Mr. Martin Catchesides was present as a member of the Superfast Broadband Working Party and Mr. Mark Istance was present as a member of the public.

The Chair welcomed everyone present at the meeting, which commenced at 7:30pm.

100/15 Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Kehr, Cllr. Meldrum, Cllr. West

101/15 Members’ declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

102/15 Public forum

Mr. Catchesides reported that 20 houses in Helions Bumpstead were now installed with superfast broadband by Buzcom. A further 10 houses would follow within the forthcoming 2 weeks. One or two complaints had been received from villagers who were disappointed with the level of service provided and these had been forwarded to Buzcom.

Mr. Istance informed the Council that he had recently carried out an inspection of the Children’s Play Area with Cllr. Kehr. The perimeter of the bark areas would require refurbishment by replacing the perimeter timber with 4 inch diameter or half round timber lengths. The timber “Firemen’s Poles” would need to be replaced and the tallest one was about to fall over. He also informed the Council that his existing work commitments meant that he had no time available to carry out any refurbishment or repairs to the Children’s Play Area.
103/15 Confidential related to Clerk’s Contract of Employment

The Clerk left the meeting during the Council’s discussions. The Clerk was informed of the Council’s decision.

104/15 Investment in a loudspeaker system in the Village Hall

Carried over to next meeting.

105/15 Maintenance of Village Green

Cllr. Catchesides reported that a specification for the works had now been produced and an advertisement would be placed in the Village Magazine. The Clerk would enquire as to whether a known local handyman/gardener would be interested in carrying out the work.

106/15 Registration of Village Hall and Recreation Ground Land

Cllr. Catchesides reported that the Council’s legal adviser on this matter originally requested information which was not available. Certain indemnities were also required which required the legal adviser’s guidance. Cllr. Richardson offered to find out what would be required from the Council and other local organisations.

107/15 Footpath Diversion Scheme across Paddock View

The Clerk reported that the public footpaths officer at Essex County Council Highways had not, after eight months, sent the necessary documentation in order for the appeal process to begin. Cllr. Nicholson pointed out that at least one footpath across Paddock View had remained closed for two and a half years with no enforcement action being taken by Essex County Council Highways. The Clerk reported that he had asked County Councillor Finch to make enquiries as to why there had been such a long delay. The Clerk would then make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman if a reply had not been received by Cllr. Finch before the end of the current week.

108/15 District Councillor’s report

There was no report in Cllr. Bolton’s absence.

109/15 Clerk’s report

The letter containing comments from the Council on the Wind Turbine application following a request by the Planning Inspector had been sent.

A donation of £100 had been received from a resident of the village and the Clerk had responded with a letter of thanks.

110/15 Finance Report and Approval of Payments

Copies of the Financial Report, bank statement and list of payments were distributed to Members prior to the meeting.
The Council unanimously approved these payments.

111/15 Items for information and inclusion on next meeting’s agenda

Cllr. Baker reported that he had recently undertaken the task of cleaning the road signs in the village.

Cllr. Catchesides reported that an organisation called Heart Start would be carrying out free CPR training for groups of 10 people in the village.

Cllr. Catchesides would like the Council to consider entering the Local Council Awards Scheme. To be added to next meeting agenda.

The meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Signed: ________________________________________________ Date: ________________

Mrs Jane Catchesides
Chair

For further information regarding these minutes, please contact:

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