# **BLACK NOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE 26TH APRIL 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT THE PAVILION MEETING ROOM AT THE BLACK NOTLEY PLAYING FIELDS, BLACK NOTLEY.

IN THE CHAIR: CLLR. S. PEDDER.

PRESENT: CLLRS. M. FORD, J. SMITH, M. SIMMONS, S. GOLDBERG,

S. DOUGLAS, S. ELDEN-LEE.

PARISH CLLR’S APOLOGIES**:** - I. MOORE.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**:-** District Councillor’s F. Ricci, T. Cunningham and G. Butland.

1455/23 DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

None.

1456/23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME.

4 members of public present including County Councillor Playle. A Leader of the Black Notley Cubs attended and spoke of reference free hedging and trees that they have received through the Queen’s Green Canopy by The Lord Lieutenant of Chelmsford. It was agreed that the hedging plants to go on the John Ray Millennium Green and the non native species to go on Cokers Peace, Cllr Simmons has some sleeves for the species that he can give to the Cub leader. Agenda item next month is to consider donating some funds for the scouting group to have some hi vis vests for their outside activities. 2 others members of the public attended and spoke regarding planning application number 23/00738/OUT the proposed development on 231 Witham Road. This was discussed briefly the Parish Council have already objected to this planning application. They also raised their concerns of the bund at Hadfield Drive the quality of material is not good the appearance is poor and its not been seeded. The Clerk to email Cllr Cunningham regarding this.

Cllr Goldberg arrived at 7.36 pm.

1457/23 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS.

Report given from Councillor Playle he spoke about the budgets for highways improvements in the area. He has raised the flooding issues at the bottom of John Ray Garden and Snakey Lane he has requested these to be jetted out again. It was confirmed at the recent Local Highways Panel meeting that there is no funding for speed surveys. Cllr Playle to arrange funding for this separately. Cllr Smith reported to Cllr Playle that the ditch at John Ray Cottage, Bakers Lane is still blocked.

1458/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THE 22ND MARCH 2023.

Agreed as a true and correct record.

Proposed Cllr Smith Seconded Cllr Ford Vote Unanimous

1459/23 CLERKS REPORT. Circulated.

1460/23 CORRESPONDENCE.

\* Best Kept playing field competition £10 and renewal of annual membership £30.

It was agreed to renew this and enter the competition.

Proposed Cllr Smith Seconded Cllr Simmons Vote Unanimous

\* Renewal due for the subscription to the EALC = £571.74. it was agreed to renew.

Proposed Cllr Douglas Seconded Cllr Ford Vote Unanimous

1461/23 UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE’S –

a) Green Spaces update:- This update covers March and April as the Sub-Committee didn’t meet in March. Fifty whips provided by a resident they were planted in March at Cokers Peace and a few at the Playing field. Thanks to the resident for supplying them and to him, his son, Cllr Simmons and the Caretaker for planting them.

Weeding and strimming of the wild flower bed was undertaken on Monday by Richard, Martin and Cllr Douglas. The purpose of doing this in April is that it will help to remove the competition from the grasses which are the dominant species in the first year and to avoid fertility going back into the soil. Quotations for the Tree surveys were received. Further information has been sought regarding rates for works should any action need to be taken on any tree or trees. A decision to be made by full Council on who to award the order to. 2 quotes received and discussed. It was agreed to go with Writtle Forest consultancy price £1,150 + VAT. It was agreed to set £1,500 if required if extra works needs doing.

Proposed Cllr Douglas Seconded Cllr Simmons Vote Unanimous

b) Footpath install update. No new update from Cllr Playle.

c) Communications update:- Cllr Douglas has a new Green spaces report to be uploaded to the website. The change of Councillors to be updated after the next Parish Council meeting. As the official change of Council is the 9th May. Cllr Pedder asked if the updates can be put onto facebook a big quicker please.

1462/23 HIGHWAY / PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES.

\* Circulation of the ‘data’ from the Speed Sign. Recorded on facebook monthly. Data changes are that the volume and speeds have gone up again this month. The Clerk to contact P C Draper and find out when the Police are available to carry out some speed checks.

1463/23 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH UPDATE / POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF SPEED GUN AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL.

Future agenda item when we have heard back from the Community Speed Watch

Co-Ordinator and establish what material will be made available to the Council.

1464/23 FINANCE - a) Finance List.

