



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018 AT 19.00 IN HERTINGFORDBURY COWPER SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Gary O’Leary, Magda Atkins, Haidy Blake, Lizzer Bradbury (arrived 7.15), Jim Coppard, Roger Morris, Paul Rochford, Barry Simkins

In attendance: Amanda Glew (Clerk), Nicky Gordon, Steve Davies, Brenda Smith, Jackie Stevens and 6 other residents

### **57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **59. TO CONSIDER THE RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT THE VILLAGE GREEN POLICIES DATED DEC 2015**

The Chairman explained that he was moving this Agenda item above Planning Applications for the meeting due to the number of interested residents attending. The Chairman gave an introduction explaining the value and importance of the Village Greens, which play a key role in defining the character of this Parish and provide important open spaces which must be protected and kept for the benefit of all parishioners. Village Greens are nationally recognised as important public spaces and are given protection in law. Previous Councillors have worked hard (in particular through the Greens & Crossings Committee under Cllr Simkins) to establish annotated maps of the Greens and Village Green Management Policies for their ongoing protection and management.

All houses were sent a letter about the policies in 2016.

At the October meeting a resolution to implement the Policies was proposed by the Chairman, and although the Clerk’s advice from HAPTC was that the meeting was not given enough notice to vote on such a resolution, the resolution was passed. Cllr Coppard felt that the meeting was not able to understand the implications of implementing the policy and Cllr Simkins thought perhaps it wasn’t clear that voting was on the implementation of the policy. Cllr Rochford said that the Parish Council had avoided the issue for many years because it is such a complicated area.

Cllr Blake said that school parking is making the problem of parking on the Village Green more serious, however, the Chairman emphasised that parking on Village Green is an illegal act.



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Following the Greens tour made by Councillors the previous Saturday, Cllr Rochford asked realistically who would exercise or use for recreation the strip of land by the road outside the terraced houses in Letty Green. The Chairman outlined that whilst the law makes no distinction for the width of a strip of Village Green, uses could be walking, jogging, dog walking etc.

Cllr Blake was concerned that implementing these policies will mean that life will become more difficult for residents. The Chairman replied that it must be remembered that HPC are custodians of Village Green.

Cllr Atkins commented that Hertingfordbury Parish does have a considerable amount of Village Green. Cllr Coppard said that HPC should work out exactly what can be done and could look into set aside of land before implementing the policies.

Cllr Simkins said that HPC have already adopted the policies and should move to implement them. He thought the PC should work out what processes now need to happen and go through and prioritise.

The Chairman said that a lot of this work has been done in the past.

Cllr Rochford said that advice on the subject has changed over the years particularly that about drives and crossings. He thought advice from Defra was that Village Green could be deregistered.

Cllr Morris said it is not possible to de register lots of parts of Village Green.

Cllr Coppard said that he has only just started to look into this in any depth and that in his opinion the Parish Council should be looking for a solution that helps everyone. Cllr Morris said that HPC needs to have a considered and thoughtful approach in order to investigate how to implement the policies.

The Chairman suggested a deadline of the May AGM for Councillors to investigate, but in the meantime HPC needs to consider whether it stops enforcing its policies.

Cllr Simkins suggested that the answer might be to only approach people parking on Greens and not on gravel.

The Chairman said that HPC could write to everyone detailing the Village Green policies again and that the PC should endeavour to have a long term solution to the problem by the AGM. Cllr Morris said HPC should bear in mind that a Parish Council in Hertfordshire has been fined for not implementing the law.



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It was resolved that by the May 2019 AGM Hertingfordbury Parish Council will have a detailed implementation policy and will have assessed all the current contraventions of the policy and what options there are to address those. Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Simkins.

The Chairman suggested a letter is sent to all residents explaining the Village Green Management policies and enclosing a map of the Greens.

Cllr Simkins asked for progress on school parking. The Clerk will arrange meeting with Councillors, Cllr Crofton and the school.

The Chairman pointed out that Village Green land appears to have been taken at 49 Birch Green. The Clerk was asked to write to the estate agent (Steven Oates) to this effect. The Parish Council does possess registered maps of Village Green and there is potentially a similar encroachment issue on Cole Green. The Clerk was asked to request title deeds for 5 and 7 Cole Green.

