



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 14TH SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 19.00 IN HERTINGFORDBURY COWPER SCHOOL

PRESENT: Cllrs Haidy Blake, Tommy Brennan, Shobha Edgell, Roger Morris, Gary O'Leary,

In attendance: Amanda Glew (Clerk) and 4 members of the public

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies from Cllrs Barry Simkins and Linda Haysey.

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

30. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr Giles Ellerton, Regional Partnership Director, East of England BT Group would be attending the meeting to discuss broadband provision.

31. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Ellerton explained that BT aimed to achieve county-wide fibre coverage of 90 per cent by the end of March 2016, with coverage to reach 95% in Herts by September 2017 and 98% by June 2018. The first contract is now complete and the second in progress. There is a consultation until after Christmas. For Hertingfordbury Parish the boundary limit for superfast broadband is approximately 1200m from the cabinet. An alternative for properties further away from the cabinet is an additional cabinet. This could be covered by a Community Fibre Partnership agreement whereby BT works with local communities that are not covered in an existing fibre upgrade plan. The community needs to identify sufficient local interest which could qualify for a £350 grant per household. The community works directly with BT and helps fund part of the fibre build. Connected Counties have a list of postcodes for potential second cabinet deployment.

Two residents attended from East End Green which currently has no internet provision. To assist them Mr Ellerton recommended that HPC go through HCC (info@connectedcounties.org Stuart Campbell, Justine Parkinson). Ultimately there has to be a business case to provide broadband to a community. EEG residents will need to gather together names and then the Parish Council would support a case put to HCC. BT is contracted by HCC and Mr Ellerton suggested speaking to Connected Counties and having Linda Haysey involved. The next round of roll out post codes will be announced after Christmas. If properties are not on by then they should register with BT which will trigger a conversation on a possible solution and what the cost would be. It is important to



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remember that if BT provides a cabinet then everyone will have access and not just those who have paid for it.

Mr Richard Grover introduced his father in law, Henry, who requested to read out a statement to the meeting. The Chairman explained that as the meeting had gone over the 25 minutes allotted to Public Participation, the report could be submitted to the Clerk in advance of the next Parish Meeting or Mr Grover could attend the next PC meeting in October.

32. **THE MINUTES**

The minutes were amended at No 21 to reflect that the Parish Council “discussed whether to purchase the two benches requested by resident Seb Hellowell”.

33. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

34. **PLANNING**

(a) **Current Applications**

There were no current applications to consider.

Cllr Morris reported that a property in Mayflower Close, Hertingfordbury is to be demolished and re-built. The Clerk was asked to investigate the details for potential comment by the PC, as this is close to the Parish Council boundary:

Planning ref: 3/16/1843/FUL 2 Mayflower Close Hertingfordbury Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2LH for Demolition of existing house and erection of detached five bedroom replacement dwelling. Awaiting decision.

b) **Decisions on Outstanding Applications**

Planning ref: 3/16/1718/TEL Telecommunication Equipment 70351 Birchall Lane Cole Green Hertfordshire for telecommunications installation upgrade and associated works. Prior Approval is Required and Granted Subject to Conditions.

Planning ref: 3/16/1387/HH 12 Staines Green Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2LN for a detached garage. Refused.

Planning ref: 3/16/1827/HH North Lodge 30 Woolmers Lane Letty Green Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2NU for two storey rear extension with new first floor side window opening, new roof light and alterations to fenestration. Awaiting decision.



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(c) **E Herts Local Plan and Neighbourhood Planning**

Cllrs Brennan and O’Leary and NP committee members Brenda Smith and Peter Newson met with Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts planning teams. Both councils are promoting housing allocations of up to 2,500 houses east of WGC in the Green Belt. The NP committee considered the evidence base to be inadequate and the HPC NP group will look at potential options for applying more rigour to the evidence base in areas of ecology, sustainability and heritage. The Neighbourhood Planning Group may need to fill in the gaps and there is an opportunity to secure funding for this essential work.

The Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan is now out for consultation and the East Herts Plan is due to go out for consultation in November. Consultation feedback will go through to the Planning Inspector’s reviews of Local Plans. The PC should be able to make representations at the public hearings for both Local Plans. A report on the HCC future transport strategy and plans for the A414 improvements will be issued by end of September.

The NP Committee meets to discuss Panshanger Park land use and development policies on 27th September at the Brace Room, St Mary’s, Hertingfordbury. Tarmac, HCC, Herts Garden Trust, Friends of Panshanger Park and HMWT are all participating.

