

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 9 July 2008 at 7.30pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

PRESENT: Cllrs R Lester (Chairman), D Bonner, S Edgell, C Edwards, N Hunt, B Jones, R Morris, J Raymond and P Rochford

In attendance: the clerk, Mr G Irwin and for part of the meeting one elector.

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Bradbury and District Cllr Haysey.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

33. ELECTORS' COMMENTS

It was reported that Birch Green had won the People category of the Hertfordshire Village of the Year 2008 and the £100 prize money would be split between the cubs and scouts and a charity. Miss Margaret Clarke had won the Peterkin Award for the individual or group making an outstanding contribution to community life. Tommy Brennan and Margaret Clarke were congratulated on their achievements.

34. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2008 be confirmed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

35. MATTERS ARISING

35.1 (Minute 23.1) Cllr Rochford will speak to the owner of the land adjoining Deadfield Lane now that the work is complete.

35.2 (Minute 23.2) Cllr Hunt had had no luck in meeting with the owner of 25 Birch Green.

35.3 (Minute 27) The clerk reported that the easement at 8 Letty Green was progressing.

35.4 (Minute 29.2) It was likely that the villages would not after all be taking part in the Hertford in Bloom competition this year.

35.5 All other matters had either been actioned or were separate agenda items.

36. FINANCE

36.1 The financial statement was received and noted.

36.2 There had been no payments made since the last meeting.

36.3 RESOLVED that three payments: £88.13 to Playsafety for the annual play area inspection, £868.69 to G Irwin for first quarter's salary and expenses, and £562.82 to Coopers for grass cutting be authorised. (There was a typo in the list distributed.)

37. PLANNING

An update on planning applications was received and noted.

38. REPORTS

38.1 Crossings and Greens:

- 38.1.1 Following legal advice it was agreed not to erect a sign at either end of East End Green and that this advice be noted in the EEG risk assessment. Further risk assessments were for consideration later.
- 38.1.2 Cllr Hunt will prepare a specification for pin kerbing.
- 38.2 Highways and Byways:
- 38.2.1 Noted that the footways at Cumberland Green had still not been cleared and the blocked gulley at Letty Green had not been cleared. The clerk would chase Highways.
- 38.2.2 Cllr Bonner reported that he had received plans from HCC in respect of the proposed land exchange at Cole Green, and the clerk had obtained a copy of a legal precedent which confirms that village green takes precedence over highway.
- 38.3 Play Area: Nothing to report. The annual inspection report was for consideration later.
- 38.4 Waterhall: Noted that the appeal hearing was to be on 16 and 17 July at County Hall. It was not certain that any parish councillor would be able to attend.
- 38.5 Walter Wallinger's Charity: Nothing to report.
- 38.6 Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing to report.
- 38.7 Greens Car Park: Nothing to report. The chairman hopes to be able to contact Lafarge for an update before the next meeting.
39. VILLAGE GREENS
- It was agreed in principle to register the council's title in the village greens under the voluntary registration scheme. The clerk was asked to provide details of the costs and other requirements for the next meeting.
40. PLAY AREA SAFETY REPORT
- The report identified a number of items that need attention. Cllr Rochford agreed to obtain cost estimates for the work.
41. RISK ASSESSMENTS
- RESOLVED that the draft risk assessments for Cole Green (including Cumberland Green) and Staines Green be adopted. It was noted that since the ways across the green were the responsibility of the individual householders, maintenance of the "bridges" crossing the ditch at Staines Green were also the responsibility of the householders.
42. CORRESPONDENCE
- 42.1 In response to a letter expressing concern at developments at Woolmers Park it was agreed that the clerk would reply that the council shared the concerns and that District Cllr Haysey would be asked to obtain a satisfactory appraisal of the situation.
- 42.2 The clerk tabled a letter from HCC regarding post office closures. It was agreed that a copy would be emailed to all members to respond to if they wished but the parish council would make no response.
- 42.3 All other correspondence had been dealt with.
43. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
- 43.1 The clerk would chase EHDC to sweep the lanes at Birch Green.

- 43.2 The clerk was asked to report to EHDC that brown bins were not being returned to their rightful place in Letty Green.
- 43.3 Noted that the sign on footpath 8 at Labby Green was still obscured and the footpath blocked in several places; the clerk to this report again.
- 43.4 Noted that the verges along Woolmers Lane had all but disappeared; the clerk will report to Highways although it is not clear whether anything can be done.
- 43.5 The clerk reported that he would be meeting with a Highways lighting manager on Friday to discuss the lamp post refurbishment programme in Birch Green and the associated works on the village green.
- 43.6 In the absence of Cllr Bradbury there was no update on the website development.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

Signed

Dated