



Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at 7.30 pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Edwards, Morris, Brennan, O'Leary, Edgell, Blake,  
8 electors and the clerk, Tom Brindley.

**44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The council accepted apologies from Cllrs P Rochford, B Jones, E Bradbury, District Councillor Linda Haysey and County Councillor Ken Crofton.

**45. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 45.1. The chairman announced the resignation of Councillor K Barden. The clerk had informed East Herts District Council which would issue the notice of casual vacancy.
- 45.2. The chairman proposed an item of urgent business regarding the adoption of a Vacancy Policy.
- 45.3. Members were reminded of the code of conduct regarding disclosable interests.

**46. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- 46.1. Mr Colin Rees addressed the council regarding white lines on the stretch of road from Letty Green to B158. Also the road surface here had deteriorated. The council was asked to report the issue to Highways and inform C Cllr Ken Crofton.
- 46.2. The council was also informed that the drain under the bridge near the Cowper Arms was blocked.
- 46.3. Richard Herbert addressed the council on broadband issues, Vitesse, which had been supplying a superfast broadband service, had announced plans to withdraw it. Residents would like to take over the service, or see the fibre link adopted by BT for provision of superfast broadband in conjunction with the Connected Counties project and the council was asked to write to HCC supporting this action.

**47. MINUTES OF MEETING 10TH JULY**

The minutes were agreed with one correction, (the reference to Cllr Morris should have read Cllr Jones) and were signed by the chairman.

**48. MATTERS ARISING**

All actions were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

**49. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013-14**

**Letty Green signs** The highways contractor, Ringway, had advised that a highways permit was required and this had been requested. Once this was obtained (should be before the end of September) installation could proceed.

- 49.1. **Play Area** The clerk had obtained a grant of £500 from C Cllr Crofton towards the purchase and installation of new mini soccer goal posts. The goal posts were ordered at a cost of **£725 + VAT** and should be delivered to Rochford's by the end of the month. It was noted that there will be an additional installation cost.
- 49.2. **Pond** The clerk was authorised to ask Peter Oakenfull to undertake a survey of work required.
- 49.3. **Grants** It was agreed to publicise the grants project by a flier on the noticeboards and a page on the website.



49.4. The progress on the 2013 work programme was noted.

#### 50. FOOTPATH 8

50.1. Mrs Gayle Johannes updated the council on the rerouting of Footpath 8. The objectors may not have actually visited the site and a site meeting is being arranged. The council agreed to write to the county footpath officer to ask what the future process will be.

#### 51. TREE PLANTING, BIRCH GREEN

51.1. Councillor Morris suggested Doreen Vigus, along with Charlie Lewis and Margaret Clarke be invited to assist in the planting, to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

#### 52. FINANCE

52.1. The financial reports to 31<sup>st</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2013 were noted.

52.2. Three payments were approved: see attached list.

#### 53. PLANNING

53.1. The planning report was noted. The appeal against refusal for a traveller site at Birch green had been dismissed. Cllr O'Leary, D Cllr Haysey and the clerk had met with East Herts Council to discuss the situation. The appellant still had six weeks to mount a high court challenge, following which enforcement notice becomes active. The land owner has three months to remove non-permitted development.

53.2.3/13/1447/FP. Members had no objection to the development.

#### 54. EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN

54.1. The draft plan is now expected in November.

#### 55. REPORTS

##### 55.1. Crossing and Greens:

55.1.1. Mr Peter Newson was invited to address the council. Mr Newson had written to the council advising that the repairs done earlier in the year had been carried out by residents and the local farmer. Mr Newson further asked that residents, in conjunction with the tenant at East End Farm, be allowed to take over the maintenance of the crossing, with financial support from the council. The council **RESOLVED** to support the East End Greens residents in maintaining the crossing to a safe recreational standard. The next work was due in spring 2014. The residents had also offered to take over the grass cutting and it was agreed this would be investigated when the current grass cutting contract had expired.

55.1.2. **3 Letty Green.** At the July meeting it had been resolved (41.3) to grub up the crossing to 3 Letty Green as it was no longer used, except for parking. The owner had since opened up the property entrance so that vehicles could be parked at the property rather than on the green and so the crossing was now required. Under SO 36, a decision can only be reversed within 6 months by a special resolution bearing the names of at least five members of the council. It was proposed by the chairman that such a resolution be passed. Six members of the council gave written assent to the proposal. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to reverse the decision to grub up the crossing at 3 Letty Green. The request for a license to use the crossing was referred to the Greens Crossings Working Party.

55.2. **Highways:** A member of the public reported that the gutters at Letty green were blocked by detritus



and that this led to vegetation growth which prevent water channelling and made it impossible to determine the carriageway edge. Cllr Blake raised the issue of vegetation overhanging the footpath alongside the Old Coach Road in Hertingfordbury making it unsafe for pedestrians. The clerk was asked to report these to Highways.

55.3. **Play Area:** Cllr Rochford had cut back overhanging trees as recommended in the safety inspection.

55.4. **Water Hall:** nothing to report.

55.5. **Walter Wallinger Charity:** Nothing to report.

55.6. **Panshanger Quarry:** Lafarge had announced that it would publish a plan for restoration of Panshanger Park in September.

55.7. **Car Parking at Birch Green:**

55.7.1. Cllr O'Leary had met with Martin Sears from Herts County Council to explore a drop off area using land behind the school. An alternative, to pave an area on the south side of The Old Coach Road was discussed.

55.7.2. Scheme for parking restrictions at Birch Green. No plans had been received by the clerk. Cllr O'Leary reported that a request to use narrow yellow lines had been rejected as it was not a Conservation Area.

## 56. **GREENS CROSSINGS WORKING PARTY**

56.1. The Greens Crossings Working Party had not met since the last meeting.

## 57. **CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence had been emailed to members or was included in the meeting pack.

## 58. **MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

58.1. The clerk was asked to ascertain if the planning condition preventing vehicles turning right out of B&T motor salvage was still in force as members had noted large vehicles turning right.

## 59. **VACANCY POLICY**

The clerk advised the council did not appear to have an adopted policy for handling casual vacancies. A draft policy based on the Little Berkhamsted PC policy was tabled. Members debated the policy and made some amendments. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Vacancy Policy and publish it on the website.

The meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.

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



## Payments Approved

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
T Brindley	Expenses	78.98	6.52	85.50
Frank Cooper	Grass Cutting	923.00	184.60	1107.60
TONKS	Payroll	8860.69	3.90	890.59
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1,888.67</b>	195.02	<b>2083.69</b>