A public meeting on Neighbourhood Planning was proposed for the week after the next PC meeting ie week of 17th October.

35. **STANDING ITEMS**

(a) **Works Programme**

The Tree Report has been circulated to Councillors. It was noted that the trees by Birch Green village pond are not included and the oak tree at No 6 Birch Green needs urgent consideration. Clerk to check with company and Cllr Rochford.

The Risk Assessments will be looked at during the next Greens & Crossings Committee meeting.

B&T Motors. Cllrs Blake and O’Leary will arrange to meet the company’s new owners. Clerk to inform the company.

Birch Green Play Area. It was discussed whether the playing field behind the playground could be better developed for community use. The Clerk was asked to chase up the annual safety report. It was agreed not to purchase the picnic benches. It was noted that there is no budget for repairs to the playground and that this should be discussed with Cllr Rochford at the next meeting.

(b) **Greens**

The next date for the Greens & Crossings Committee is Thursday 13th October at Cllr Simkins house.



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It was resolved not to accept the £600 offer from Veolia to cover damage caused by the refuse truck to Letty Green. The Clerk was requested to inform the insurers that the full amount was expected. Veolia to be invited to the next PC meeting.

(c) Highways

A speed survey has been requested for outside the new school entrance on the Old Coach Road, Birch Green. The Clerk was requested to check what time of day the survey will be operational.

Pipers Green Ditch. Cllr Bradbury has met with James Vine of Ringway at the site and has informed the Clerk that nothing will be sorted out in the short term.

A414. Several Councillors felt that the recent resurfacing of the A414 dual carriageway has created greatly increased road noise that pervades the Parish and also the tranquility of Panshanger Country Park within the Parish. The Parish Council will survey parishioners to establish the scope of the problem locally and will contact HCC to establish policy and potential options. Cllrs Blake and O'Leary will propose a plan.

Parish Paths Partnership grant. It was noted that Maitland Wood was given to HPC by Mrs Maitland and the Clerk will inform Groundwork of this. A site meeting was been arranged for Monday 26th September to view the areas the P3 grant has been applied for.

(d) Quarries

The Clerk was asked to find out from HCC if there is an update on the situation with Waterhall. It was queried whether there was any information on the request to install a block paving surface at Quarry End Manor to enable vehicular access to the barns. Suzanne Rutland-Barsby is the Councillor at E Herts.

(d) Panshanger Park

It was reported that Tarmac are considering digging up Lower Broadwater. The meeting resolved to authorise the Chairman to protest in the strongest terms about the harm this would cause to the Grade II* listed landscape of Humphry Repton design.

36. FINANCE

(a) Financial Statement

The financial statement and summary were received. The Clerk was asked when the grass cutting contract is due for renewal.



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(b) Payments Due

Cheques Issued			Chq No	
14-9-16	Coopers	Grass	2304.00	228
14-9-16	Open Spaces	Tree Report	1152.00	229
14-9-16	A Glew	August salary	327.54	230
14-9-16	DCK Beavers	Payroll	37.50	231
14-9-16	BDO	Audit Fee	120.00	232
14-9-16	A Glew	Expenses	36.90	233
14-9-16	A Glew	September salary	313.49	230
14-9-16	DCK Beavers	Payroll	30.00	231
			4321.43	

Receipts

14-9-16	HAPTC	Transparency Grant	232.00
			232.00

(c) Conclusion of Audit

The audit for the year ended 31st March 2016 has been completed and the external auditor certificate and report has been received and is posted on the Birch Green notice board and the website. The meeting was informed of the following matters raised. The comparative figures for the year ended 31st March 2015 were restated. BDO have reviewed the adjustments made and are satisfied they are correct. Box 11 in Section 2 of the annual return should have been answered "no". Additions in year not included in Annual Return. The value of fixed assets included in the Annual Return appears to be undervalued in particular after the purchase of a laptop, scanner and filing cabinet.

37. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

To consider whether Hertingfordbury Parish Council should have a different name to better reflect the area that it covers. The Chairman understands there is a process that can be followed to effect a name change. This will be discussed at the next PC meeting once Councillors have considered further.

38. AOB

Cllr Blake requested the lamppost on the Old Coach Road that is permanently turned on be reported to Highways.



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Cllr O'Leary informed the meeting that he is interested in taking the CLCA course being run by HAPTC Jan-June 2017 (Certificate in Local Council Administration). Support for this was resolved by the Council. Cllr O'Leary to confirm at the October meeting.

The Clerk was requested to order the Remembrance Day wreath for the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman _____ Dated _____

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th October 2016