the approval of the minutes; they were seconded by Cllr Bowers, agreed by the Council unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

## **17/212 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

- A member of the public, who until recently was a member of the Parish Council, expressed negative personal views as to the way in which the Parish Council has collectively acted over a number of years.
- The owner of Wethersfield Village Store and Post Office confirmed she intends to close in June this year. She stated that an ACV would have to be placed on the whole building, 75% of which is residential, and it would not prevent or delay closure. She requested the following statement to be minuted: "The point of an ACV is for you or a community group to have first rights to purchase the property. It is not up for sale and nor is it our intention to sell".

- A member of Wethersfield Village Hall CIO informed the meeting that the possibility of relocating the post office and establishing a book exchange and prescription delivery service in the village hall is currently being investigated.

## 17/213 **REPORT FROM THE CLERK**

The following update on matters arising together with correspondence received was circulated prior to the meeting and accepted:

### **Closing one end of Dog Chase to traffic**

A form has now been received from the LHP which will be completed as soon as possible. It is still hoped this matter will be considered at the next meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

### **Section 106: Blackmore End Playing Field access improvements**

The Chair of Blackmore End Playing Field has been asked by Braintree District Council to provide copies of original quotations and a copy of the Trust Deed.

### **Section 106: Beazley End – various items**

Unfortunately the Parish Council's original email to Braintree District Council, sent on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017, went astray so cannot be included in the Open Spaces Action Plan for 2018. Sarah Burder from BDC suggests obtaining quotations and applying for the highway licence during 2018 with a view to carrying out the works or purchasing the items once the 2019 OSAP has been approved.

### **Footpath from Nortofts Farm to Petches Bridge junction**

There is nothing further to report on this.

### **Wethersfield Village Hall Club: Water Leak**

Wethersfield Village Hall Club has been asked to provide at least two quotations for consideration by the Parish Council. These are still awaited.

### **Blocked Drain in Slip Road alongside The Green**

This has still not been cleared by Essex Highways.

### **Trees in Wethersfield**

Trees on the village green: Work on the trees has been completed in accordance with the recommendations received from Braintree District Council.

Fir tree near the telephone box: This tree has had the lower branches removed to the satisfaction of the homeowners who made the request.

Tree outside The Old Coach House: This tree has had its branches cut back which should now avoid it coming into contact with the roof of the house.

### **Policy for Events on the Village Green**

Aon Insurance have contacted the underwriters and confirmed that the Parish Council is covered for events held on the village green, but all third parties must have their own insurance in place.

The policy is now available on the website.

### **Parking Problems in Syers Field, Blackmore End**

As agreed at the February meeting, Cllr Vincent has prepared a report on the parking problems and suggesting that extending the lay-by could be a solution. This recommendation has been sent to the LHP for consideration.

**Introduction of 30mph Speed Limit in Beazley End and Codham**

There is nothing further to report following the update at last month's meeting.

**Extension of 30mph Speed Limit in Blackmore End**

Cllr Vincent is researching coatings and licensing requirements with a view to requesting funding for the erection of village gates

Correspondence Received:

(i)	A letter dated February 2018 has been received from E.ON with details of price increases which take effect from 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2018*
(ii)	On 19 <sup>th</sup> February, the Parish Council were advised that a local businessman has expressed an interest in developing the site of The Bull, Blackmore End.
(iii)	Details of events to be held in March on the topic "Your community, libraries and you" have been received. A link is on the website.
(iv)	Details of Business Engagement within the District have been placed on the website.
(v)	Details of the Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust Consultation are on the website. The Parish Council has been invited to nominate two representatives to attend an exploratory meeting on Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March.
(vi)	Entry forms and guidelines for the 2018 Essex Village of the Year Competition have been received. The deadline for entries is Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2018.

\* The Chairman agreed to look into the possibility of changing supplier.

**The following two items were brought forward at the Chairman's request:**

**17/214 PLANNING**

(i) **Update on applications listed in minutes dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018:**

<b>17/01908/FUL</b>	<b>Land Rear Of Fir Cottage, Braintree Road Wethersfield, CM7 4AG</b> Excavation works to create a parking area dug out of wooded area to rear of Fir Cottage.	<b>APPLICATION REFUSED</b>
<b>Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/Z1510/W/17/3189866</b>	<b>Land South of Silver Street, Wethersfield, Essex</b> Erection of 9 dwellings with associated access and landscaping.	<b>AN APPEAL HAS BEEN MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.</b> (A letter of objection was sent on 12/01/18)
<b>17/02253/FUL</b>	<b>Land South of Silver Street, Wethersfield Essex</b> Erection of 9 dwellings with associated access and landscaping.	<b>PENDING CONSIDERATION</b> (A letter of objection was sent to BDC on 18/01/18)
<b>18/00058/FUL</b>	<b>RSPCA Danaher Animal Home, Toppesfield Road, Wethersfield, CM7 4EQ</b> Conversion of the old rabbit house/store to office/reception together with a single storey side extension to provide 2 dog kennels for overnight accommodation/holding, and the conversion of the detached aviary building to provide 3 dog kennels with covered runs to the rear.	<b>PENDING CONSIDERATION</b> (No objection email sent to BDC on 22/01/18)



