



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER 2015 AT 19.30 IN HERTINGFORDBURY COWPER SCHOOL

PRESENT: Cllrs Gary O’Leary (Chairman), Barry Simkins, Lizzer Bradbury, Tommy Brennan, Shobha Edgell, Roger Morris, Paul Rochford,

In attendance: Amanda Glew (Clerk) and Howard Flowers (parishioner).

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Haidy Blake.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations.

29. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was discussed and resolved to start future Parish Council Meetings at 7pm rather than 7.30pm.

Moving from monthly Parish Council Meetings to bi-monthly Meetings was not an item on the Agenda but would be discussed under AOB.

One member of the public in attendance.

30. THE MINUTES

The Clerk updated the meeting on two conversations she had with Mr Chay Dempster, Principal Planning Officer, regarding the bunds at Water Hall Quarry. It was noted that a meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 18th November between the Chairman, HCC (Mr Chay Dempster and Mr Brian Owen) and residents (Mr Martin Jack and Mr Peter Newson)

The Chairman has followed up the village points assessment with EHDC and suggested amended scoring for Birch, Cole and Letty Green to EHDC.

The Clerk has found a new payroll provider (DCK Beavers) and will check that their monthly charge of £25 is competitive with other providers. Based on this reassurance being confirmed it was resolved to proceed with DCK Beavers.

It was agreed to amend the October Minutes regarding the external audit.

Cllr Rochford advised that the Wheatley memorial oak has died from presumed strimmer damage and will be removed.

31. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.



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32. PLANNING

New planning applications:

- 28 Chapel Lane, Letty Green. Single storey front garage. The Clerk will circulate when she has received emailed details from EHDC Herts Planning.
- Woolmers Park, Essendon. Erection of an outdoor swimming pool and associated bathing pavilion. The Clerk will circulate when she has received emailed details from EHDC Herts Planning.

Other planning issues:

BP Mitchell planning. The waste planning application has not been called in by the Secretary of State and has been sent back to HCC Development Control Committee for decision. Chairman outlined that an approval decision could still be challenged via Judicial Review and that discussions with other interested groups could be explored to consider a joint action. It was noted that many organisations had opposed the site being given permanent permission in Green Belt. The Council resolved to proceed with this course of action, subject to further approval of any legal cost commitments or exposure.

East Herts Local Plan. It was noted that in the short term there is no realistic prospect of any major development east of Welwyn Garden City due to congestion issues on the A414 in Hertford. There would need to be a HCC commitment to a Hertford bypass in order to relieve congestion, before any major development to be considered. This has been confirmed to the Chairman by Cllr Linda Haysey, Chairman of EHDC District Planning Executive Group.

HPC Neighbourhood Plan. Chairman and Clerk will pursue the formal Neighbourhood Plan Area Designation request with EHDC.

33. STANDING ITEMS

GREENS

The draft Greens Crossings Committee Report was given by the HPC Vice Chairman. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Simkins, Rochford, Morris and resident Mr Flowers for all their work on the Greens Crossings Committee.

It was noted that a complete audit of each green has been undertaken and the final report will be made available to parishioners via the website following final amends and approval at the December meeting. A set of policies for management of the Village Greens owned by Hertingfordbury Parish Council were reviewed and subject to final amends will be approved at December meeting and posted to the website also. Cllr Morris reminded the meeting that the Parish Council does not allow advertising hoardings on the greens and this policy should be included in the document.

The Council will be writing to residents regarding the removal of bollards on the greens as part of an ongoing programme of Greens improvements works. It was noted that some bollards will need to stay for road safety or greens protection reasons.



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It was noted that there have been two resident issues which have required initiation of legal advice and legal correspondence with those residents, one of these is issues still ongoing. The Council will receive further update on this at December meeting.

East End Green Track. The work is now complete although Cllr Rochford noted with disappointment that some new holes in the track have already appeared, very early into the autumn/winter. It was agreed that we need to see the effects of a full winter on the newly laid track before the Council makes further investments in repairs, as a long term, cost effective solution is needed. The bill for recent repairs will be £1,500.

Tree work. Cllr Rochford advised that an arboriculture report will be needed in the spring.

Noticeboards and Village Signs. Work will be needed on these by the end of the calendar year. Cllrs Rochford and Simkins to agree a timetable of work.

Play Area. Clerk to request a copy of the report from EHDC.

HIGHWAYS

Highways. The Clerk has set up a spreadsheet to collate highways faults in the Parish. A resident has complained about HGV vehicles driving through Birch Green. These are difficult to prevent due to satellite navigation systems, but a sign could be put at Birch Green advising of low bridge, it may be possible to erect our own sign up. Cllr Simkins and Brennan will investigate.

The poor drainage on the Old Coach Rd, which necessitates school parents and children having to walk in the road has been reported and Cllrs Brennan and O'Leary will be meeting Ringway (HCC contractor) on site to seek a thorough investigation.

QUARRIES

The planning application from Lafarge Tarmac for importation of 1.6M tonnes of inert materials over 10 years to fill existing voids and negate extraction of the area between Birch and Cole Green will be before the HCC Development Control Committee on 19th November, the Officer recommendation is for approval. The Chairmen will be making a representation before the DCC noting that the full management plan for a Country Park should be requested before approval and that addition Section 106 contributions (currently £200K is proposed) should be sought to in consideration of up to 160 HGV lorry movements per working day over the next 10 years.

34. FINANCE

Cllr Brennan commented that the VAT claims figure seems to be incorrect. Clerk will confirm. Cllr Brennan also thanked the Clerk for her recent good work on rationalising finance statements.

Cheques for payments outstanding were issued to Longmores Solicitors (Greens), F Coopers (Grass cutting) and LCPAS (Councillor course).

35. AOB

Application for East End Green Track grant to be considered through Groundworks Trust.



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Cllr Morris noted that the Well at Staines Green is overgrown and requires remedial work. The Chairman suggested a list of works should be produced for each green to include Well repairs and painting of standpipes if appropriate. Grants may be available and the Clerk will investigate.

It was noted that speed restriction signs have been erected on East End Green.

SSE are laying fibre optic cable ducting up Old Coach Road through to Hertford. Cllr Simkins has requested they avoid Village Greens.

Moving to bi-monthly Parish Council meetings was discussed. The advantages would be time savings and potentially an improved turn out to meetings from parishioners. Clerk advised the statutory requirement is four meetings a year plus an annual meeting in May. It was noted that planning responses could be an issue, but this could be dealt with through a clear response process/policy and ad-hoc meetings arranged as needed for major applications. It was resolved that the Council will meet bi-monthly from next calendar year. There will be 7 meetings instead of the current 11. They will occur in February, April, May, July, September, October and December. HPC Standing Orders may need to be altered, Clerk to investigate.

Shobha will circulate the names of the students who received grants from Walter Wallinger's Charity.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman _____

Dated _____