

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Bures Community Centre, Nayland Road on Monday 18th March 2013 at 8.00pm.

PRESENT: There were 6 parish councillors present and 9 electors plus Mrs J Wright (Clerk) and Cllr David Finch (ECC).

Apologies received from Cllr J Evans, Cllr A Shelton (BDC), PCSO Warren Brown and Peter Darlington (Village Agent).

Mr David Lee (Bures Hamlet Parish Council Chairman) took the chair.

MINUTES: Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting of 19th March 2012 were circulated and read (previously confirmed and signed 14th May 2012).

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: The Chairman, Mr David Lee welcomed those in attendance and then gave a brief update of the year's events. A copy has been held on file for reference and duly advertised.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT: Cllr David Finch gave a brief outline of ECC performance and achievements during the last year and a copy has been held on file for reference. The January, February and March reports had been circulated.

Main points of interest: 0% increase on council tax for 2013/14. Cllr Finch was pleased to report that there had been no service closures or cuts during 2012/13. The youth service had been re-vamped. The Local Highway Panel had issued £814,000 to parish projects and works under its criteria throughout the county. For 2013/14 ECC would be able to determine areas requiring 20mph and 30mph speed restrictions on parish requests. This would allow Bures Hamlet Parish Council an opportunity to consider speed reduction for Colchester Road and Bridge Street. ECC had invested £11 million for pot hole repairs in the county. Cllr Finch urged the parish council to report all pot holes needing attention. ECC were progressing a scheme to unite local farmers for clearance of snow on roads for next winter.

Colne Road was excluded from the ECC gritting programme as it was not on a bus route. Cllr Finch advised the Clerk to submit a request for inclusion and he would follow up.

BRAINTREE DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: Cllr Shelton had sent his apologies to the meeting.

POLICE REPORT: PCSO Warren Brown had sent his apologies to the meeting. The Clerk submitted his report: He noted that the Road Traffic Collision at Bridge Street had been reported but the police to take no further action.

1 x Report of a person urinating near to the river, details taken, advice given with no further action.

2 x Suspicious Circumstances – 1 x male seen in gardens in early hours

1 x Suspicious Vehicle – grey/silver VW Golf

1 x Criminal Damage – car scratched

1 x workman's van on chevron lines on junction of Colchester Road/Bridge Street – advice given.

STATION ADOPTERS: The Clerk presented the report and circulated to all those present. Main items noted being: Enquiries being made regarding disabled bays to be provided on the road, waiting hut upgraded, planted wooden troughs sponsored by Bakers of Greenstead Green, steps deemed unsafe and to be closed off and options for access being investigated. It was also noted that the Adopters had received Runner up for Best Small Station and the Chairman expressed his appreciation to Anne and David Taylor for their hard work.

VILLAGE AGENT: Peter Darlington had sent his apologies. The Clerk presented a short report on his behalf: He had had an extremely busy and fruitful year and was pleased to advise that this would continue for 2013/14.

Contact details: General enquiries: Tel: 0800 9775858 Email: enquiries@vaessex.org.uk

Website: www.villageagentsessex.org.uk

RIGHTS OF WAY: The parish council remained within the remit of the Parish Partnership Scheme to allow volunteer training and information to continue. Byeway 25: The remedial works ECC have

carried out during the past year has not eliminated the flooding from the pond. Problem still being followed up by ECC. Footpath 27: ECC will continue to monitor the accessibility of the footpath. Members expressed their thanks to Hugh Turner for continuing as Parish Footpath Representative.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Clerk presented the following report:

Business Saver A/C balance: £3533.70 Community A/C balance: £940.91 Parish precept to Braintree District Council for financial year 2013/2014: £27,735

Parish Council Budget: £27,735 remains as per previous year thus representing 0.20% decrease on the parish element for 2013/2014.

Parish Support Grant £2735 to remain as per previous year (this is included in parish budget figure)

Council Tax Support Grant £1705 new additional grant for 2013/14 (this is included in parish budget figure)

Allocation of Parish Budget:

Cemetery Authority	£3500 (as per previous year)
Bures Community Centre	£5100 (% loan for hall works + telephone rental)
Sportsground	£7582.50 (as per previous year)
Projects	£1500
Lighting	£300
Insurance	£600
Training	£300
Auditors	£375
Administration	£1500
Clerk's salary	£4200
Elections	£100
Donations	£300
Dog waste bags	£450
Street cleansing/Rights of Way	£3000

We also receive a BDC Street Cleansing grant (2012/13) £741 and a Greenfields Housing Maintenance grant (2012/13) £184.64 to offset costs paid for by the parish council.

ELECTOR'S QUESTIONS: Cllr Finch offered to meet with Cllr Ryman to discuss more fully ECC funding for parishioners requiring assessment for residential care.

This concluded the business.

