



**WOODHAM FERRERS AND
BICKNACRE PARISH COUNCIL**
A QUALITY COUNCIL
ESSEX 'VILLAGE OF THE YEAR' - RUNNERS UP 2009



MINUTES OF A MEETING BETWEEN THE PARISH COUNCIL/FOPF 15TH JUNE 2011

PRESENT: Cllr Brett, Cllr Cooper, Cllr Huggett, Cllr Webster, Clerk – Parish Council
John Bishop, Ian Read, Peter Athey – Friends of Priory Fields

The purpose of the meeting was for the new Councillors to understand more of the land into trust situation with FoPF and have an opportunity to ask their own questions and for FoPF to give their views. The Clerk and the Chairman were present mainly to observe and for the Clerk to take Minutes.

- The introductions were made and John Bishop gave the history of the land and the Heritage Lottery grant, awarded in joint names of FoPF and the PC.
- John Bishop stated that a future PC may decide to sell the land
- John Bishop relayed a draw back clause should the management plan not be adhered to, and advised Heritage Lottery were kept informed of any requested changes to the plan
- John Bishop talked about insurance issues and claimed that FoPF had been happily working on the fields and then the Clerk advised they had not been covered and new rules were to be applied
- When questioned why FoPF did not want to become a Committee of the PC, John Bishop replied they did not wish to be totally controlled by the PC.
- Peter Athey made the claim that Hedleys solicitors and Parish Councillors had refused to read the contents of the Heritage Lottery Grant Application.
- John Bishop stated that the last PC Chairman appeared to lean to putting the land into trust and when the Clerk mentioned events surrounding the Extraordinary Meeting in February John Bishop claimed to have no knowledge.
- John Bishop stated the Heritage Lottery Fund would have to agree to the trust document and that the solicitor was awaiting a joint instruction and that FoPF were staking 50%
- Cllr Brett asked the question if the Heritage Lottery Fund had been asked if the trust needs to be made? Cllr Brett also asked why FoPF were so keen for a trust? John Bishop responded it was for the protection of the land for the people. Cllr Brett asked what if property developers got onto the PC in years to come?
- John Bishop gave details of the public meeting that was called for and stated it could be recalled at any time.
- John Bishop talked of the trustees, suggesting three from each group
- Cllr Brett asked for future plans for the fields. A small bridge, maintenance, a childrens play area and geo casing was discussed. Peter Athey made the claim that lots of these plans were gathering dust because of the trust issues. He also stated that FoPF were dictated to by the PC. Ian Read claimed they were close to asking the PC every time they wished to cut the grass.

The meeting concluded.

K Kuderovitch
28.6.2011

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