

MINUTES

Meeting: COUNCIL

Date: 21st November 2013

Time: 5.00PM

Venue: Toot Hill Village Hall, Toot Hill

PRESENT:

Councillors (4) John Glover (Chairman), Alan Buckley, Jean Gatward, Robert Jackson,

Also in Attendance (1)

Susan De Luca – Clerk to the Council

Members of the Public (5)

Members of the Press (0)

P13.051 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public present, including District Councillor Heather Brady who introduced herself to Members of the Council and also those present. The Chairman asked if there were any questions.

1. The Parish Councils Purchase of Toot Hill Village Hall

Colin Nelson – Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee was in attendance, and asked the Parish Council if the position of Secretary on the Management Committee could be taken on by the Parish Council. Cllr John Glover explained that the Parish Council did not expect there to be any changes in the way that the Management Committee or functioned. The Clerk advised that she had spoken to Cllr Alan Buckley and advised him that she would not be able to take on this work within her position as Clerk. Colin Nelson advised that most of the Members of the Village Hall Management Committee had been carrying out the functions of the Management Committee for a considerable number of years now and it may now be ‘time for a change’ for some of them. He felt that the appropriate time of tenure on the Committee should be a maximum of 5 years – this would enable new ideas to come through.

Cllr Glover asked about what grants had been forthcoming over the years. He also advised that he had been liaising with Maurice Harvey – Treasurer – regarding Village Hall Accounts, Cleaning Rota, AGM Date and other associated Village Hall Matters and was still awaiting a response.

The Clerk asked whether or not it would be prudent for a meeting to be arranged between the Management Committee and the Parish Council as soon as possible in order to move matters forward. Colin Nelson advised that would arrange this prior to the AGM – possibly on the same evening, he would get back to the Parish Council within the next week.

Councillor Glover stated as Chairman of the Parish Council he wished to thank the Village Hall Management Committee for the outstanding work that they were doing with regard to managing the hall, and he hoped they would continue to do so. He advised that the Solicitors hope to complete on the purchase of the Village Hall in the next few days and he looked forward to the meeting between the Management Committee and the Parish Council.

P13.052 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (2)

NOTED apologies for absence Cllr B Hollington and Cllr T Saridja. Apologies had also been received from Essex County Council Mrs M McEwen.

P13.053 OTHER ABSENCES (0)

NOTED no other apologies were necessary.

P13.054 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st September 2013 were signed and **AGREED**.

P13.055 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NOTED there were no declarations of interest.

P13.056 VACANCY FOR A COUNCILLOR

It was noted that following the resignation of Cllr R Manning, and the posting of the relevant notifications advertising the vacancy, no nominations had been forthcoming, therefore this Council was now in a position to co-opt. The Clerk confirmed there had now been interest shown by two parties, one of them that day. It was **AGREED** that the position would therefore be held over until the January 2013 meeting. Both Candidates would be invited to attend.

P13.057 CLERKS UPDATE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Members **NOTED** the following Communications and Correspondence:-

From	Type of Document	Regarding
EALC	Monthly Mailings	<i>Previously Circulated</i>
Lambert Smith Hampton	Email & Letter	<i>Purchase of Land at Little End – Members were very concerned at this – Graves on this piece of land and is possibly consecrated – Clerk instructed to contact both Lambert Smith Hampton and the Essex County Councillor Mrs M McEwen to take this matter up for the Parish Councillor.</i>

P13.058 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) The Clerk advised Members that she had received **NO OBJECTIONS** to the two Planning Application that had been previously circulated two weeks ago which were ratified by Members.

P13.059 REPORTS AND MEMBERS REPORTS

a) **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave Members a Full report on the PWLB and the Purchase of the Village Hall, also the transfer of the access from EFDC. The Chairman

advised Members that it was hoped that the completion would be auctioned in a few days.

b) **Vice-Chairman's Report** – None

c) **District & County Councillors Report**

District Cllr Ms Heather Brady advised Members that she did not have anything to Report – however reminded Members that she was always available and contactable if anyone had any problems or concerns.

d) **Highways Report – VAS Signs** - Cllr R Jackson advised Members of his recent correspondence in relation to this matter – Cllr Jackson advised Members that if the Parish Council did not take up the offer of the additional VAS sign, he felt that this was not the answer to the speed problems however if we did not accept this offer we would lose the funding from ECC (approx £9000). The area that this was going to be situated was along London Road close to the Woodman site, a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the correct siting of the VAS Sign, after which it was **AGREED** that Cllrs Jackson and Buckley would meet and come up with a more definitive siting.

Cllr Jackson asked if the Clerk kept a note of previous items which had been Reported to ECC, she advised she did however not all the ones that she had reported or had received from other Councillors had Reference Numbers. Cllr Jackson advised he would send her the ones he had reported and asked if she would chase these on a regular basis until some action had been taken by ECC. **AGREED.**

e) **Superfast Broadband**

Cllr Jackson advised Members of his conversation with the Superfast Broadband Dept at BT, and the expected or possible anticipated date and speeds of Superfast Broadband in the Parish of Stanford Rivers. He advised that really will not be any clear ideas of any final details until early 2015. **NOTED**

P13.060 FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) **List of Cheques & Monthly Statement of Accounts**

Members **NOTED the Account Balances of Cheques signed up to 10th October.**

P13.061 BUDGET & PRECEPT

The clerk had circulated documentation with the Agenda in relation to the Precept. This was discussed at considerable length after which it was **RESOLVED** that the Precept would be set at £19,900 to include the Parish Support Grant for the year 2014 -2015.

P13.062 CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Cllr Buckley advised Members of the arrangements regarding the Ceremony on the 1st December at Stanford Rivers which is usually run and organised by the Parish Council. The Chairman advised Members of his understanding of the event of the 8th December, it was understood that this event was run by the residents – however it was felt that the Parish

Council should offer the residents money for the cost of the Christmas Tree. The Chairman would contact the organiser and offer this to him.

P13.063 ESSEX POLICE INFORMATION LEAFLET

The Clerk advised Members of the leaflet which had been issued by Essex Police / Essex County Council, it was **AGREED** that the Clerk send a copy of this leaflet to Paul Rocks to see if it can be incorporated into News and Views.

P13.064 DATES FOR FORTHCOMING PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members **AGREED** that the Parish Council Meetings for 2014 would be held on the 2nd Thursday of the 2nd Month as follows commencing at **5.00pm**:

9th January
13th March
8th May
10th July
11th September
13th November.

The Chairman Closed the Meeting at 6.50pm

Signed Date