



## HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at 7.30pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

**PRESENT:** Cllrs C Edwards, G O'Leary, P Rochford, T Brennan, B Jones, E Bradbury, , H Blake, R Morris, K Barden

In attendance: 4 electors and the clerk: Tom Brindley

### 41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr S Edgell, District Cllr L Haysey

### 42. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

County Cllr Bryan Hammond had advised that he was not seeking re-election in May 2013.

### 43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Cllr Rochford declared an interest in the planning application for Rochford's nursery as he is the applicant.
- Cllr Bradbury declared an interest in the planning application for Rochford's nursery as she is the applicant's sister.
- Cllr O'Leary declared an interest in the planning application for the school as he is likely to be co-opted as a governor.

### 44. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

44.1 Brenda Smith addressed the council requesting a height restriction warning sign for vehicles turning into Birch Green. The council agreed to discuss the matter under agenda item

44.2 Lyn Evans addressed the council asking for support for APCOT a community organisation seeking to find land in Birch Green for a community Orchard, a nature reserve and a refuge for Greater Crested newts. They would also like to improve the access to Panshanger park. The council thanked Mr Evans for his presentation and agreed to discuss the matter at the October meeting.

### 45. MINUTES OF MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> JULY 2012

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2012 be confirmed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

### 46. MATTERS ARISING

All matters were complete or covered elsewhere on the agenda.

### 47. STANDING ORDERS

47.1 The clerk presented a report on changes to Standing orders to accommodate the normal practice of meeting "in committee" and to reflect the revised code of conduct.

47.2 It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised standing orders.

### 48. CODE OF CONDUCT

NALC had revised its model code of conduct in light of clarification from DCLG. The council **RESOLVED** to adopt the revised Code of Conduct based on the updated NALC model code.



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### 49. DOCUMENTS RELATING TO VILLAGE GREENS

Retired councillor Mr Nicholas Hunt handed over certain documents he had retained while assisting the council in formalising the adoption of the greens as “Village Greens”.

### 50. EAST END GREEN ROAD REPAIRS

- 50.1 Following the inspection it had been established that the potholes in East End Green required repair.
- 50.2 The clerk had obtained a quote for a resurfacing. The clerk explained that other companies had been asked to quote but had declined as the job was either too specialised or too small.
- 50.3 Members suggested that alternative quotes might be obtained from AJS Plant and AL Peters.
- 50.4 Members discussed the obligation to repair would only require that it filled in the pot holes but that a more substantial repair would be beneficial. The members felt that the residents of East End Green should pay for the more substantial repairs and the clerk was instructed to write to the residents asking them to fund the repairs.

### 51. BRIDGE REPAIRS

- 51.1 Mr N Groom had written to the council asking for permission to rebuild the bridge to his property at 2 Staines Green.
- 51.2 The council **RESOLVED** to grant permission provide that:
  - The same materials were used
  - The bridge was not widened.

### 52. FINANCE

- 52.1 The financial statement was received and noted.
- 52.2 It was **RESOLVED** that three payments be authorised:
  - Clerk's expenses £114.37
  - F Coopers for grass cutting £594.00
  - D Tonks Ltd (payroll) £892.35
- 52.3 It was noted that following a tender exercise, BDO had been appointed as auditors for Hertfordshire parish councils with a reduced fee.

### 53. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 53.1 Application to redirect a footpath at Farthing Hall.
  - 53.1.1 The council discussed the application. Members felt an alternative route altogether would be beneficial but that this would require agreement from Gascoyne Cecil estates.
  - 53.1.2 A site meeting had been held with district councillor Linda Haysey and Mr Nicholas Maddox, county footpaths officer.
  - 53.1.3 It was agreed to hold over until the October meeting when it was hoped Cllr Haysey could be present.
  - 53.1.4 The clerk was asked to write to Mr Maddox advising of the council's preference for a different redirection.
- 53.2 Application 3/12/1235/FP Rochford's Nursery
  - 53.2.1 Cllrs Rochford and Bradbury having declared an interest left the room.



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- 53.2.2 After a wide ranging discussion it was RESOLVED not object to the application but to make observation regarding the visual impact on neighbouring property particularly the houses in Staines Green backing onto the site and that members felt the development was contrary to policy OSC3 of the local plan.

53.3 Application 3/12/1242/FP Birch Green primary school

- 53.3.1 Cllr O'Leary, having declared an interest, left the room.
- 53.3.2 Members agreed to support the application but felt that conditions were required to mitigate against increased traffic movements.

53.4 Application 3/12/1359/FP

- 53.4.1 Members had no objections but were concerned about the visual impact due the large frontage.

53.5 Planning Appeal

- 53.5.1 Members were advised that the planning appeal for a traveller site on land at the Old Coach Rd will reconvene on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

### 54. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The employment committee agreed to meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> October to complete the clerk's appraisal.

### 55. REPORTS

55.1 Crossings and Greens: Nothing to report.

55.2 Highways and Byways:

- 55.2.1 A member reported that the road had collapsed under the bridge at Pipers End apparently connected with some water utility work.
- 55.2.2 There is a sign missing on the Old Coach Rd – just the posts remain.
- 55.2.3 Cllr Rochford advised that the bridge at Birch Green was high enough for large lorries to pass but they couldn't continue along the road. After some discussion it was agreed to ask highways to position an "Unsuitable for Large Vehicles" sign at the entrance to Birch Green from the Old Coach Road.

55.3 Play areas: Nothing to report.

55.4 Water Hall Quarry: Nothing to report

55.5 Walter Wallinger's Charity: Nothing to Report, next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> September.

55.6 Panshanger Quarry: Nothing to report.

55.7 Car parking in Birch Green:

- 55.7.1 Cllr O'Leary has arranged a meeting with the area engineer when he will request improved lines and signs.
- 55.7.2 The school is developing a travel plan, which may help to address the issues.

### 56. CORRESPONDENCE

Hertford Town Council was starting a crime reduction initiative and asked for support. The initiative required fund raising and this was to commence with a quiz night for which a poster was supplied to be placed on the Birch Green notice board.

### 57. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- 57.1 Members were asked to support the QE2 Field Challenge [www.qe2fields.com](http://www.qe2fields.com)



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- 57.2 .Remembrance Service. Cllr Edwards was the organizer and would obtain a wreath for the council to present. Details will be discussed at the October meeting.
- 57.3 Cll Rochford advised that the pavement between Staines Green and Birch Green was severely overgrown and could not be traversed safely. Vegetation had not been cut for five years.
- 57.4 The clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Hertfordshire Highways to discuss this and other highways matters.
- 57.5 Hertingfordbury Conservation Society was arranging a litter picking party for January 2013.

The chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 pm

Signed

Dated

**Next Meeting Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2012**