

BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting was held on **Wednesday 18th November 2015** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Members present - Cllr J Walker (Chair), Cllr R Teverson, Cllr S Hogsbjerg, Cllr. A Hogsbjerg, Cllr E Poels, Mrs A Doman (Minute Taker), Mr T Raybould (Facilitator)
County Cllr D Finch, Dist Cllr I Parker

1. New Clerk - Anne Doman was thanked for her contribution over the past months. As a temporary measure the role will be split between T Raybould addressing finance, and J Walker addressing all other matters, until a new clerk can be found. The position will need to be advertised and filled as soon as possible.
ACTION - :Chair & T Raybould to contact EALC.

2. Apologies- No apologies were received.

3. Confirmation of Minutes - The minutes of the last meeting, held on July 15th, were confirmed and signed as accurate.

4. Parishoners Statements - No members of the public attended the meeting.

5. County and District Reports - Dist Cllr I Parker -

Devolution - Fifteen local authority leaders have taken up the offer of devolution. As a county the focus will be on economic growth, housing and infrastructure. Their final proposal will be presented to Government in January 2016.

Local Planning - The development of the new local plan, has identified the need for 845 new homes per year, until 2023, in the Braintree area. Over 300 potential sites are being evaluated. The plan will be ready for inspection by 2017 with all proposed sites available to view on the council website. A major risk to the plan is road infrastructure and the scarcity of builders and associated skills.

Section 106 (Funds for Public Open Space Improvements from Developers) - Developers will need advance warning of village open space requirements. A car parking area for the village was highlighted as a necessity and is to be investigated.

The council have been warned to expect central government cuts with the recycling budget likely to be one of the things affected. Options are being reviewed to minimise the impact of this on residents.

The Business Growth Loan Fund availability was highlighted. Details of this scheme have been displayed on the village noticeboard for some weeks now.

County Cllr D Finch -

Budget - On November 25th the details of a comprehensive spending review, by the Chancellor, will be announced with local government expecting a cut in funds of up to 30%. An increase in the council tax, which has remained unchanged for the last five years, may be necessary.

Bus Service Review - Details were given of the new local bus service known as Demand Responsive Service. Free fare concessions will be valid on this service, which may be particularly relevant to users in this village. Details on how it operates have been displayed at the village bus stop and on the village noticeboard. Promotional flyers are also to be circulated.

6. Matters Arising - Playing Field

Villagers continue to be canvassed concerning the purchase and installation of a low level, low risk wooden playstation. Results will be presented at the February meeting, once canvassing has been completed, and Charles Raymond has been consulted.

7. Finances - (a) Bank Balances as at 31.10.15

Community Account:	£2994.93
Reserves Account (BPA)	£6866.71
Restricted Playing Field Account	£1627.30

(b) On the basis that all payments were budgeted, cheques were approved as per attached list.

(c) **2016/17 Budget** - All members were provided with copies of the accounts and the 2016/17 budget. An underspend of £180.00 by this yearend is forecast, providing all forthcoming cheques are as predicted. It is hoped that a 0% increase for next years precept can be achieved.

(d) **Bank Mandates** - T Raybould is to visit the bank later this week, with the relevant authenticated paperwork, to update the signatories details for the bank mandates. Terry will continue to hold the cheque book, and receive statements on a temporary basis.

8. Reports - Village Hall

The village hall committee are to meet imminently to discuss new heating and the renewal of the electrics for the hall. The Parish Council expect a request for financial assistance based on estimates.

9. The Transparency Act

It is now a legal requirement for all Parish Councils with a precept of less than £25k to have a website. The act requires a range of different publications on both an annual and more frequent basis to be made available for public viewing. Training sessions are available which includes details of government funding. ACTION - A place on the training session in March 2016 is to be reserved, by Cllr Walker, for Cllr S Hogsbjerg to attend.

- 10. Church Graveyard** - There have been issues in other villages where reserved graveyard plots have been used by other parties resulting in expensive litigation. In an effort to avoid this situation in the future it has been proposed that purchased plots be identified with wooden markers. This currently involves an estimated four plots. The Parish Council will pay for the cost of the wooden stakes which the members approved.
ACTION - T Raybould to organize and advise members of details of the cost.
- 11. Emergency Contingency Planner** - Belchamp Walter has submitted an updated contingency planner to the council which would be used in the event of a major disaster in the village. Minutes of a special meeting, called on October 7th to discuss some of the planners details, were signed off by the Chairman. The contact tree details relating to the planner will be uploaded to the village website once it is active.
ACTION - Leave on table.
- 12. Village Cat Issues** - it has been reported that some cats in the village have gone missing, suspected of having been poisoned. The police have been informed and a notice concerning this matter will be posted to the village noticeboard imminently.
ACTION - Cllr Walker to arrange flyer to be distributed with Church magazine.
- 13. Correspondence** - Essex Air Ambulance sent thanks for the last contribution made and have requested an additional contribution if possible. It was agreed by the members to make a further donation of £75.00 to the cause.
ACTION - Added to approved cheques.

14. Items for next meeting scheduled for February 17th 2016 at 7.30pm

Possible purchase of a Defibrillator

Budgets

Playing Field Update

The Transparency Act (Matters Arising)

SIGNED:

DATE:

BELCHAMP WALTER PARISH COUNCIL

**Monthly Cheques approved for payment at meeting held
November 18th 2015**

EALC Training	£47.00 Budgeted
Swift/Raymond Verge Amenity Cuts	£951.76 Budgeted
Grant to BStP Comm House	£75.00 Budgeted
Grant to Village Hall	£700.00 Budgeted
Grant to PCC	£700.00 Budgeted
Essex Air Ambulance	£75.00 From Reserves
Total:	£2548.76

Approval for payment on receipt of invoices.

Hogsjberg Verge Amenity Cuts	£999.41
Brewis Verge Amenity Cuts	£466.65
Total:	£1466.06

