

KELVEDON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at 7.45 p.m. on Thursday 23 April 2009 in Kelvedon Institute

Present: Cllr C Martin (Chairman); parish clerk Ms L Fuller; parish councillors Mrs J Anderson, Mrs J Coates, Q Colborn, T Dixon, G Dossett, N Ezra, J Hackworth, Mrs L Hill, M Pilbeam, H Siggers; district councillors T Foster, R Mitchell; county councillor N Edey; PC J Hallworth; Community Warden Mrs J Windard; 26 members of the public

1 Introduction of Councillors and Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Martin welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the parish, district and county councillors, and the clerk.

Apologies for absence were received from Helen Edwards, Muriel Carrick and Jane Coleman (Feering PC); Brooks Newmark MP; Jerry Priest (URC), Jill Hinds; Jenny and Graham Weldon.

2 Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on Thursday 24 April 2008

The minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 24 April 2008 were agreed as a correct record, with Mrs Huggett pointing out that she had raised the question of parking on pavements as an on-going problem.

3 Matters arising from the last meeting

None

4 Police/Community Safety Matters

The meeting agreed to bring this item forward.

PC Hallworth gave a report on police activity in Kelvedon. He referred to staffing and to community policing, in particular the Neighbourhood Action Panels. These panels set the policing priorities for the area, e.g. recently in Kelvedon, hare coursing, and are a means of accessing resources. Panel members are all local people.

Questions were asked about parking on pavements, which is a problem on many sites in the village; child cyclists and road safety; cycling on the footway; speeding traffic throughout the village.

Community Warden Mrs J Windard responded to questions about parking outside the school; fly-tipping; dog fouling; untaxed vehicles; the recycling centre; and speed gun training.

5 Report from the Chairman of the Council, Cllr C Martin

The Chairman's report had been distributed prior to the meeting and was taken as read. A copy is attached to these minutes.

6 Report from the Youth Forum – Cllr T Dixon, Chairman of Recreation Committee

Cllr Dixon reported on the Youth Forum project of the play area on the Recreation Ground, which had been well received and had won an award and a cup from Essex Playing Fields Association. The Youth Forum had secured many grants to help fund the project.

The Youth Forum was holding monthly discos which were attracting an average of 80 attenders; thanks were due to the Labour Club and to the helpers.

The next project was a sponsored walk.

Cllr Dixon referred to the project to install play equipment and upgrade generally the Thorne Road/Glebe Road area; this had attracted some opposition but it was mostly based on mis-information.

7 Financial Report – Cllr J Hackworth, Chairman of Finance Committee

Copies of unaudited accounts were distributed prior to the meeting.

Cllr Hackworth referred to two recent major projects – the play equipment on the Recreation Ground and the High Street Car Park. He also spoke about the changes in accounting basis which was required of the council for 2008/09 and the new accounting software used, which prevented comparison with the previous year.

The increase in the precept was just over 5%; this costs households just over £1 a year.

Bank interest will drop in 2009/10. The council had agreed it would keep reserves to cover six months' expenditure. The account with Bank of Ireland had been closed. Reserves could be used if necessary for unbudgeted projects, e.g. necessary work to the Old Fire Station council premises. There were no other major projects coming up. The land behind the Institute required clearance work and the Environment Committee/a working party would be looking at this.

The council's attitude was to be cautious and maintain a sound financial position.

A question was asked about the allotments costing more than the income received; this was mainly due to some works to be carried out.

8 Reports from District and County Councillors

County Cllr N Edey said that Essex County Council elections were due in June. He referred to the recent refurbishment of Kelvedon library; grants from the Community Initiatives Fund to the Packhorse Bridge Society and the Institute; a 1.9% increase in ECC's part of the council tax and savings in the next five years to achieve this by streamlining back office functions. He confirmed that ECC was the planning authority for the planning application for a waste facility at Rivenhall Airfield, and said that even if planning permission was given this did not mean the proposal would necessarily proceed.

District Cllr T Foster gave a report on behalf of himself and Cllr Mitchell. He referred to Braintree District Council's 2.5% increase in council tax and economies which had been made; plans to replace Bramston swimming pool; the transfer of housing stock to Greenfields, and money available for affordable housing; and finance and grants available for regeneration. In respect of planning, the Local Development Framework was in train; also relevant were housing, jobs, and the planned waste facility at Rivenhall Airfield. The Witham Local Area Committee was able to award grants.

District Cllr R Mitchell supported Cllr Foster's report by mentioning the planning application by Kelvedon and Feering Cricket Club, and also said that no housing outside the current village envelope was envisaged at present. He spoke of recycling targets and the reduction in green waste collections. The A120 dualling from Braintree to the A12 was not likely to occur in the near future.

9 Any resolutions received by the due date

None

10 To receive questions from the public concerning matters over which the Parish Council has control or some influence

What was the parish council's response on the Rivenhall Planning application? – the parish council had no objection, although it did refer to a number of concerns on specific issues.

Was there any likelihood of another zebra crossing? Probably not, as it was difficult to find an acceptable location.

Comments about the Speed Indicator Device which rotates between three villages; a sign to the new car park which is awaiting action from Highways Dept; the possibility of a post box on the Doucecroft open space; and the possibility of the parish council obtaining a grant to purchase its own Speed Indicator Device.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m., when the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay for refreshments.