

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 April 2011 at 8.00pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

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

In attendance; five electors and a news reporter from Hertfordshire Mercury

122. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Linda Haysey (District Councillor) and Mrs N L Villa, Parish Clerk

123. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

124. **ELECTORS' COMMENTS**

An elector raised the on going situation with the field next to 12 Birch Green, advising that it had been sold on again. The Chairman advised that he had not received a report back from the Clerk prior to her holidays on the Article 4 Direction and anticipated this would be updated at the next meeting.

Following on from the Annual meeting the question of parking and the electors suggestion for the Parish Council to support double yellow parking lines to be applied to restrict parking from the Old Coach Road to beyond the shop in Birch Green. The Chairman commented that this would impact on other residents in Birch Green and may not be well received. It was agreed however that parking in Birch Green should be brought back on to the agenda to be discussed at each subsequent meeting. It was further agreed that the school and Parish Council should have closer ties to tackle this problem. The Chairman made reference to the prior discussions at the annual meeting and confirmed that the Parish Council would do everything it could do to find a satisfactory resolution.

The Chairman read a letter out received from Mrs Clarke noting the following items;

- 1) Wooden gate and hinges stolen from the play area; Cllr Rochford advised he had removed the gate that day for repair as it had previously been damaged.
- 2) War memorial requires attention to small pieces of stone inserts missing; suggestion to contact S C Dass again (68 Tamworth Road, Hertford Tel 584145) which Cllr Rochford would attend.
- 3) Maitland Wood the handrail from Cole Green Way into the Wood is lying on the ground having been broken and the sign advising planting on 25th November 1990 looks awful. Again Cllr Rochford offered to view and repair.
- 4) Field Chapel lane end to the track requires a dog waste bin, with a request to approach East Herts Council. The Chairman commented that East Herts had previously advised that they would not maintain the emptying of the dog waste bins without a charge and previously the Parish Council had not thought the problem significant to warrant the placing of bins along with the maintenance. The Chairman agreed to walk the area to see if dog waste was a significant problem.
- 5) Bridge at bottom of Chapel lane by the substation fence requires repair. Again the Chairman would view the area to assess the repairs required before approaching East Herts
- 6) Bridge Chapel Lane side the chicken wire placed on the treads to assist walkers is damaged and currently presents a trip hazard. Again the Chairman would view prior to raising it with East Herts.
- 7) Footpath to Staines Green where sleepers are laid over the stream the chicken wire is again loose and a trip hazard. Cllr Rochford would view and advise.

125. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

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

126. **MATTERS ARISING**

- 126.1 (Minute 114) Cllr Rochford had agreed with the resident of 11 Cole Green a corrected line for the fence abutting the village green and it had been moved back from the tree.
- 126.2 (Minute 116.3) Cllr Rochford had received the specification for pin kerbing.
- 126.3 (Minute 106.4) Cllr Rochford hoped to have quotes for suggested repairs for the play area by the next meeting.
- 126.4 (Minute 116.5) Cllr Rochford advised that the saving on the grass cutting to East End was minimal circa £100 and certainly not worth omitting from Coopers current contract.
- 126.5 (Minute 116.9) The Chairman advised that he had received no update from the Clerk regarding the response from HCC on the footpaths questioned. Clerk to update at next meeting.
- 126.6 (Minute 119.1) The Chairman advised that a letter had been sent to the resident in East End Green regarding the Way.

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

127. **FINANCE**

- 127.1 The financial statement was received and noted.
- 127.2 No payments had been made since the last meeting.

128. **PLANNING**

- 118.1 An update on planning applications was received and noted.

129. **REPORTS**

- 129.1 Crossings and Greens: The Chairman again advised that the letter from a resident in East End Green had been responded to in relation to the Way.
- 129.2 Highways and Byways: Cllr Rochford agreed to look at trimming back the hedging in Staines Green adjacent to the sign, but could not do this until July/August due to nesting birds.
- 129.3 Play Area: Cllr Rochford advised he had removed the gate for repair.
- 129.4 Waterhall: The Chairman advised that following the recent meeting minutes had been issued which had no significant issues for the Parish. It was noted that next meeting was 8th September 2011
- 129.5 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, but that no applications had been received.
- 129.6 Panshanger Quarry: The Chairman advised of a revised consultation plan that Lafarge had issued that showed the land north of the Old Coach Road that was originally planned to have gravel extraction, was now suggested to be left as fields, which was clearly good news for all in the Parish. The next meeting of the liaison group will be held on 7 July 2011, and would involve a tour of the estate prior to the meeting. A planning application had also been received for initial works to the Orangery which was considered positive.

130. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A small amount of correspondence was distributed relating to local bus matters

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

- 131.1 The applications for Cllr Lester, Cllr Hunt and Cllr Jones had not been received in time by East Herts. Cllr Lester and Cllr Jones were happy to be co opted at the next meeting if the Council so desired. Cllr Hunt confirmed that he did not wish to stand for co option in May 2011. Based on this the Chairman wish to record his and all of the Parishioners sincere thanks for his service to the Council over the past twenty or so years. Cllr Hunts knowledge of all aspects of the Greens and Crossings will be greatly missed.
- 131.2 The Chairman also thanked Cllr Raymond for his contribution over the past term.
- 131.3 It was confirmed that the dead tree that had fallen over in East End Green had been cleared
- 131.4 The problem of 'racing' horse drawn carts along the A414 was raised, which the Chairman advised was not really a Parish Council matter. It was agreed that if this persisted that contact should be made with the police.
- 131.5 A mattress had been noted dumped in the verge adjacent to the polo field. HCC to be contacted to clear.
- 131.6 Cllr Rochford noted that Welwyn and Hatfield had tarmaced the surface of Cole Green way from the recycling centre towards Welwyn Garden, presumably to assist cyclists. He further commented on the very rutted surface of Deadfield Lane towards the A414, and requested that the holes were filled in to assist walkers.
- 131.7 It was noted that the concrete bollard at Cole Green remained in a 'dormant pose'
- 131.8 It was noted that the Conservation Society AGM was to be held on 17th May 2011 in the pavilion at the recreation ground at 8.00pm.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm

Signed

Dated