

## BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on **19<sup>th</sup> May 2021** following the annual parish meeting via video conference.

### **Present:**

Cllr J Walker (Chair), Cllr A Hogsbjerg, CllrC Krelle, Cllr E Poels, Cllr R Teverson, Cllr M. Winter, Ms J Munro (Parish Clerk), County Cllr P. Schwier

### **Apologies:**

Cllr S Perez, District Cllr I. Parker

### **Statutory Business**

1. Election of Chair  
Cllr Walker was elected Chair (proposed Cllr Winter, seconded Cllr Teverson)
2. Election of Deputy Chair  
Cllr Winter was elected as Deputy Chair (proposed Cllr Walker, seconded Cllr Poels)
3. Apologies  
Cllr S Perez, District Cllr I. Parker
4. Confirmation of Representatives  
Village Hall Committee – Cllrs Hogsbjerg and Walker  
Pathways/P3P – Cllrs Perez and Teverson
5. Dates of Future Meetings  
Future ordinary meetings were set at 7:30 on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 16<sup>th</sup> February and 18<sup>th</sup> May with the meetings to be physical or via video conference depending upon the COVID situation. Extra-ordinary meetings will be called as and when necessary.
6. Member's Confirmation of acceptances of office and general notice of registrable interests  
Cllr Walker to complete the acceptance of office as soon as possible. Counsellors confirmed no changes were necessary to their general notice of registrable interests.
7. Review and Acceptance of Assets Register  
The Council noted no changes had been made to the assets register and accepted an inflationary increase.

### **Routine Business**

8. **Minutes**  
The minutes of meetings held on 17th February and 18<sup>th</sup> March were approved and would be signed by the chair as a correct record.
9. **Declaration of interest of items on the agenda**  
None
10. **Statements**  
Cllr Walker welcomed newly elected County Councillor P. Schwier to the meeting. County Councillor P.Schwier introduced himself providing some information on his background. He provided an update on changes to Essex County Council. David Bentley was now leader of the council following the announcement that David Finch would not be seeking re-election. Louise McKinlay is now deputy leader.

Cllr Bentley will build on the success of Cllr Finch. There are three main themes:

- Renewal – rebuild the economy, develop future skills, encourage training and promote tourism and arts, leading to new jobs
- Equality of opportunity - helping people to succeed, to receive an excellent education and to feel safe to be on our streets. High standards in social care of adults, children and vulnerable people.
- Ambition – to be the best County Council in the country and reach climate targets before 2050.

Parishioner comments received by Councillors were discussed under matters arising.

## **11. Matters Arising**

### **(a) Planning**

Cllr Krelle reported that he had received several comments about the new barn under construction near Puttock End. Concerns had been raised included that the position of the structure on the hilltop is such that it can be seen from quite a distance.

The Council wondered whether the barn could be softened somewhat through tree planting. If the area met the criteria of the Woodland Trust Tree this could be done as part of the tree planting initiative. The council asked the clerk to draft a letter to the landowner.

Cllr Krelle proposed the council form a small planning subcommittee to review all planning applications. It was noted that individual council members already review all applications. After discussion it was agreed that a small group would provide an additional focus on the area. The group would comprise Cllrs Krelle and Hogsbjerg and Ms Munro. A resident of the village with planning experience would be approached to provide input as requested. It was agreed that a terms of reference for the group should be prepared and a draft reviewed by the council at its next meeting.

### **(b) Village Hall Wall**

The clerk reported that Mick Mayhew was seeking to reduce his work load. The clerk had, therefore, contacted Martin Frazier to provide a quote. She noted that some people in the village were willing to volunteer time to keep costs down. Cllr Poels stated that if Martin Frazier were unable to provide a quote Anglia Lime in Sudbury would be a good contact.

### **(c) Parish Paths Partnership Scheme**

The clerk reported that Cllr Perez had contacted Essex Highways to discuss this initiative and several village residents had indicated an interest in joining the group.

Discussion of the matter was deferred to a future meeting.

Cllr Hogsbjerg noted that, to avoid any unpleasant emails going directly to councillors, it might be prudent for the parish council clerk email address to be used with respect to any pathways initiatives.

### **(d) Belchamp Walter Blooms**

The clerk requested the council fund a bulk purchase of daffodils in the autumn. The daffodils would be planted by volunteers in strategic places throughout the village, including the avenue leading up to the folly (landowner has given permission). She reported she intended to ask the Village Hall Committee to make a similar contribution. The council approved £300-500 towards the purchase of bulbs. The remainder of discussion of Belchamp Walter Blooms was deferred to a future meeting.

- (e) Woodland Trust Tree Planting  
The clerk reported that some landowners had expressed interest in having trees planted along footpaths but it may be too late to apply for this year. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- (f) Website and Communications  
Deferred until next meeting.
- (g) Village Bench near Parish Council Notice Board  
The clerk reported that the existing bench is worn out and needs replacing. She had spoken to the Village Hall Committee treasurer and was proposing that the cost of a new bench, a planter and a rubbish bin be shared equally between the Village Hall Committee and the Parish Council. It was suggested the bench have an inscription to thank the NHS and remember the COVID pandemic. While no quotes had been obtained it would likely cost around £1,000. The Council approved the expenditure of £500. Cllr Poels suggested the benches in the Sudbury market be considered. It was noted that the area around the bus shelter needed to be tidied up.
- (h) Village Hall Gates  
The clerk noted a village resident had expressed interest in purchasing the village hall gates which were stored behind the village hall. The gates couldn't easily be reinstalled at the hall because of the gradient of the car park. While the village resident is no longer interested in purchasing the gates it had raised the issue of selling the gates rather than letting them deteriorate further. The council agreed the gates should be sold. It was also agreed that the matter should be discussed with the village hall committee.

## 12. Finance Report

- (a) Ms Munro reported on the bank balances at 10/05/2021

Community Account	£8,307	
Reserves Account	£4,060	
Restricted Playing Field Acct		£122

- (b) The Council resolved that the certificate of exemption be approved.  
The Council also approved the accounting statements for 2020/21 as presented.
- (c) The council expressed its appreciation to Mr Colin Doman for performing the independent review without charge.

## 13. Correspondence

None of interest

## 14. Items for next meeting

Planning  
 Village Hall Wall  
 Playing field fence  
 Woodland Trust Tree planting  
 P3P  
 Belchamp Walter Blooms  
 Council tax  
 Councillor email addresses  
 Website and communications