# **BLACK NOTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY THE 22ND MAY 2024 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, A. WOOD, M. SIMMONS

PARISH CLLR APOLOGIES: -CLLRS S. ELDEN-LEE, N. FERRIS, A GEORGE, S.GOLDBERG.

ONE MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC and County Councillor R Playle.

Apologies have been received from District Cllrs Butland, Cunningham and Ricci.

1664/24ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR.

CHAIRMAN – Cllr S Pedder.

Proposed - Cllr M Ford Seconded - Cllr M Simmons Vote Unanimous

VICE CHAIRMAN – Cllr J Smith.

Proposed - Cllr M Simmons Seconded - Cllr M Ford Vote Unanimous

1665/24 SIGNING OF THE DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE.

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by the Chairman.

1666/24 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

1667/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The member of the public present raised the matters of the step outside the shop in Bedells Avenue, the cutting of the grass on the Millennium Green and the war memorial siting.

Cutting of the grass on the Millennium Green – it was reported that the grass is currently very high and access is limited as a result. It was suggested that the member of the public attend a meeting of the Greens Committee to put forward his proposal.

Siting of the War Memorial – the roads around the war memorial are very dangerous. Cllr Ross Playle said that there had been proposals to move the memorial but that these have been put on hold pending the Hayeswood Development.

1668/24 ACCESS TO THE VILLAGE SHOP

With the agreement of the meeting this item was bought forward, so that it could be discussed while the member of the public was present. Cllr Smith reported that she has spoken to the shop keeper and it was noted that the ownership of the area outside the shop is in question. The Clerk will be asked to investigate this matter.

1669/24 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Cllr R Playle – Told the meeting that the Local Community Funds have re-opened and the scouts have requested a grant. The Highways Member-led scheme is open again and requests are required by 31st May 2024. The footpath/pavement signage in Bakers Lane is already on the list. Church Road triangle – he will raise the matter with the Local Highways Panel.

1670/24 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THE 24TH APRIL 2024

Proposed - Cllr J Smith Seconded - Cllr M Ford Vote Unanimous

1671/24 CLERKS REPORT

There was nothing new to add to the report already circulated.

1672/24 PLAYING FIELD

a)UK Power Network update. A new proposal has been received about the route of the power line. It was proposed by Cllr S Pedder and seconded by Cllr M Ford that the new route should be accepted. The vote was unanimous.

It was noted that the Heads of Terms have been changed, so the matter was deferred.

The member of the public spoke about the laying practices of cables. It was noted that the cable through the playing field will be trenched.

b) Discussion on recommendations / updates from the recent Renovation works at the Pavilion – There are various works that are required to be done. It was proposed to ask the Clerk to get one quote initially for the works and then two more if the amount of the quote exceeds the amount that the Clerk is delegated to spend.

Proposed – Cllr M Ford Seconded – Cllr J Smith Vote Unanimous

c) Notley Youth email request for pitch hire - A request was discussed for occasional use of the pitch. There were discussions, particularly about the car parking aspect. The Clerk will be asked to draft conditions to be sent relating to the limited parking, requesting the dates for playing and details of matches etc. for further consideration by the Council.

1673/24 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Debrief. M Ford has written a report. Venue to be discussed.

It was reported that the Annual Parish Meeting had been very well attended. There was some discussion about next year’s meeting but it was agreed to defer further discussion until the October meeting.

1674/24 CORRESPONDENCE.

- Renewal of the Braintree Association of Local Councils subscription £48 – This was agreed

- Report from Cllr Wood from on the recent BALC meeting – Cllr Wood reported that she had attended the meeting of the BALC on 17th April 2024. Cllr Martin Lee was elected as the Chairman for the coming year. There was discussion about the way in which Braintree District Council seems loath to release S106 monies to the parish councils.

1675/24 UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE’S –

1. Green Spaces update:- There was no meeting, so there was no report.

Cokers Peace – It was proposed by Cllr S Pedder and seconded by Cllr J Smith that a 4th cut should be undertaken. The vote to proceed was unanimous.

1. Communications update:- A quotation for the amendments to the website was looked at but was deferred to the next meeting.

The photographs taken by Cllr J Smith are to be put directly onto Facebook.

Article for Community Magazine – Cllr M Ford asked if anyone else wanted to write the article, to contact him.

1676/24 HIGHWAY / PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES.

\* Circulation of the ‘data’ from the Speed Sign. Noted

1677/24 FINANCE –

a) CIRCULATION OF FINANCE LIST.

