



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

**PRESENT:** Cllrs C Edwards (Chairman), H Blake, G O'Leary, P Rochford, T Brennan,  
In attendance: District Cllr L Haysey, one elector and the clerk, Tom Brindley

## 60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. B Simkins (illness), B Jones (illness), R Morris, (illness) and Cllrs E Bradbury and S Edgell.

## 61. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 61.1. Mr Richard Herbert, a resident Birch Green, addressed the council concerning the crossing to his and his neighbour's house. Mr Herbert had asked the clerk if the council had any records concerning the crossing and the clerk had advised that while there were documents associated with 34 Birch Green, none concerned 32 Birch Green. Mr Herbert was advised that the council's barrister had indicate that any property with a crossing prior to 1975, when the greens came into the council's possession, was unlikely to have an issue. Crossings created post 1975 were more at risk. Mr Herbert was advised that it may be possible to take insurance against any risk. The clerk agreed to disclose the documents pertaining to 34 Birch Green, which shared the crossing.

## 62. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## 63. MINUTES OF MEETING 10TH SEPTEMBER 2014

The minutes were agreed as a true record the chairman was authorised to sign.

## 64. MATTERS ARISING

- 64.1. (33.2.a) Footway between Cole Green and Birch Green. The issue between HCC and EHDC as to where responsibility lies remains unresolved. The footway is considered dangerous. The matter was referred to District Cllr Haysey and County Cllr Crofton.
- 64.2. (33.2.c) Low bridge warning signs. No update available.
- 64.3. Overgrown hedge, Land adjacent to The Old Coach Rd, Birch Green. The clerk advised that he had cancelled the hedge cutting as the owner of the land had returned. As the owner had not taken any action, the council agreed to trim the branches overhanging the footway.

## 65. CLERK VACANCY

- 65.1. Two applications received to date. The closing date for applications is 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

## 66. REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

- 66.1. Cllr Edwards agreed to contact the school regarding permission to use the new hall for refreshments.
- 66.2. Members **RESOLVED** to make a donation of £25 to the Royal British Legion.
- 66.3. Cllr Edwards advised she had asked for a wreath in the name of the Parish Council.

## 67. WORK PROGRAMME

- 67.1. War memorial.
- 67.1.1. Burgess Memorials had cleaned the war memorial and a report on any additional maintenance requirements was awaited.



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67.1.2. Members **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to proceed with repairs to the clerk.

67.2. Pin Kerbing. Cllr Simkins had identified some crossings in Cole Green which would benefit from pin kerbing and would discuss this with the local residents.

67.3. Notice boards

Members agreed a modification to the specification to include carved lettering painted white.

## 68. FINANCE

68.1. The financial report to 31<sup>st</sup> September 2014 was **APPROVED**.

68.2. Three payments due were **APPROVED** – see list attached.

68.3. Cllr Brennan queried the difference of £5 in the reported figures on the year to date and monthly reconciliations. The clerk agreed to investigate and report back at a later date.

68.4. Members were asked to consider projects for the 2015/16 budget and to feed in to the clerk so he could present a draft budget to the November meeting.

## 69. PLANNING

69.1. Application (3/14/1424/FP) East End Green Farm, change of use of outbuilding and yard from agricultural storage to vehicle storage) had been refused by the Local Planning Authority.

69.2. Applications 3/14/1226/FP and 3/14/1288/FP had been granted with conditions.

## 70. EAST HERTS DISTRICT PLAN

70.1. District Cllr Haysey advised the council that the next local plan meeting was 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

70.2. Cllr Morris has written to the council suggesting it supports the campaign against housing at Panshanger aerodrome. Cllr O’Leary declared an interest as a member of Panshanger People. After a short debate members agreed that the arguments for and against development were finely balanced and as the proposed development was outside the parish and in a neighbouring authority (Welwyn Hatfield) declined to take a stance.

70.3. District Cllr Haysey had attended a meeting on Neighbourhood Planning and agreed to forward the slides to the clerk for distribution.

## 71. REPORTS

### 71.1. Crossing and Greens:

71.1.1. Cllr Blake advise the council that the roots of two fir trees on PC land near the pond in Birch Green were threatening the drains on adjacent property. Cllr Rochford agreed to investigate.

71.1.2. Cllr Edwards had met with Mr Grover, 30 Letty Green who has now moved in. Mr Grover was aware that he had no vehicular access and that he had had been aware of this when he bought the property.

71.1.3. The clerk had asked the occupier of 25 Birch Green to remove the For Sale sign from the green.

### 71.2. Highways, Footpaths and Byways:

71.2.1. The street light adjacent to the bus stop at Cole Green had still not been replaced. The clerk had reported it again, reference 201006518753.

71.2.2. Members reported that the gulleys near the bus stop at Birch Green were blocked and the road had flooded in recent rain.

71.2.3. Mr N Hunt had advised the council that the occupier of 20 Letty Green had removed a fence or hedge and constructed a driveway. To use the driveway would mean driving over the green. The clerk was instructed to write to the occupiers advising them of the restriction on greens crossings.



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71.2.4. The footway from Staines Green to Hertingfordbury was unusable as vegetation had encroached on the path, making it narrow, slippery and dangerous. As this is a similar problem to the footway between Birch Green and Cole Green (See minutes 33.2a).

71.2.5. Cllr Brennan had received a letter from a resident who had observed fly tipping on parish council land in Birch Green. Cllr Edwards agreed to photograph the evidence.

**71.3. Play Area:**

71.3.1. Cllr Jones had reported that a waste bin had come away from its mounting base. Cllr Rochford agreed to investigate.

71.3.2. It was reported that a gap had appeared in the hedge between the football pitch and Rochford's nursery. Cllr Rochford agreed to investigate.

**71.4. Water Hall:** The inspector had made a split decision;

71.4.1. The appeal against refusal for an extension of time was upheld and an extension set at two years.

71.4.2. The appeal against refusal for an expansion of activity was refused.

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

**71.6. Panshanger Quarry and Country Park:**

71.6.1. Cllr O'Leary had attended a meeting with Lafarge and the county council. Lafarge will issue a report in January 2015.

71.6.2. Lafarge is likely to apply for a revised planning application to allow it not to extract from the field in Birch Green.

71.6.3. Lafarge is likely to apply for planning permission to import inert material to fill some large areas.

71.6.4. 33% of the park is now open and well used.

71.6.5. The cycle paths are poorly designed and have many steep gradients.

71.6.6. The question on the long term management of the park is unresolved. Currently there are no plans for a trust and Lafarge retains ownership and stewardship.

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

71.7.1. Double and single yellow lines had been painted outside the school but plates supporting single yellow lines not yet installed, meaning the Traffic Regulation Order could not be enforced.

71.7.2. Cllr Brennan expressed thanks to the chairman and vice-chairman for the work the council had done in supporting this project and eventually making progress on this long term problem.

71.7.3. The council's response to the drop off zone had been received by county council and was being considered. Cllr O'Leary agreed to invite representatives from the county highways department to attend the November meeting.

## 72. CORRESPONDENCE

72.1. All correspondence received had been circulated.

## 73. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

73.1. HCC Parish Charter

73.2. Projects for inclusion in the 2015/16 budget.

The meeting closed at 9.47 p.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Payments Approved

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CQ</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
08/10/2014	Burgess memorials	War memorial cleaning	400087	700.00	140.00	840.00
08/10/2014	T Brindley	Clerk's Expenses	400088	51.90	3.06	54.96
08/10/2014	Royal British Legion	Donation	400089	25.00	-	25.00
<b>Totals</b>				<b>776.90</b>	<b>143.06</b>	<b>919.96</b>