An analysis of highways cut outs in Birch Green needs to be done to understand the background to these as provision for parking.

The Parish Council already has standard letters for placing on illegally parked cars and these will be circulated to all Councillors by the Clerk.

### 60. **TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### (a) **Current Applications**

Planning ref: 3/18/2360/OUT 7 Chapel Lane, Letty Green. Outline planning for a single house, gardens and car parking with all matters reserved.

Planning ref: 3/18/2361/OUT 7 Chapel Lane, Letty Green. Outline planning permission for the proposed development of two houses, gardens and car parking all matters reserved. Agreed to comment that this will result in a loss of openness and that Letty Green is a Category 3 village. Comments made. The Parish Council has considered these applications in the context of the East Herts District Plan: "All development in Category 3 villages should not represent the loss of a significant open space or gap important to the form and/or setting of the village".

Planning ref: 3/18/2401/HH Birchwood 26A Birch Green SG14 2LU. Demolition of stable block and outbuilding with erection of detached double garage. No comment.

Councillors were reminded of the application from Welwyn Hatfield re land to north east of WGC Panshanger. No comments made.



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## (b) Decisions on Outstanding Applications

Planning ref: 3/18/1530/HH 19 Chapel Lane Letty Green Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2PA.

Alterations to existing Planning consent 3/16/1295/HH (Two and single storey side and rear extension, front porch, garage conversion, alterations to openings) :- The erection of a ground and first floor extensions, similar to that previously given consent, the marginal increase in floor area, amendments in design to reduce the volume. Granted 25/10/18.

Planning ref: 3/18/1963/HH Kestrel Cottage 6 Staines Green Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2LN.

Construction of staircase and insertion of door to east elevation and insertion of window to west elevation of existing cart shed – retrospective. Granted 26/10/18.

Councillors were reminded of the message from the Democratic Services Officer at East Herts of HPC of the opportunity to allow a Parish Council representative to speak in relation to an application located in their area. Normal arrangements are that three minutes are permitted.

## 61. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Steve Davies said that his wife, Emma Davies, has offered to confront drivers of cars parked illegally on Village Green. The Parish Council was grateful for this offer. Mr Davies asked for permission to temporarily place a skip near the Birch Green pond. The Chairman said that HPC cannot officially give permission to do this but will do so unofficially on the proviso that it is only there for the shortest period of time possible and that the skip company ensure adequate insurance and lighting is in place.

Jackie Stevens asked who would enforce any illegal parking outside her property and said she would like a white line is painted there. She believes a sign should be placed on the Village Green outside her property to stop the access way being blocked. She has been told by HCC that the cost of painting the white line will be £700.

Nicky Gordon said she was not aware she could not legally park outside her own house. She emphasised that she was not informed of this when she purchased the property. The Chairman said it was unfortunate that she was given incorrect information.

Both Ms Stevens and Ms Gordon asked why it has only been decided to strictly enforce these policies now. All residents present agreed that HPC is proposing to make the existing parking problems they face even worse.

CLlr Blake informed the meeting that the new litter bin has now arrived and asked for the old ones to be removed. CLlr Rochford confirmed he will do this. The bin will be emptied on a weekly basis.



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Cllr Simkins confirmed that installation of the HGV signs is still under discussion and the paper will be discussed at the December meeting. He also reported that the fencing at Cole Green owned by Gascoyne Holdings has now been replaced and greatly improved the view from Cole Green. Phase 2 will hopefully take place next year. B&T have implemented litter picking and some of their signs on lamp posts will be taken down. The annual Parish litter pick will take place this weekend. He would like the Parish Council to set out realistic big objectives for next year and the Chairman confirmed that the December Agenda should include ideas and projects from Councillors.

Cllr Atkins has now drafted a Parish Council contribution to the Parish News. She would like to be included in the school parking meeting; as would Councillor Morris.

Cllrs Blake and Morris attended a recent meeting of the Walter Wallinger Trust which has not received any applications for grants and they thought it might be a good idea to place an advertisement in the Parish News.

Cllr Blake reported the hedge at the gypsy field has been cut.

The Clerk and Cllr Bradbury will arrange the quarterly finance check.

The meeting closed at 9.15.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018