

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting of Little Bealings Parish Council held at Bealings Village Hall on Monday, 15th April, 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mr. J. Ward, Mrs. F. Rogers, Miss D Williams, Mrs. J Cook, Mr. E, McCoy, Mr A. Cook
plus Mr. S. Hudson, Sfk.C.Cllr Apologies – Dr C Rowe

Mr Ward, as Chairman of Council, took Chair & welcomed those present.

MINUTES of Annual meeting on 9th April 2001, were read, confirmed & signed.

MATTERS ARISING Mrs Cook drew attention to continuing problems with visibility at cross roads junction of C328/325. Cllrs decided to pursue proposals put forward by Sfk. C.C. regarding road surface. Clerk asked to investigate the possible of telephone junction box to be moved, which restricted visibility for vehicles coming up Station Hill.

with Council's views (the exception being KART RACING Track at Beacon Hill Farm in Martlesham)
Two remain outstanding.

PRECEPT: £2,000 – No change. As in previous years, £500 of this being reserved in a separate account for Village Hall capital projects.

FOOTPATHS Council continued to be responsible for footpath maintenance under Skf.CC. P3 scheme. This has proved to be a successful scheme, with footpaths regularly maintained.

SALC It had been difficult to attend meetings, as dates clashed with Council meetings, but Mr Ward had been able to attend one in February, which included a presentation on the forthcoming S.C.D.C. revision of the Local Plan.

Abandoned Car. This caused some concern amongst parishioners during Summer months, causing Parish Council to enquire about disposal arrangements. This nationwide problem has been revised, allowing for a much quicker operation for removing such vehicles.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT Parish Councils had been affected by a number of Government initiatives during past year, including a Consultation Document dealing with 'Quality Parish Councils', which would allow more responsibilities & more control over parish affairs, but would have tighter restrictions & regulations. Council decided NOT to apply for this status.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 has, for the first time, introduced a written Code of Conduct for Parish Cllrs, which has to be adopted by 9th May, 2002. Clerk & two Cllrs had attended training sessions in this respect. A special meeting has been called for 29th April for adoption of this new Ethical Code, under which all Cllrs have to submit a "Register of Interests", financial or otherwise, to Monitoring Officer of District Council.

A GREEN PAPER (Consultation document) on proposed extensive alterations to planning arrangements – establishment of Regional Planning Authorities, has been circulated. To prevent the creation of a further tier of Planning Authority, the County Structure Plans would be abolished, a move which is feared would make the planning process more remote. Also, to speed up decisions, the number of organisations to be consulted on planning applications is to be reduced, although the Green Paper does not specify which are to be deleted. It is generally believed, Parish Councils would no longer be statutory consultees, which would obviously be opposed.

In conclusion, Chairman thanked fellow Cllrs. for all their efforts during past year, & especially Clerk whose hard work is so essential to the Council's operation.

A.O.B. Mrs Rogers raised the problem of pot holes in Holly Close, It was generally thought as this Close is a private road, it did not come under Sfk.C.C. responsibility for public highways. Mr. Hudson agreed to investigate.

MEETING closed, with Chairman thanking all those who had attended.

J.R. Ward