



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on **Wednesday 14th May 2014** at 8.20 pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

**PRESENT:** Cllrs C Edwards (Chairman), G O'Leary, E Bradbury, T Brennan, H Blake, B Simkins, B Jones, P Rochford, R Morris, Cllr S Edgell

In attendance: The clerk, Tom Brindley

## 1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr C Edwards was elected unopposed as chairman for the year 2014-15 and duly signed the chairman's acceptance of office.

## 2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr G O'Leary was elected as vice-chairman for the year 2014-15.

## 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

## 4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made immediately prior to an item being debated.

## 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The council was advised that a Birch Green resident had had four tyres slashed. The vehicle had been on a private driveway. The police were investigating.

## 6. MINUTES OF MEETING 9TH APRIL 2014

The minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by the chairman.

## 7. MATTERS ARISING

- 7.1. (2013-14/143.4) Cllr Blake advised that the hedge adjacent to the Old Coach Road remained uncut. Highways had advised it was now scheduled for spring 2015. The clerk was asked to write requesting this be brought forward to late summer 2014, once the nesting season was over.
- 7.2. (2013-14/143.3) Cllr Rochford had done some repairs. It was noted that a district council refuse vehicle had driven over the green causing fresh damage. The clerk was asked to write to the district council pointing out it was illegal for a refuse vehicle to drive over the grass.
- 7.3. (2013-14/143.5) Additional signage to address the problem with vehicles using the road through Birch Green and being forced to reverse from the low bridge. Awaiting response from Cllr Crofton.
- 7.4. (2013-14/149.1) 12 Cole Green crossing. Licence fee received and licence issued.
- 7.5. (2013-14/151.2) Land Adj. to The Old Coach Rd. Mr Glyn Day (EHDC enforcement officer) had replied that negotiations with the landowner were ongoing. The clerk was asked to invite Mr Day to attend a future council meeting.



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## APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES and COUNCIL COMMITTEES

8. **WALTER WALLINGER CHARITY** Cllr Edgell
9. **PANSHANGER LIAISON GROUP** Cllr O'Leary, Cllr Morris

### 10. PLANNING COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** not to appoint any members to the Planning Committee as all planning applications are considered by the full council. Should the need for a planning committee meeting arise, members will be appointed at that time.

### 11. GREENS CROSSINGS WORKING PARTY

Cllrs P Rochford, G O'Leary, R Morris, B Simkins, Mr N Hunt, the Clerk

### 12. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

Cllrs C Edwards, G O'Leary, P Rochford

### 13. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Crossings and Greens	Cllrs Rochford, Morris, Simkins
Highways and Byways	Cllr Brennan
Play Area	Cllr Jones
Car Parking	Cllr O'Leary, Cllr Jones
Footpaths	Cllr Rochford, Cllr O'Leary
Transport	Cllr Morris
Web site	The Clerk

### 14. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was discussed and the following budgets assigned:

Item	Budget Assigned	Notes
<b>Grants</b>	£1,025	To be dispensed following application.
<b>Greens Maintenance (£5,750 total, £4,600 assigned)</b>		
East End Green maintenance	£750	Two year trial of residents doing maintenance.
Birch Green: Parking area o/s shop		Awaiting recommendation from Greens Crossing Working Party
Culverts	£1,000	
East End Green Trees	£1,500	Subject to survey
Other arboricultural work	£850	Outstanding work from 2012 survey.
Pin Kerbing		To be assessed following inspection by members.
Notice boards	£500 + £1,000	Seek grant of £1000. Refurbish boards at East End Green, Cole Green and Letty Green. Move refurbished board from Birch Green to Staines Green Install new two part covered board at Birch Green Re-site board at East End Green closer to crossing.



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## 15. FINANCE

- 15.1. The financial report to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 was noted.
- 15.2. Six payments were approved. See attached list.

## 16. 2013/14 ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 16.1. Members noted the internal auditor's report showed that the council had met all the Internal Control objectives.
- 16.2. The accounts for 2013-14 were **APPROVED**.
- 16.3. The eight points in the Annual Governance Statement were considered and conformance was agreed. The Annual Governance Statement was **APPROVED**.
- 16.4. The Responsible Financial officer and the Chairman signed the Accountant Statement and the Annual Governance Statement.
- 16.5. The council **RESOLVED** a vote of thanks to Mrs K Murphy the councils' internal auditor, who again waived her fee as a service to the community.

## 17. PLANNING

- 17.1. The planning report was noted.
- 17.2. Members considered the application for development and change of use of The Prince of Wales, Hertingfordbury. Although this PH was outside the parish there was a close connection. Members were concerned that the owner had not made sufficient efforts to market the PH as a going concern. The clerk was asked to write to the local planning authority objecting to the development on the grounds of insufficient evidence that the existing use was not viable.
- 17.3. Members discussed the District Plan Working Party's response to the draft East Herts District Plan. The response was agreed with the following additions:
  - To include comments on the need for a green corridor along the A414.
  - To include comment on the need to reserve land for future transport links
  - To include comment on the lack of health care facilities, particularly accident and emergency.
  - To include additional comment on Panshanger Park.

## 18. REPORTS

### 18.1. Crossing and Greens:

- a) The advice received from counsel that the council could not grant licences or easements or permit a new use of an existing crossing was discussed. The clerk was asked to write to residents who had applied for licenses explaining the council could not grant any new licenses. The clerk was asked to write to Oliver Heald MP seeking his help on changing the law to permit a reasonable grant of licence.
- b) The clerk was asked to contact Tewin Parish Council as it was reported it had had similar issues with greens crossings.
- c) The clerk was asked to contact East Herts Council to establish when the planting of a hedge alongside houses in Birch Green took place.



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- d) The Greens Crossings Working Party agreed to meet in early June.

18.2. **Highways:**

- a) The footway between Cole green and Birch Green was overgrown and vegetation had narrowed it to less than a useable width. The clerk was asked to approach Cllr Crofton to see if he could use his highways locality budget to get the path cleared.
- b) Fly tipping had occurred on the south side of The Old Coach Road between Cole Green and BT Motors.

18.3. **Play Area:** Nothing to report

18.4. **Water Hall:** Nothing to report

18.5. **Walter Wallinger Charity:** Four awards, totalling £1000 had been made to applicants with a close connection to the parish.

18.6. **Panshanger Quarry and Country Park:** Nothing to report

18.7. **Car Parking at Birch Green:** Nothing to report

19. **CORRESPONDENCE**

- 19.1. The list of correspondence received was noted.

20. **MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

- 20.1. The clerk was asked to place a notice in the Parish Magazine regarding the need to obtain permission to place a skip on a village green.

The meeting closed at 10.18 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Payments Approved

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
T H Brindley	Expenses	85.07	3.00	88.07
P Petchey	Legal advice	2,000.00	400.00	2400.00
Frank Cooper and Son	Open Spaces	449.00	89.80	538.80
LCR	Subs	17.00	0.00	17.00
Zurich	Insurance	280.34	0.00	280.34
HAPTC	Subs	352.33	0.00	352.33
<b>Totals</b>		<b>3,183.74</b>	<b>492.80</b>	<b>3,676.54</b>