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| D/D | Npower Business Solutions (street light supply) | £53.83 |
| D/D | A & J Lighting Solutions Ltd (street light supply) | £68.22 |
| D/D | EDF Energy (Pavilion) | £27.00 |
| D/D | British Gas Light Business (Pavilion) | £72.34 |
| D/D | BT for Pavilion Office | £41.97 |
| D/D | BT for Parish Council mobile phone | £10.80 |
| B/Trans | Helen Waterfield (salary) | £775.35 |
| B/Trans | Helen Waterfield (mileage £13.95 + elec £30.00, BT Broadband & calls £28.32) | £72.27 |
| B/Trans | Martin Cudlip (salary) | £471.27 |
| B/Trans | Martin Cudlip (Bird Seed) | £6.99 |
| B/Trans | Richard Goodman (salary + 17 hours overtime littler picking and planting whips and installing tree guards) | £875.80 |
| B/Trans | Richard Goodman (new showerheads for changing rooms) | 49.75 |
| B/Trans | James Todd & Sons (monthly wages service) | £36.00 |
| B/Trans | JMB Carpentry (2 oak benches) | £600.00 |
| B/Trans | P G Bones (landlord safety check and boiler service) | £145.21 |
| B/Trans | Braintree District Council (pest control contract re-newel) | £718.80 |
| B/Trans | Essex Association of Local Councils (6 good councillor guides) | £29.94 |
| B/Trans | Homecot Services (pétanque court fencing) | £2457.16 |
| B/Trans | Mike Simmons (Coronation flags) | £67.47 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **£6,580.17** |

b) Circulation of the Actual to Budget spending report. Noted.

c) Annual insurance due for the John Ray Millennium Green Trust, increase of £75 on last year. £388.28. It was agreed to pay this.

Proposed Cllr Ford Seconded Cllr Elden-Lee Vote Unanimous

1465/23 PLANNING.

**23/00738/OUT** - Land Rear Of, 231 Witham Road, Black Notley. Outline planning application with all matters reserved, except access, for up to 13 residential units (Use Class C3), associated car parking, landscaping and ancillary works and infrastructure. Access to be directly off Witham Road. The Parish Council strongly object to this speculative application for 13 dwellings on a protected area. The Brain Valley, which lies outside the village development envelope and is unsuitable for development.

There is no school and limited facilities in the village as the Post Office has closed, therefore access to a car especially during school hours is essential for family living. The alternative being an unpleasant long hilly walk along a very busy road escorting very young children, or an expensive spasmodic bus service. Views and habitats will be lost across the Protected Brain Valley creating an urban edge to the village.

The site access is situated at the far end of the village and the 30mph limit and there is a known speeding problem with traffic leaving the village heading for Witham and the A12 and to Chelmsford and Stansted M11 via Bakers Lane already a known rat run.

The Access itself will cause an unacceptable problem to the resident of 229 Witham Road with traffic passing close to the house and entrance. There doesn’t appear to be any amenity space in the direct vicinity meaning children need to cross a busy road.

This is a bungalows area and this proposal which is of 1.5 height chalet style houses will overlook and overbear and cause loss of privacy and amenity to the residents of Meadow Way and a harsh vista across the Brain Valley. The proposed site BLAN114 for 1750 houses with Doctors Surgery, Schools and Shops lies within the Parish of Black Notley and was forwarded in the Local District Plan and reviewed by the Inspector.There are several other more suitable sites being developed in the District eg at nearby Cressing and the Hunnable site at Bocking making it unnecessary to consider this plan. Social Housing is not a community gain at this location due to lack of facilities in Black Notley and the need for a car. Should Braintree District Council consider this application further it should be noted from a previous application in the area that Black Notley Parish Council consider this as a bungalow area and any further properties be bungalows for existing residents of 2 years, no extensions allowed, so the accommodation remain suitable for down sizers and 1st time buyers. Any 106 contribution should be towards open space development in the Parish of Black Notley.

**23/00044/HH** Highlands, Church Road, Black Notley, Essex, CM77 8LG. Erection of single-storey front extension. Removal of chimney stack. Replacement of all front windows with wider black aluminum-framed windows. No objection.

1466/23 QUOTES FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR AT THE COMMUNITY ASSOCATION HALL.

Cllr Elden-Lee had previously mentioned that she might be able to purchase this slightly cheaper through work, however the price we had received from Defib World £885 + VAT + cabinet £450 + VAT she couldn’t beat. It was agreed to go ahead and purchase one to be installed outside of the Community Centre.

Proposed Cllr Simmons Seconded Cllr Smith Vote Unanimous

1467/23 REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT IF THE PARISH COUNCIL COULD FUND A

BOOK STORE.

It was agreed the Clerk would find out if funding is possible for an item that is situated

on a residents property. During the meeting it was established that the lady concerned

has purchased a small green house for this purpose.

Councillor Pedder wanted to thank the retiring Cllrs Douglas and Moore for their hard

work and Cllr Morris that left recently. Cllr Douglas said that it had been a pleasure

working with everyone and she said she would like to continue to be on the Greens

Committee, she also wanted to thank Cllr Simmons for all his assistance with the

Greens Committee activities.

1468/23DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY THE 10TH MAY 2023.

Meeting closed 8.45 pm

CHAIRMAN………………………………………….. DATE …………………………