



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on **Wednesday 11th June 2014** at 7.30 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, , R Morris, Cllr S Edgell

In attendance: District Cllr L Haysey, two electors, the clerk, Tom Brindley

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr P Rochford

22. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

23. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Howard Emery addressed the council regarding his request for a licence for a crossing he had been using for 28 years.

Mr R Grover addressed the council regarding his need for a crossing to access his property on Letty Green.

The Chairman advised that crossings were to be discussed later in the meeting.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that in light of the presentation from the public, item 12 a , Report of the Greens Crossing Working Party, be brought forward to follow item 3.

24. REPORT OF THE GREENS CROSSING WORKING PARTY

- 24.1. The Greens Crossings Working Party had met on 4th June to consider the advice from Philip Petchey, legal counsel (report annexed to these minutes) and made the following recommendations to council:
- 24.2. **Recommendation 1:** *That the council writes to all persons who have enquired about crossings that the council would not be issuing any new licenses or easements and would not be transferring existing licences to new owners except where the licence terms require this and the terms of the licence had been complied with.*
- 24.3. Members **RESOLVED** to accept the recommendation.
- 24.4. **Recommendation 2:** *Mr Petchey be invited attend a meeting of the Parish Council to give oral answers that can be heard by the public.*
- 24.5. Members **RESOLVED** to invite Mr Petchey to a special meeting to be held in July 2014.
- 24.6. Members **RESOLVED** that the four questions identified in the working party's report (GCWP 14/6/4-4.1) be put to Mr Petchey in advance of the meeting.
- 24.7. Members **RESOLVED** to approve a payment for Mr Petchey's services to be drawn from the legal budget.

25. MINUTES OF MEETING 14TH MAY 2014

The minutes were agreed as a true record with one amendment and one addition and the chairman was authorised to sign a clean copy.

26. MATTERS ARISING

- 26.1. (2013-14/143.4) Hedge on Old Coach Road. The clerk had written to highways requesting this be



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

brought forward to late summer 2014, once the nesting season was over.

- 26.2. (2013-14/143.3) District council refuse vehicle damage to Cole Green. East Herts Council had agreed to pay £200 towards repairs and to vary the protocol for collection of bins.
- 26.3. (2013-14/151.2) Land Adj. to The Old Coach Rd. Cllr Blake had attended a site meeting with Mr Glyn Day (EHDC enforcement officer). Ten test holes had been dug and only two showed any significant hardcore.

27. RISK REGISTER

- 27.1. Members reviewed the Risk Register and noted the updated risk regarding crossing licences and easements.

28. WORK PROGRAMME

Nothing to report

29. FINANCE

- 29.1. The financial report to 31st May 2014 was presented. Cllr Brennan asked for an explanation of the difference between the figure reported as **Actual** on the monthly reconciliation and the figure shown as the current total on the year to date reconciliation. The clerk agreed to provide a written response.
- 29.2. Four payments were approved. See attached list.

30. PLANNING

- 30.1. No new applications received.
- 30.2. Two applications (14 Cole Green and 38 Chapel Lane) had received planning permission.
- 30.3. The appeal against refusal at 30 Letty Green had been dismissed.

31. GRANTS

- 31.1. A grant application from Friends of Panshanger Park had been withdrawn and is likely to be submitted later in the year.

32. PLAY AREA SAFETY REPORT

- 32.1. The report gave the play area a medium risk. Three items were highlighted for action:
 - Gate closer needed adjusting
 - Overhanging tree branches need pruning
 - Minor rot on a timber rope support

33. REPORTS

33.1. Crossing and Greens:

- a) See also Minute 24.
- b) The clerk had established that the planting of a hedge alongside houses in Birch Green took place in the 1970s.

33.2. Highways, Footpaths and Byways:

- a) The footway between Cole green and Birch Green had narrowed to less than a useable width. The clerk confirmed he had reported this to highways and to Cllr Crofton.



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

- b) Cllr Blake reported that Footpath 10 was overgrown with nettles. Cllr O'Leary volunteered to clear the path.
- c) Low bridge warning signs. Herts Highways had agreed to investigate installation of warning signs but wanted a more precise location. Members advised that two signs were required on The Old Coach Road so that vehicles from either direction were warned before turning into Birch Green.
- d) The council has been approached by Herts County Council to sign a deed of agreement permitting the diversion of Footpath 8 at Farthing Hall. It was noted that the council had previously resolved to support the diversion route, which took the exit of the new path over council owned land (Cole Green). It was **RESOLVED** to delegate signing of the Deed of Agreement to the chairman and vice-chairman.

33.3. **Play Area:** (See Minute 32)

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

33.5. **Walter Wallinger Charity:** Next meeting is September 2014.

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

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

34. CORRESPONDENCE

34.1. The clerk had received a letter from the Birch Green school governors advising that the council was to use the new hall from July. This would require collecting and returning a key for each meeting. Cllr O'Leary agreed to approach the school to see if a key could be made permanently available to avoid the requirement for the clerk to make a special visit, as the key was only available for collection during school hours. The clerk has also requested that the council be allowed to hire the internet and projection facilities.

34.2. The list of correspondence received was noted.

35. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- 35.1. It was reported that the old scout hut site (Pipers End) was being used by unknown persons arriving in vehicles and that there was evidence of drinking. The clerk was asked to report to the police.
- 35.2. District Cllr Haysey agreed to investigate the requirements for site protective fencing on housing developments as a site in Woolmers Lane was open with nothing to prevent children gaining access.

The meeting closed at 9.26 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Payments Approved

11/06/2014	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CQ</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
11/06/2014	T Brindley	Expenses	400076	58.30	2.78	61.08
11/06/2014	Tonks	Payroll	dd	886.95	0.00	886.95
11/06/2014	Tonks	Payroll Admin	dd	19.50	3.90	23.40
11/06/2014	Coopers	Grass	400077	519.00	103.80	622.80
Totals				1,483.75	110.48	1,594.23

Attached: Greens Crossings Working Party 5th June 2014.