



## WEST BERGHOLT PARISH COUNCIL

# Minutes of the Parish Council

Meeting held in the John Lampon Hall - 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at 7.30p.m.

In the Chair: John Gili-Ross  
Members Present: Sally Butcher, Jenny Church, Bernard Colbron, Sue Day, Andrew Savage, David Short, Peter Sleigh, Harry Stone, Bob Tyrrell  
Clerk: Val Walsom  
Present: Councillor Willets

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Chris Stevenson.

### 2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.

### 3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were approved with no amendments.

### 4. Borough Councillors' Report

The Planning Inspectorate is supporting traditional lines for the Local Development Framework, site selection procedures. Most development will take place in urban areas with some social housing in rural areas.

There is a degree of turmoil with regard to the budget. Pressures will result in budget cuts of £2.5m. This will mean a cut in grants. There are currently very few planning applications which generate income for the Council.

The River Colne Countryside Project operations will be closed in Colchester resulting in the loss of an employee. The PC is concerned about the loss of this valuable facility and will be writing in support of the project.

### 5. Progress Reports for Information

#### Parish Clerk

The Model Publication Scheme - Parish Council Guidelines to Information was adopted by the Parish Council. This will be made available on the website.

#### Village Bulletin

The latest edition is due to be delivered next week. There will be higher charges for printing this edition due to a change in the format.

A discussion followed about whether or not advertisers in the Village Bulletin could also have their adverts displayed on the website. This will be explored further by Sue Day, the Communications Officer.

#### Village Website

The report from Dave Kingaby had been distributed. Navigation to different areas of the website has been changed.

### 6. Email Policy and Protocol

A debate was held on whether there should be a formal email policy for PC related emails between the members and between members and external bodies including the public. It was decided that no change was necessary. Councillors were reminded that emails could be regarded as reflecting the

views of the entire Parish Council and should be written accordingly. All decisions and actions made by the Parish Council are discussed, and recorded at its monthly meetings.

## 7. Planning

Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 18th February 2009 were received.

A complaint from the owner of Hill House about the unlawful use of farm buildings adjacent to his property had been received. This has been taken up by CBC who has inspected the buildings and spoken to the owner. The owner has advised that he will rectify the situation shortly.

Chris Stevenson has responded to CBC's Development Control Policies and Site Allocation Document on behalf of the PC.

## 8. Parish Plan

The current issue is on the website. Priorities have been identified. The steering group now has 9 members who are looking at these. A Transport committee has been set up and County Broadband is being researched.

## 9. Environment Matters

Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 were received.

- The Allotment fence has now been repaired.
- 2 quotes have now been sought for repairs to the goal mouths on Poors Land. This work will take place at the end of the football season.
- It was agreed to allow £200 to be allocated to RCCP's work on the Village Green in March.
- Timber will be purchased to make a new duck house for the Queens Head pond.
- Free trees provided by CBC will be planted shortly.
- Gary Walls would like to undertake some training in Health and Safety and first aid. The Clerk will look for some relevant courses. Additional work for Gary will be looked into to try and extend his hours. He is very versatile and could take on many tasks including in the hall.
- The results of CBC's inspection of play equipment on the Lorkin Daniell Field highlighted the need for some repair work. This will be undertaken as soon as possible
- Following a letter of complaint from the PC the Co-op has agreed that the forecourt will receive attention every day.
- Harry Stone, David Short and Jenny Church will take on the job of completing the forms for RCCE's Best Kept Village Competition.
- Following a response from CBC on the feasibility of a mini roundabout at the Lexden Road/Colchester Road junction the PC will not be pursuing the issue at present.
- John Gili-Ross will pursue with CBC the issue of the missing dog bin.

## 10. Village Hall Matters

Minutes of the Hall Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 were received.

- The floor of both entrances has been repaired.
- The Hall committee will look into the problem of hirers using blu-tac.
- The expected work to the hall to replace soffits, guttering, doors etc. is being progressed and prospective suppliers will be contacted shortly.

## 11. BYG

The cycle of fortnightly meetings has begun. Membership is £1 and there is a cost of 50p per meeting. Over 26 young people attended the first, very successful meeting. £2500 of the grant allocation has been spent on equipment. More adult volunteers are needed.

## 12. Finance

The General Account showed 98% income, 68% general expenditure, 80% environment expenditure and 71% expenditure overall.

The Hall Account showed 100% income, 94% expenditure.

- The grant of £1000 for Bluebells 'walking bus' has been received.
- Balances of the accounts and Investment funds were presented. Investments have decreased significantly this year.

- Expense claims need to be paid at the next meeting. Claims forms should be with the clerk beforehand.
- Andrew Savage proposed, David Short seconded and the PC approved expenditure of approximately £2000 for the 3 new village signs and installation of 2 of them.
- Donations need to be approved at the next meeting. It was suggested that a day of Gary Walls' time could be donated to the Methodist and St Mary's churches to help with their church yards.

It was proposed by Andrew Savage and seconded by Harry Stone to make the following payments:

**General Account**

**Salary Payments to Mrs Walsom and Gary Walls**

Norhurst Landscapes	Repairs to Allotment fence	500.00
Ernest Doe	Items for lawn mower etc.	90.05
CBC	Bin emptying	438.84
RCCE	Refreshments for conference	5.00
PDS	Rodent clearance on the Allotments	63.25
Inland Revenue	NI	22.61

**Orpen Hall Account**

**Salary Payment to Mrs Mayhew**

Elanor Technical Services	Repair to Social Club heating	120.07
RCCE	Affiliation	35.00
Caroline Nix	Cleaning	456.00
Roberts Cleaning Services	Window cleaning	25.00
Vincent Pizzuto	Plumbing work	31.05

**13. Correspondence**

CBC had thanked the PC for its letter of thanks in relation to the CBC grant allocation.

**14. Consideration of Items for the Next Agenda**

No items were put forward.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

25<sup>th</sup> March 2009.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.

Signed .....

Date .....

Position on Parish Council.....