

Great Braxted Parish Council.

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the pavilion on 12th January 2017.

Present: Mr K Hornett(Chairman); Mr G Elder, Mr I Armstrong, Mrs W Roderick, Mrs B Spensley.

- 1. Apologies of Absence.** All present. Ms M Chapman NHW sent her apologies.
- 2. Declarations of Interest.** None.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2016.** Confirmed and signed.
- 4. Matters Arising not on the Agenda.** Mr Hornett reported that volunteers were still needed for Speed watch. He informed members that the Local Development Plan hearing had started on January 10th and the provision for travellers in the district had been discussed. It was noted that Mr N Fenwick had resigned as chief planning officer.
- 5. Finance/Precept 2017-18.** The Clerk outlined the Council's spending for the last 3 years. As agreed at the previous meeting the village had been asked to put forward suggestions for future spending but there had been no response. Members discussed future expenditure and matters previously minuted. It was agreed to go ahead with the following :-
 - safety work on the oak trees.
 - Improvements to the village pump in Bung Row
 - Repainting and maintenance of village sign
 - Planting bulbs wild flowers etc. (Budget of £200)

With regard to the point raised at the previous meeting concerning the donation towards the upkeep of the churchyard it was agreed to donate £500.

The Clerk informed the members that the present bank balance was £4,304.90p. It was agreed that the precept for 2017-18 should be £4,500 an increase of £1000,

- 5.3.** Council agreed payment to Elliotts Printing of £87.00 for December Bulletin.
- 5.4.** Council agreed payment of £92.60p for Clerk's wages and expenses.
- 5.5.** Council agreed payment of £48.00 to RCCE for Annual Sub.
- 5.6.** Council agreed payment to Autella of £22.50p for quarterly payroll services.
- 5.7.** Council agreed payment of £24.99p to Miss S Mann for gate post agreed at previous meeting.
- 6. Police /NHW.** A report had been published in the January Bulletin. Crime reports are now being circulated but nothing had been reported in the Braxteds. A lot is happening to improve the relationship between the community and police despite the severe cutbacks Essex Police are currently facing.
- 7. Planning.**
 - 7.1 New dwelling at Broomfield Farm, Braxted Park Road.** Members had no objections.

7.2 Extension and alterations to Noaks Cross Farm, Sextons Lane. Members supported this application.

8. Highways.

- It was noted that the finger post on Braxted Park Road would be repaired before January 17th.
- Mr Elder updated members with developments regarding speeding traffic in the village. A second survey suggested at the last meeting had been carried out at High Ridge. However it was noted that this had taken place during the school holidays and in icy weather both of which would distort the figures. A resident had written to the MP Priti Patel and her reply indicated that 9 new enforcement officers were being trained in the Maldon district. The Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Keyes who was on the LHP to ensure Gt Braxted was included in the scheme.
- The Chairman reported that Mr Clark at Braxted Park had been informed by Essex Highways that the planned Vehicle Activated Sign near the park entrance would not be installed as the speed survey did not meet ECC Policy.

9. Correspondence

9.1 A letter from HMRC was read out regarding paying quarterly payments on line rather than by cheque was discussed and it was agreed to countersign the demand invoice as normally the cheques had two signatures. The clerk would set this up for the January payment.

9.2 A letter from the Autela Payroll Services had been received informing the Council of the new pensions regulations and members agreed to the Clerk joining the NEST scheme.

10. AOB

- Concern was expressed regarding the racist graffiti which had appeared on Braxted Wall. The Clerk would contact Mr Clark about their concerns.
- It was noted that some residents were putting out their recycling early and the village looked untidy. A notice would be put in Braxted Bulletin reminding residents of the Maldon DC guideline's,
- A number of concrete posts had been dumped in Sextons Lane. Mr Armstrong volunteered to collect them in his truck.

11. Date of Next Meeting. 2nd March 2017

