

BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on 23rd November 2022 at the village hall.

Present:

Cllr M Winter (Vice- Chair), Cllr A Hogsbjerg, Cllr E Poels, Cllr R Teverson, Cllr P. Scott, Dist Cllr I Parker, Ms J Munro (Parish Clerk)

Apologies

Cllr C Krelle, Cllr J Walker, County Cllr P. Schwier

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th June 2022 were approved and signed by the vice-chair as a correct record.

2. Declaration of interest in agenda items

None

3. Confirmation of new Councillor

Mr Peter Scott was confirmed as a new Councillor. Cllr Winter welcomed him to the meeting.

4. Reports

County Cllr I Parker reported on developments at Braintree District Council including:

- Local Plan
- BDC is exceeding the affordable housing target by 200 homes a year
- ECC has developed a Levelling Up white paper and rural Braintree has been identified as a priority area.
- Information on cost of living and assistance available is on the BDC website

5. Parishioner Statements

None

6. Matters Arising

(a) Village Bench

Ms Munro reported that the new village bench had been installed. Thanks were given to Cllr Scott and Mr Shepherd for its installation and to Mr Doman for donating the planter and maintaining the planter. Thanks were also given to Dist Cllr Parker for the grant of £350.

(b) Playing Field

Thanks were given to Cllr Hogsbjerg for removing the willow trees in the playing fields.

(c) Pond

It was noted that the pond was looking much clearer since the village pond clean up.

Since the last meeting the council had received three quotes for dredging the pond. The quotes ranged from £6,500 - £10,500. The Council agreed that it was too costly to proceed with the work at this time. There was some discussion as to whether the village could undertake the work itself.

(d) Bulbs

Ms Munro reported that several sacks of daffodils had been planted in verges around the village.

(e) Lifebuoy

Ms Munro reported that a lifebuoy had been purchased and, once the weather was warmer, it would be installed on the pond railings

(f) Village Hall Lease

Ms Munro reported that she had obtained a template of a lease between a parish council and a village hall committee. She stated that she would seek some legal input on the wording of the lease.

7. Finance Report

(a) Ms Munro reported on the bank balances at 18/11/2022

Community Account	£7868	
Reserves Account		£4,063
Restricted Playing Field Acct- included in above	122	

(b) Adoption of the annual budget. The Council reviewed and discussed the proposed budget. It was agreed that the precept should be set at a level where there was no increase in the amount paid by residents. The Council agreed to a 15% increase in the amount paid for grass cutting.

(c) Donations – the Council discussed whether it wished to make any donation to the Church or the Village Hall Committee. In light of the finances of those two bodies and the Council's desire to build up some funds to pay for dredging the pond, the Council decided that no donations should be made this year.

8. Other Business

Cllr Hogsbjerg suggested the routes for the verge cutting be documented and formalized. It was agreed that Ms Munro would meet with him to review the map of the verges to highlight the three different routes. These routes would then be given to each of the farms when the next verge cutting contract is made.

9. Items for next regular meeting

Village hall lease

Litter picking

Precept

Pond – including village sign