

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 7.30pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

PRESENT: Cllrs R Lester (Chairman), E Bradbury, R Morris, B Jones, J Raymond and P Rochford

In attendance: Cllr Mrs Linda Haysey (District Councillor), several electors for part of the meeting; Mrs N L Villa, Parish Clerk

112. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bonner, Cllr Edwards and Cllr Edgell (may be late)

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

114. ELECTORS' COMMENTS

The issue regarding potholes at East End Green was raised by several residents, who sought to open a dialogue with the Parish Council about achieving a long term solution to the maintenance issue. The Chairman had also received a letter raising similar concerns. Cllr Hunt advised those present that previous advice to the Parish Council had been that the track was a public highway which was not maintainable at public expense. As a result, the approach of the Parish Council is to undertake an inspection twice a year with the view to maintaining the track to a 'recreational' standard. Potholes have certainly been filled by the Council on many occasions in the past. The Chairman also advised that he had previously donated his expenses to help pay for the maintenance of the track. One resident raised the concern that 'recreational' was not an adequate level of maintenance for health and safety reasons. The Chairman advised that risk assessments had been carried out as part of the twice yearly inspection and were available to any members of the public who may wish to view them. One resident suggested restricting access to the track but was advised that the Parish Council had attempted this before by using signage but was obliged to remove the signs for legal reasons. The Chairman agreed to inspect the track again as soon as possible in light of the resident concerns.

The issue of the width of the accesses to properties was also raised. A resident asked for clarification on the agreed width and was advised by the Chairman that the licences state 10ft.

Another resident asked whether it would be possible to reduce the number of grass cuts at East End Green per year and divert the money towards maintenance of the track. The Chairman agreed to raise this with Cllr Rochford.

The current planning application submitted by Hertingfordbury Cowper School was raised by a resident who was concerned about the potential increase in traffic and parking problems. Cllr Mrs Haysey stated that the proposal would not enlarge the school or cause any additional traffic as the planning application was for a change of use from residential property to a staff room. The Chairman advised the resident that the Parish Council had already considered the application and would be objecting. The resident was still concerned about the level of traffic and parking generally, including the lack of enforcement for those parking in prohibited areas and the Chairman advised that any concerns regarding the contribution of the school to parking and/or traffic concerns should be raised direct with the Headmistress and that parking enforcement was the remit of the District Council.

2005 - Cllr Rochford arrived.

Another resident asked for an update on the situation regarding the field adjacent to 12 Birch Green and the parish Clerk advised that she had reported the residents concerns to the District Council's planning team and that they had inspected the area and found no cause for concern at this stage. The resident queries the status of the land and the Clerk will enquire as to the Use Classes Order and the possibility of obtaining an Article 4 Direction to protect the land in future.

A resident thanked the Parish Council for resolving the bus timetable issue. The Chairman advised that he didn't think that the Parish Council had had any influence in this matter but that the intervention of the County Councillor may have helped.

115. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2011 be confirmed and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

116. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 116.1 (Minute 106.2) Cllr Rochford had spoken to the resident of 11 Cole Green to try and reach agreement concerning the correct line for the fence. This matter is still ongoing and Cllr Rochford will enquire at the District Council to see if their mapping system shows the correct line of the fence.
- 116.2 (Minute 106.3) Cllr Rochford had previously requested the specification for pin kerbing and Cllr Hunt agreed to supply.
- 116.3 (Minute 106.4) Cllr Rochford is still awaiting quotes for suggested repairs for the play area.
- 116.4 (Minute 106.5) A meeting had taken place with Claire Sime of EHDC to establish what is involved in undertaking a parish plan. There are several unanswered questions concerning the Localism Bill and Neighbourhood Planning, however the Parish Council is keen to take a lead in progressing a plan for the villages in partnership with EHDC. The Chairman will start collecting relevant documents and maps together in order that work can start on this project soon after the May 2011 elections.

2040 - Cllr Edgell arrived

- 116.5 (Minute 106.8) Cllr Rochford confirmed that the review of the grass cutting contract with Coopers is complete and that the Parish Council had renewed the contract for 3 years and this year could expect an increase in grass cutting charges of 2%. The Chairman requested that Cllr Rochford enquire as to the savings which might be gained from reducing the number of cuts at East End Green (see Minute 114 above).
- 116.6 (Minute 106.9) Cllr Hunt had drafted a letter to be distributed to the residents of Birch Green concerning the erection of bollards and these had been distributed by Cllr Jones.
- 116.7 (Minute 108.1) Cllr Rochford gave an update on his investigations concerning planning application 3/10/2032.
- 116.8 (Minute 109.2) The various highways faults had been reported to Herts Highways.
- 116.9 (Minute 111.1 and 111.2) The Council had previously noted that two footpaths – one from Cole Green Way to B&T Motors on The Old Coach Road and one from Cole Green Way to Birch Green had been ploughed up and were virtually unusable. Also that a number of mature trees along the side of Deadfield Lane had recently been felled. The Council also noted that the lights from B&T Motors were exceptionally bright and causing concern. The Clerk had advised the relevant HCC officers who are investigating.

All other matters had either been completed or were a separate agenda item.

117. **FINANCE**

- 117.1 The financial statement was received and noted. It was also noted that the Council had not received a recent invoice from Coopers for grass cutting.
- 117.2 No payments had been made since the last meeting.

117.3 RESOLVED that one payment: £583.57 to Mrs N L Villa for salary and expenses be authorised.

117.4 The Council noted advice from HMRC regarding the employment status of Parish Clerks and the requirement for the Council to operate PAYE.

118. **PLANNING**

118.1 An update on planning applications was received and noted. The Chairman provided the Clerk with the Council's response to application 3/11/0187 to be forwarded to EHDC.

118.2 The Council noted a letter from EHDC regarding the transition from paper to electronic plans. The Council was keen to receive plans by electronic means in future.

119. **REPORTS**

119.1 Crossings and Greens: The Chairman referred to the discussion about regarding East End Green and he and Cllr Hunt will inspect the area again as soon as possible. Chairman will also draft a letter in response to a letter received from a local resident.

119.2 Highways and Byways: In Cllr Bonner's absence there was nothing to report

119.3 Play Area: Nothing to report

119.4 Waterhall: Cllr Mrs Haysey provided an update on discussions which took place at a recent meeting and recent works undertaken.

119.5 Walter Wallinger's Charity: It was reported that the charity recently agreed to move some of its funds in to a broader variety of investments.

119.6 Panshanger Quarry: The next meeting of the next liaison group will be held on 17 March.

120. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Information on a consultation on primary school expansion in the county had previously been passed to Cllr Bradbury, who had inspected the consultation but had nothing significant to report.

121. **MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

121.1 Cllr Bonner had confirmed that he did not intend to stand for re-election in May 2011. The Chairman thanked him for his service to the Council over the last term.

121.2 The issue to unsightly Mole Hills on Cole Green was raised. The Chairman advised that unfortunately, there is little that can be done about this but that the Mole Hills will disappear, at least temporarily, when the grass is cut.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm

Signed

Dated