

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTINGORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2015 AT 19.30 IN HERTINGFORDBURY COWPER
SCHOOL

Present: Cllr. G. O'Leary (in the Chair)

Councillors: G. O'Leary, T. Brennan, Mrs E. Bradbury, B. Simkins, H. Blake, R. Morris, P. Rochford

In attendance: Ms Nina Villa (Parish Clerk)

Several members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. Mrs Edgell, Cllr Mrs L. Haysey (East Herts Council)

2. CO-OPTION OF ADDITIONAL COUNCILLORS

The Council will require 2 more Councillors. The Clerk has placed adverts on the noticeboards and the website and has requested that the advert also be placed in the parish magazine.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public queried whether the Council had responded to HCC Planning Application 3/15/1124/CPO (Proposed inert waste recycling facility including associated stockpiling, maintenance infrastructure, access and landscaping at BP Mitchell Ltd). The Council confirmed that it had not yet formally responded. Various aspects of the application were of concern and the Clerk was requested to ask HCC for an extension on the deadlines for responses to ensure that a comprehensive reply can be drafted.

The residents of 22 Letty Green addressed the Council regarding the access to their property across the village green. It was confirmed that whilst the Council is sympathetic, it cannot lawfully grant access across any section of the village green and requested that the residents refrain from crossing it in future and reinstate the green to its former condition.

6. MINUTES

Minutes from 13th May 2015 were agreed as a true record, the chairman was authorised to sign.

7. MATTERS ARISING

Bus consultation – Cllr. Mrs Blake will attend a meeting 12th June 2015 at County Hall in response to a recent email from the Parish Clerk of Tewin.

In her absence Cllr. Mrs Edgell had asked that a vote of thanks to be extended to Cllr. P. Rochford for the work he had undertaken at East End Green. It was reported that this work had not yet been completed but was a marked improvement on the previous condition of the track.

There was a discussion around the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities and the requirements that it placed upon the Council, particularly with regards to the displaying information publically and the timely uploading of minutes, agendas etc to the Council's website. A separate section of the website has already been created for this purpose and the Clerk will be populating it over the next few weeks with relevant documents. It was also noted that some of the Council's policies were either missing from the website or were out of date. This will be addressed over the coming weeks.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Item to be proposed and discussed at next meeting. Clerk to circulate last year's work programme to all councillors for guidance.

10. FINANCE

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) The financial statement to 31st May 2015 be approved
- b) The schedule of payments due be approved
- c) The Council approve the appointment of Ms. K. Murphy as internal auditor.
- d) The Council approve the removal of Cllr. Mrs Edwards and Cllr. Jones from the bank mandate as they are no longer serving members of the Council.

The Clerk reported that despite several attempts to contact former payroll provider, no reply had been received and the situation regarding outstanding HMRC payments is as yet unresolved. Payroll is currently being done manually via cheque with the calculations being done by the external accountant as previously reported.

11. YEAR END STATEMENTS

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 2015 and the Annual Governance Statement were approved and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the same.

12. PLANNING

Listed planning applications were considered.

It was RESOLVED that:

- a) 3/15/0785/CPO - The joint letter from Bayford and Little Berkhamsted Parish Councils regarding the Bunkers application be circulated to all Councillors.
- b) 3/15/0832/HH - No objection
- c) 3/15/0984/HH – The Council felt that, when viewed in light of the decision at 16 Birch Green, this may be considered over-development in the green belt.
- d) 3/15/1124/CPO – Clerk to seek an extension as discussed above.

The Chairman asked members to consider whether the Council should develop a Neighbourhood Plan in light of the possible future changes occurring locally which may impact on the Parish. Members were generally supportive but were mindful of the amount of work required to produce such a plan and asked whether the Chairman could circulate a completed plan in order for the Council to assess the amount and scope of work required.

15. GENERAL REPORTS

- a) Crossing and Greens

The Council considered a letter from the resident of 30 Letty Green regarding access to his property. The Council's position remained unchanged and the Clerk was instructed to write to the resident again stating that the green should be reinstated by the end of the month. Failure to do so would result in the Council undertaking the work and recharging the resident.

The Council received a draft version of the terms of reference of the new Greens and Crossing Committee whose remit is to review and develop policies on all matters relating to the Greens. The first meeting is to be held at 7pm on 16th June 2015 and it was agreed that Cllrs Rochford, Morris, O'Leary and Simkins would form the Committee although all other members were welcome to attend.

The Council considered the latest plans relating to the redirection of Footpath 8 and it was RESOLVED that the Council had no objection to the revised plans with the associated path improvement work.

The Council also considered a request from BT Openreach to lay a cable underneath Birch Green to provide services to local residents. The Council requested that the Clerk seek further information as the plans appeared to show rather extensive work including the siting of a box on the green.

- b) Highways and Byways

Several incidents of fly tipping had been reported recently and the Clerk had forwarded these details on to East Herts Council.

c) Play Area

It was noted that the annual inspection of the play area had highlighted a number of minor repairs which needed attention. The report was passed to Cllr. Rochford for action.

d) Water Hall Quarry – Nothing to report

e) Walter Wallinger Charity – Nothing to report

f) Panshanger Quarry and Panshanger Park

It was noted that further areas of the park were due to open on 6th July 2015.

g) Car Parking in Birch Green

It was noted that the Clerk had forwarded concerns about illegal parking on to East Herts Parking Enforcement who advised that they do regular patrols. It was confirmed that the school has now agreed to fund and build a path to a new additional school entrance on the Old Coach Rd. This will provide a 'drop and go' facility for parents and a direct access into the school from the Old Coach Rd and these works likely to start in the new school year. Clerk was requested to write to school to ask that parents and swimming pool users are requested to park more responsibly and safely, taking notice of all warning markings and traffic restrictions and that cars do not mount the pavement at the T-junction into the village to effect a turn as this is causing damage to the village green. Under no circumstances should cars be parked on the village green as was observed last week.

16. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Litter pick due to take place on 11th July.

16 Birch Green hedges are overhanging the pathway – Clerk to report to Highways.

Cllr. Morris reminded the Council that in the past, planning consents used to contain a condition prohibiting or restricting use of the green during building works. It was queried whether this could be reinstated. Clerk to investigate.

Chairman _____

Dated _____

DRAFT