



Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th October 2013 at 7.30 pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

PRESENT: Cllrs Edwards (Chairman), O'Leary, Brennan, Rochford, Edgell (left 8:30), Blake, 18 electors and the clerk, Tom Brindley.

60. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

61. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The chairman welcomed Stuart Campbell and Andrew Lee from the Connected Counties project (a joint venture between Herts and Buck county councils and BT). Mr Campbell and Mr Lee informed the council of the progress being made in retaining the Vitesse broadband service. BT had been approached and was investigating if it was feasible to take over the equipment installed by Vitesse, which had given notice to customers to withdraw its service. BT was initially reluctant to take on a possibly incompatible technology but had agreed to investigate further. It had been difficult to find the right person in Vitesse which would need to disclose details of its technology to BT. Birch Green had been moved up the list of connected communities and was due for broadband in January 2014. Connected Counties would like to see continuity of service but if BT could not take on the Vitesse hardware, there might be a small cessation of service. Richard Herbert volunteered to assist CC in its contact with Vitesse.

Connected Counties agreed to investigate the other settlements in the parish (Cole Green, Staines Green, Letty Green and East End Green).

The chairman thanked Mr Campbell and Mr Lee for their presentation.

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 11TH SEPTEMBER

The minutes were agreed with one correction, (Cllr Morris was present) and were signed by the chairman.

64. MATTERS ARISING

64.1. (51) TREE PLANTING, BIRCH GREEN: Doreen Vigus, and Margaret Clarke had been contacted and had agreed to assist in the planting, to be held on 10th November. The Chairman will also write to invite Charlie Lewis.

64.2. (50) FOOTPATH 8. The council had received more correspondence on the rerouting of Footpath 8. The objectors would not agree to a site meeting. The county footpath officer had supplied a paper outlining the next steps. It was noted that the council could not do any more in support of the diversion and no further action was planned.

64.3. (45.1) CASUAL VACANCY East Herts District Council had not received any call for election and consequently the council had a duty to Co-opt a new member. One expression of interest had been received and it was agreed that the applicant would be invited to attend the November meeting.

64.4. All other actions were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

65. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013-14

65.1. **Letty Green signs.** The clerk continued to seek a site meeting with highways but this was proving very



difficult to arrange.

65.2. **Play Area.** The new mini-soccer goal posts had been received. Cllr Rochford agreed to obtain a quote for installation.

65.3. **Pond.** Peter Oakenfull had been contacted and has agreed to undertake a survey of work required.

65.4. **Grants.** A flier had been posted on the noticeboards and website but no applications had been received.

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

66. REMBRANCE SUNDAY

66.1. It was agreed that the tree planting would take place prior to the Remembrance service. The clerk was asked to approach the school for permission to use the hall to serve teas after the service. Cllr O'Leary volunteered to be the keyholder.

66.2. Cllr Edwards had ordered a wreath on behalf of the council. The cost was a budgeted item.

67. FINANCE

67.1. The financial report to 30th September 2013 was noted.

67.2. Six payments were approved: see attached list.

68. PLANNING

68.1. The planning report was noted.

68.2. Mayflower Place: (3/13/1764/FP and 3/13/1765/LB). Members had no objection to the development.

68.3. Foxdells (3/13/1744/FP) Demolition of garages and erection of two 3 bedroom houses and one bungalow.

- a. Cllr Brennan being a resident of Foxdells stated he had a declarable interest but that he would remain and contribute to the debate.
- b. Members studied the plans and paid particular attention to access and parking displacement and questioned the need for affordable housing in Birch Green (a category 3 village under OSV3). While policy HSG5 allowed for affordable housing, this was only where there was a demonstrable local need. The application identified that 373 people had said they would like to move to Birch Green, but that there was no evidence that any of these had a local connection. The traffic study had not taken in account the new parking restrictions. Concern was raised over access for construction traffic and noise disturbance during construction.
- c. The council **RESOLVED** to object to the application on the grounds of: access, parking displacement, sustainability and that, contrary to policy HSG5, no proven local need has been identified.

69. EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN

69.1. Nothing to report.

70. REPORTS

70.1. **Crossing and Greens:** The Greens Crossings Working Party will meet in November. Cllr Edwards was seeking advice from a lawyer specialising in greens crossings and hoped to have this advice prior to the meeting.

70.2. **Highways:** All items had been reported but no progress report had been received.



70.3. **Play Area:** Nothing to report.

70.4. **Water Hall:** Nothing to report.

70.5. **Walter Wallinger Charity:** Two grants of £300 had been made to students for educational support.

70.6. **Panshanger Quarry:** The Friends of Panshanger Quarry had met and had developed a vision for the access routes and paths of the restored country park which it will present to the council at a future meeting. Lafarge was due to present its plans to the county Council on Friday 11th October 2013.

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

- d. The county had published the draft TRO which showed double yellow lines as junction protection where Birch Green met the Old Coach Road and single yellow lines from the junction to the second layby.
- e. The council **RESOLVED** to support the scheme but would repeat its request that the lines be of the pale yellow and narrow format as used in conservation areas.

71. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the correspondence received.

72. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

72.1. **Quad bikes on Cole Green Way.** Cllr O’Leary suggested a way that quad bikes could be excluded from the Cole Green Way. Members highlighted that the route was used by horse drawn vehicles and so a restriction may not be possible.

72.2. **Hertingfordbury/Hertingfordbury Parish boundary review.** The clerk had raised the possibility of a boundary review with East Herts council and was advised that it required 250 people to call for a review. It was unclear as to the residential status of these. Members agreed to invite representatives of East Herts district council, Hertford Town Council and Hertingfordbury village to a future council meeting.

72.3. **Budget.** Members were reminded that November was the meeting at which the 2014/15 budget would be discussed.

72.4. **Register of Members’ Interest.** Members were reminded that it was their responsibility to ensure their entry on the Register of Members’ Interest was up to date and that it was a criminal offence not to do so.

The meeting closed at 09.50 p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Payments Approved

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CQ</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
Soccertackle	Goal posts	400045	738.33	147.67	886.00
Frank Cooper	Grass cutting	400046	495.00	99.00	594.00
T Brindley	Expenses	400047	111.19	9.01	120.20
AMT	Training	400048	90.00	0.00	90.00
ICO	Data controller	400049	35.00	0.00	35.00
Totals			1,469.52	255.68	1,725.20