



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th January 2014 at 7.30 pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

PRESENT: Cllrs C Edwards (Chairman), E Bradbury, T Brennan, H Blake, S Edgell, B Simkins B Jones, P Rochford, R Morris

Four residents and the clerk, Tom Brindley

101. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The council accepted apologies from Cllr G O'Leary and D. Cllr L Haysey

102. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

102.1. Mr Stephen Phillips and Mr Charles Adams, residents of East End Green, addressed the council on repairs to the track across the green. Mr Phillips, in conjunction with other residents, and with permission from the council, had made some repairs earlier in the year. The residents wished to continue with a regular maintenance schedule of scraping in February and October and, in alternate years, infilling with hardcore. This would maintain the track to a safe recreational standard.

102.2. Mr Raymond Judd asked the council if any progress had been made on granting licences for new crossings.

103. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

The chairman proposed and it was accepted that Agenda item 12.a be brought forward, to allow debate while Mr Phillips and Mr Adams were present.

104. **CROSSING AND GREENS:**

- a. **East End Green** The council agreed to an experimental two year regime for the maintenance of East End Green. In February and October of year 1, local residents would scrape the surface. In year 2, hardcore would be laid and rolled. It was hoped this would last the year until the next year 1 cycle. The council **RESOLVED** to allocate funds in the budget to cover the costs of this work.
- b. **Licences for new Greens Crossings** The council considered a quotation from Mr P Petchey, a barrister specialising in crossings and greens. It was agreed to engage Mr Petchey to give advice on the granting of licenses. Funding to be drawn from the council's legal reserve. The clerk to prepare the brief as requested by the barrister's clerk.
- c. **Fallen Tree at Cole Green.** The clerk had made an offer to Mr Michael for a contribution toward the replacement of three fence panels and four concrete posts. Mr Michael had not responded to the offer.
- d. **Greens safety inspections** Cllr Rochford advised members that he and Cllr Barden (since resigned) had carried out safety inspections in July, but that he had not completed writing up the results. It was agreed that for future annual inspections members would perform the audit:
 - i. Cole Green: Cllrs Catherine Edwards and Barry Simkins
 - ii. East End Green: Cllr Shobha Edgell
 - iii. Birch Green: Cllrs Gary O'Leary and Haidy Blake
 - iv. Letty Green: Cllrs Paul Rochford and Lizzer Bradbury
 - v. Staines Green: Cllr Roger Morris
- e. **Crossing at 12 Cole Green**

The clerk had issued a licence but had not yet received either the signed copy of the fee.

105. **MINUTES OF MEETING 11TH DECEMBER**

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



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

106. MATTERS ARISING

- 106.1. (92.2) **Letty Green Signs.** Wendy Hampton, who had initiated the request, had agreed to perform the official unveiling at 12:00 noon on Saturday 18th January. It was hoped to have the second sign installed on the verge adjacent to a field owned by Hatfield Estates.
- 106.2. All other actions were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

107. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013-14

- 107.1. The clerk presented an update to the work programme.
- a. **Community grants:** £500 remained unspent.
 - b. **Parking area outside the antiques shop:** On hold pending legal advice.
 - c. **Play area refurbishment:** On track.
 - d. **Greens crossings:** On hold pending legal advice.
 - e. **Pin Kerbing:** A survey will be commissioned on the need and effectiveness of pin kerbing.
 - f. **Birch Green pond:** Funds allocated for 2014/15.
- 107.2. Progress on the 2013/14 work programme was noted.

108. FINANCE

- 108.1. The financial report to 31st December 2013 was noted.
- 108.2. Two payments were approved. See attached list.
- 108.3. The Information Commissioner's Office had reported it had not received cheque 400049 - £35.00. It was agreed to re-issue the cheque.

109. BUDGET

- 109.1. The clerk presented his recommended budget. The budget showed a shortfall of £810 to be made up from the general reserve. Two minor adjustments were made: an additional £250 was allocated to East End Green maintenance and the Admin budget was reduced by £250. It was agreed to allocate an additional £200 to replenish the legal reserve, which would be depleted by the engagement of counsel to advise on Greens Crossings.

110. PRECEPT

- 110.1. Members discussed various scenarios and **RESOLVED** to set a precept of £38.03 per Band D property. In conjunction with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) grant this would raise £11,900, an increase of £200 on 2013/14. Due to the 50% reduction in the CTRS grant and variations in the council tax base, the increase to council tax payers is 4%.

111. PLANNING

- 111.1. The planning report was noted.
- a. (3/13/2169/FP). Staines Green. Members raised no objections.
 - b. (3/13/2266/PH). 4 Foxdells. Members raised no objections.
 - c. (3/13/2278/CM and 3/13/2279/PH). Water Hall Quarry. The County Council is the planning authority for these applications. Members agreed to consider the applications at a future meeting to give time to review the complex documents.



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

112. EAST HERTS DISTRICT PLAN

112.1. The East Herts Draft District Plan had been published. Members noted that:

- An area of land, in the parish, adjacent to WGC was likely to be designated for housing. The draft plan suggests “at least 1700 houses”.
- Birch Green was to be designated a ‘group 2 village’. The draft plan states: ‘*Within Group 2 Villages, as defined on the Policies Map, limited infill development (up to five dwellings on each site) and limited affordable housing for local community identified needs, together with small-scale employment, leisure, recreation and community facilities will be permitted subject to (III) below and all other relevant policies in this plan*’.
- A consultation on the District Plan will take place later in the year.

112.2. The post District Plan Panel meeting with EHAPTC will take place on 16th January 2014, 7.30 pm, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford. Cllr Brennan had indicated he would attend.

113. REPORTS

113.1. **Crossings and Greens:** See minute 104.

113.2. **Highways:**

- a. The clerk had raised a maintenance request with Herts Highways asking for the hedge near the site designated, Land Adj To The Old Coach Rd at Birch Green to be cut back. An additional stretch between the Birch Green bus stop and B&T motors was also overgrown. The Chairman agreed to raise this with Hatfield Estates which owns the adjacent field.
- b. A litter pick will take place on Saturday 18th January.

113.3. **Play Area:**

- a. The clerk had obtained an additional quote for refurbishment (from Fenland Leisure). Cllr Rochford had already removed the redundant play house posts and it was therefore **RESOLVED** to accept the quote from Fenland Leisure for the remedial works.
- b. Cllr Jones passed over his weekly safety inspection records for 2013.

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

113.5. **Walter Wallinger Charity:** Next meeting is 28th April.

113.6. **Panshanger Quarry and Country Park:** Next meeting 5th Feb. Pressure is being applied to Lafarge to honour its commitments. The footpath near Hertingfordbury has been cleared.

113.7. **Car Parking at Birch Green:** The Traffic Regulation Order had been made, but no date for the physical works had been advised. Comment was made that pot holes should be repaired before the lining works.

114. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the correspondence received.

115. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

None

The meeting closed at 09.14 p.m.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Payments Approved

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CQ</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
T Brindley	Clerk's X's	400059	33.59	0.91	34.5
Frank Cooper	Grass	400060	181.00	36.20	217.20
		Totals	215.59	37.11	251.25
ICO reissued cheque	Data Controller	400061	35.00	0.00	35.00