Proposed - Cllr M Simmons Seconded - Cllr M Ford Vote - Unanimous

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| D/D | SSE (street light supply)  | £78.31 |
| D/D | A & J Lighting Solutions Ltd (street light supply)  | £68.22  |
| D/D | EDF Energy (Pavilion) | £40.00  |
| D/D | British Gas Light Business (Pavilion) | £16.58 |
| D/D | BT for Pavilion Office | £45.48 |
| D/D | BT (for Parish Council mobile phone) | £12.12 |
| D/D | Nest (Pensions HW & RG) | £101.06 |
|  |  |  |
| B/Trans | Helen Waterfield (salary) | £818.03  |
| B/Trans | Helen Waterfield (mileage £19.35 + elec £30.00, BT Broadband & calls £28.32 + refreshments AA mtg £47.20 + Ink cartridge £45.99) | £170.86 |
| B/Trans | Martin Cudlip (salary + 11 ½ overtime strimming, mowing, leaflet delivery, open & close gates, watering planters)  | £602.27  |
| B/Trans | Martin Cudlip (32 miles for April £14.40 + fab balls £4.99)  | £19.39  |
| B/Trans | Richard Goodman (salary + 7 ½ hrs overtime litter picking, strimming delivery of AA leaflets weeding the bund) | £837.18 |
| B/Trans | Richard Goodman (fuel for lawn mower) | £23.83 |
| B/Trans | EALC (subscription 2024/5) | £594.06 |
| B/Trans | RCC of Essex (subscription 2024/5) | £59.70 |
| B/Trans | James Todd & Sons (monthly wages service now £43.20 + increase I forgot to pay in April £3.60) | £46.80 |
| B/Trans | Ernest Does (blue roll and 2 stroke aspen fuel) | £50.49 |
| B/Trans | Glasdon UK Limited (new leg to picnic bench) | £14.98 |
| B/Trans | Clear Councils (annual insurance due Aviva Insurance Ltd) and extra cover on public liability cover £468.80 | £843.66 & £468.80 |
| 300047 | Cash (Postage) | £25.00 |
| B/Trans | Braintree District Council (empty of dog bins £46.98 and 2 Covert boxes supply and install at allotment £480.00) | £526.98 |
| B/Trans | JPB Landscapes Ltd (first cut of Cokers Peace) | £330.00 |
|  | TOTAL | £5,793.80 |

b) YEAR END – REVIEW ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

c) REVIEW - ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

d) CIRCULATION OF THE INTERNAL AUDITORS REPORT

e) AUTHORISATION AND SIGNING OF THE YEAR END ACCOUNTS MARCH 2023

Proposed - Cllr S Pedder Seconded - Cllr M Ford Vote – Unanimous

The Chairman signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Accounting Statement.

1678/24 REVIEW AND ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE POSTS AND THE SUB

COMMITTEE’S.

Greens Spaces Committee Jacky, Mike, Sam + members of public Sandra

Douglas.

Footpath “ Not at this time

Communications “ Max, Stewart, Susan, Nick

Planning Representatives 5 Jacky, Susan, Max, Nick, Alex

Tree Warden 1 Andrew Adair ? Ann

Emergency Planning 3 Ann, Susan, Stewart

Black Notley Community Association 3 Max, Stewart

Village Hall Management 1 Susan

Personnel Committee 4 Ann, Susan, Alex 1 other needed

Church’s Representative 3 Susan, Jacky, Max

Proposed – Cllr S Pedder Seconded – Cllr M Ford that the current positions are confirmed for the time being and the matter will be deferred to the next meeting. Vote Unanimous.

1678/24 PLANNING.

**24/00752/HH** Proposed two storey front and side extension, insertion of 3 No. roof lights and rear dormers. Holly House, Dewlands, Black Notley, Essex, CM77 8LW – Black Notley Parish Council Object to this plan but do not object to an extension on this site. Although it is a substantial size plot, the extension is too large. The front and rear elevations both give the impression of being a 3 storey house which will dominate the street scene. The Site is visible from the road and there are very mature trees within the site.

**24/00748/FUL** Proposed erection of 4 No. detached bungalows and new access. Land Adjoining Tennis Courts, Ludham Hall Lane, Black Notley - Black Notley Parish Council has No Objection to 4 Bungalows on this site. This Area is included in BLAN114 for development in the Local District Plan. Bungalows are a much needed design for downsizers and this Plan fits with the street-scene of mixed design of housing. There have been neighbour objections as to accessibility, however Fire and Rescue have deemed access as suitable.

Black Notley Parish Council leave the decision on this matter to Highways who have yet to respond.

**23/02612/FUL** Proposed installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') development of up to 24.9 Megawatts (MW), with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Land Off Braintree Road, Cressing, Essex. Black Notley Parish Council Object to this Proposal The Solar Farm will be highly visible, upto 80%, to properties to the North West of Black Notley across the protected Brain Valley. Due to the topography this area includes views from properties off Notley Road, The Playing Field, The North side of Black Notley, and Bulford Lane. The Solar Farm will be surrounded by a 3M high fence and 5M high security columns, will these be fitted with lights? How will this affect the freedom of movement for wildlife over this huge area. Hedgerows will be enhanced but during the winter will present little visual protection against the view of the Panels and 3M fence. Along with joint application 23/02613/FUL this will present a harsh urban outlook along the Brain Valley which is a conservation area. It is the view of Black Notley Parish Council that Solar Panels should be installed on Brown Field Sites, Industrial Areas, low grade agricultural land and newbuild housing developments which are numerous in Cressing/Braintree.

**23/02613/FUL** Proposed installation of a ground mounted solar photovoltaic ('PV') development of up to 24.9 Megawatts (MW), with associated infrastructure and landscaping on land to the West of Lanhams, Lanham Farm Road, Cressing, Essex. Black Notley Parish Council Object to this application The Solar Farm will be visible across the protected Brain Valley to properties N.W. of Black Notley. Most of the proposal is on good quality agricultural land, Grade 2 and 3a which must be preserved for that purpose. The Solar Farm will be surrounded by 3M wire fence which will prevent freedom of movement for wildlife and present an Industrial, Urban appearance which will not be hidden by landscaping especially during the winter months. Along with joint application 23/02612/FUL this application will present a harsh Industrial vista across a conservation area. It is the view of Black Notley Parish Council that Solar Panels should be sited on Brown Field Sites, Industrial Areas, low grade agricultural land and newbuild housing of which there has been an abundance in the area. Comments circulated on both applications and agreed.

**Review of the Local Plan** - Preferred Options Local Plan and Preferred Options Integrated Impact Assessment Consultation, ends 19th June 2024. Cllr J Smith will draft comments to send to all Councillors.

1679/24 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY THE 26TH JUNE 2024.

Meeting closed 9.10 pm

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