

BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on 18th November 2020 at 7:30 pm via video conference.

Present:

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

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2020 were approved and would be signed by the chair as a correct record.

2. Reports

None

3. Parishioner Statements

None

4. Matters Arising

(a) Defibrillator

The clerk reported that the defibrillator had been purchased and would be installed on November 26th. Undercoat and top coat had been donated by a paint shop in Braintree which is not answering the phone and is possibly closed during the second lockdown period. Cllr Walker said that she would collect the paint and repaint the phone box when weather permitted.

The Council agreed that it was important to publicise the defibrillator to the village. The clerk said she would contact Community Heartbeat to find out whether online training is available. Cllr Perez noted that St John's Ambulance provides such training.

(b) Village Hall Wall

The clerk reported that Mick Mayhew has been hired for 5 days to work on the village hall wall with guidance to focus on the structural issues as opposed to cosmetic. It is likely he will not start the work until the new year, depending upon weather conditions.

(c) Parish Emergency Plan

The clerk reported that the plan had been updated, circulated to the council for comment and submitted to Braintree District Council.

(d) Playing Field Fence

The clerk reported that the playing field fence and corner post had been repaired and the contractor paid.

(e) Parish Paths Partnership Scheme

Cllr Perez reported that she had walked many of the footpaths noting that some signage needs repairing/replacing or improving. She indicated that she would contact the P3P officer. Cllr Krelle noted that Belchamp Otten had a very active P3P group. The clerk said that she would pass the details to Cllr Perez

(f) Dog Training Classes

The clerk reported that Ms Turner had made contact with the individual responsible for the shoot but had been unable to find out exactly the shoot dates were. No additional dog training sessions have, therefore, been undertaken. Cllr Hogsbjerg noted the shoots had been cancelled due to the second lockdown. The clerk said she would report this back

to Ms Turner and suggest she try to re-establish contact once the lockdown had been lifted.

(g) Grass Cutting

The clerk reported that she had drawn up a grass cutting and strimming contract to cover the cemetery, village hall, bus shelter area and pond area. It was agreed the new contract would be effective from 1st February 2021.

(h) Website and communications

The clerk noted that the parish council website and the village magazine are the main methods of communication. She noted that the Belchamp Walter facebook page is now quite active thanks to Cllr Perez. It was agreed that the parish council should use the facebook page to communicate and signpost to the parish council website.

(i) Bus shelter

The clerk noted that the bus shelter was looking rather tired and could do with a fresh coat of paint. Cllr Krelle stated that he had a couple of cans of barn paint and would complete the job.

5. Finance Report

(a) Ms Munro reported on the bank balances at 08/11/2020

Community Account	£5,183
Reserves Account	£2,560
Restricted Playing Field Acct	£222

(b) The Council discussed the proposed budget. The clerk reported that it had been drawn up to achieve a 0% increase in precept with the balancing line being repairs. It was noted that the village hall wall would need additional repair so it was prudent to build up some reserves for this. The Council agreed that the budget should be struck such that there was zero increase for each household. The clerk agreed to discuss the matter with BDC and report back to the council.

(c) The council discussed the allocation of the £1,300 donation and agreed that, in light of the COVID government grants to village halls in 2020, the full £1,300 would be paid to St Mary's Church to go towards its parish share.

6. Correspondence

The council discussed the BDC consultation on adopting a single cut of verges, in the autumn. BDB feels this contributes towards its Climate Change objectives by enhancing biodiversity and protecting natural habitat for a variety of wildlife creatures without compromising road/public safety. The Council discussed the proposal and unanimously disagreed with the approach noting that on the very small Belchamp Walter rural roads leaving verges, and in particular corners, uncut in spring would significantly reduce visibility and therefore compromise road safety. It was agreed the BW facebook page should be used to obtain additional feedback.

7. Items for next meeting on 17th February 2021

Defibrillator

Village Hall Wall

P3P

Bus shelter

Website and communications