

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2015 AT 19.30 IN HERTINGFORDBURY COWPER SCHOOL

Present: Cllr. Mrs. C. Edwards (in the Chair)

Councillors: G. O’Leary, B. Jones, Mrs S. Edgell, T. Brennan, Mrs E. Bradbury, B. Simkins, H. Blake

In attendance: Ms. Nina L. Villa, Parish Clerk

Cllr Mrs L. Haysey, East Herts Council

C.Cllr. K. Crofton, Hertfordshire County Council

Several Members of the Public

139. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

140. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The issue of the track repairs at East End Green was discussed and various questions about the Risk Assessment were posed. It was agreed that in future, the Risk Assessment would be reviewed at least every six months (more regularly if required). There was considerable discussion as to whether the track should be tarmacked in light of the increased use of cars and trucks and the Clerk was asked to investigate whether this would be achievable in a conservation area.

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Written requests for a dispensation had been received by the Clerk in line with the Council’s Code of Conduct in order for them to consider the recent planning application by Lafarge. This application was considered to be of considerable importance to the Parish and as a result it was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) All Members of Hertingfordbury Parish Council be granted a dispensation to discuss the application by Lafarge.

Cllr. Mrs S. Edgell declared a DPI in the planning application at East End Green.

142. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2015 be approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the same.

143. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

None

144. FINANCE

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council approve the financial report
- b) The Council approve the payments due
- c) The Council approve the recommendation to cancel the contract with Douglas Tonks for provision of payroll services with immediate effect and authorise the Parish Clerk to appoint an alternative provider.

145. PLANNING

3/15/0568/FUL – Pipers End Farm, East End Green

Council suggested restrictions on hours of operation (Mon to Fri 0900 – 1700 and Sat 0900 – 1300) due to the levels of noise, increased traffic movements and proximity to other residents.

3/15/0557/HH – 46 Chapel Lane, Letty Green

No comment

3/15/0506/CLP – 19 Chapel Lane, Letty Green

No comment

Lafarge application, Panshanger

The Council reiterated its previous position and felt that the application was incomplete in the context of the overall site.

Councillors requested a monthly spreadsheet detailing all planning applications/decisions received and it was noted that it was not possible to view plans due to the lack of wifi in the school hall. The Clerk was asked to enquire as to whether the code could be made available to the Council.

146. EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

Cllr. Mrs Haysey confirmed that the technical aspects of the plan were to be considered at meetings of East Herts Council to be held on 7th and 23rd July.

147. AROUND THE PARISH REPORTS

a) Crossings and Greens

The Council noted that no action had been taken to reinstate the green outside 30 Letty Green despite letter from the Clerk requesting him to do so. The Clerk was asked to follow this up asap.

The Council considered a reply from the resident at 22 Letty Green but reasserted its position that no permission had been or could be granted for access over the green and that this area of green should also be reinstated.

In light of the results of the Risk Assessment and the representation made by the resident of East End Green, Cllr. P. Rochford agreed to investigate the make up of the track in order for a way forward to be agreed at the next meeting.

b) Highways

There were various outstanding Highways issues around the Parish, all of which had been reported via the online fault reporting system. The Chairman encouraged Members to continue to report problems and a number of these issues were raised with C.Cllr. K. Crofton as the Council had achieved little success in getting any issues resolved. Of particular concern was the speed along the Old Coach Road outside the school which Members considered to be a significant safety hazard for the children. Concern was also raised about the overgrown state of the gulleys around the parish and various missing signage. Members were requested to send a list of the issues that they had reported to C.Cllr. Crofton so that he can follow them up as appropriate.

It was noted that the changes to the road layout outside the school was still causing drivers to attempt to U-turn and consequently churn up the ground on the corner.

The Council considered recent correspondence regarding the diversion of footpath 8. The Council were disappointed at being asked to consider this again as it had previously been agreed by all concerned that the proposed route was acceptable. It was agreed to accept an offer from the CEO of Gascoyne Estates to attend the next meeting to explain the change of direction. C.Cllr. K. Crofton suggested contacting Tom Goldsmith at Hertfordshire County Council to seek his advice on the matter.

c) Play Area

Nothing to report

d) Walter Hall Quarry

Nothing to report

e) Walter Wallinger

It was noted that the next meeting is due to take place in April.

f) Panshanger Quarry and Panshanger Park

Nothing to report

g) Car Parking at Birch Green

The Chairman updated the Council on the latest position of the school which was that they are investigating an electronic mechanism for the gate. The Clerk was asked again to highlight the parking issues with the Parking Enforcement Officer.

148. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION

The Council reaffirmed its considerable concern about the proposal to scrap the 388 service expect for school journeys and recorded its strong objection to the proposals. The Council asked C.Cllr. K. Crofton to make representations on behalf of the Parish during the decision making process. C.Cllr. K. Crofton advised that no decision had yet been taken but if the subsidy was eventually removed, there was nothing to prevent the Parish Councils affected from approaching the bus company direct to seek to bridge the funding gap. It was noted that the bus company may not have been proactive in marketing their services and that the villages had already suffered a significant loss of bus services following the rerouting of the 724. The Council was concerned that many residents were unaware of the proposed changes and that the consultation was badly designed, difficult to understand and as a result residents would be discouraged from completing and returning it. It was also noted that the petition for the village had been removed from the website and that some residents were unable to access on the online consultation due to faults with the system. The Council had issued a letter to all households to make them aware of the proposals and how they can make their views known to the County Council. There was also a question as to whether the 724 or 641 could be rerouted to serve the villages and this was raised with C.Cllr. Crofton and Cllr. Mrs Haysey pointed out that such suggestions were helpful and perhaps it was time for a more holistic approach to public transport.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

a) The Council authorise the Clerk to respond to the consultation on behalf of the Council objecting to any reduction in service to the Parish.

149. CORRESPONDENCE

None

150. ITEMS TO NOTE OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

It was noted that there was an increase in litter in various parts of the Parish and Members were requested to take responsibility for a specific area to help alleviate the problem.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. She particularly wished to thank Cllr Basil Jones for his many years service to the Council and Members expressed their thanks to Cllr. Mrs Edwards for her service both as Councillor and Chairman.

The meeting was closed at 21.50

Chairman _____

Dated _____