

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTINGORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllr. Mrs. C. Edwards (in the Chair)

Councillors: G. O’Leary, B. Jones, Mrs S. Edgell, T. Brennan, Mrs E. Bradbury, B. Simkins, H. Blake

In attendance: Ms. Nina L. Villa, Parish Clerk

Several Members of the Public

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs R. Morris and P. Rochford

128. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident raised concern about vehicles passing over Birch Green outside the Antique shop. There used to be a bollard in place and the resident queried whether this could be reinstated. The Council agreed that the area would be inspected and consideration given to reinstating if it was felt appropriate.

There was a discussion about the recent Bus service consultation issued by Hertfordshire County Council. It was noted that this was a specific item on the agenda so would be discussed in detail later in the meeting.

The issue of the track repairs at East End Green was discussed. The Clerk had investigated additional quotes and options in consultation with Cllr. Rochford and reported that there was conflicting opinion about how best to address the problem. It was agreed that in light of the concerns raised by the residents, the Risk Assessment of the track would be revisited as a matter of urgency and any required remedial action taken whilst the search for a more permanent solution continues.

129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded Members to make any Declarations of Interest that may arise during the meeting.

130. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2015 be approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the same.

131. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

It was noted that further to the Council's invitation, County Cllr. Ken Crofton has indicated his intention to attend the April meeting.

It was noted that no reply had been received from 22 Letty Green regarding the encroachment on to the green, the hedge along 17 Chapel Lane had not yet been cut despite a letter from the Clerk and that the growth along the kerbs (and several other Highways issues) remain unresolved. A letter had been received from the resident of 30 Letty Green and this was discussed later in the meeting

The Council recorded its sincere thanks to Cllr Rochford for the excellent work undertaken on the clearance of the pond.

132. FINANCE

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council approve the financial report
- b) The Council approve the payments due

133. PLANNING

3/15/0370/CPO – Land at Birchall Lane – Clerk instructed to reply as per Cllr Simkins' previous email detailing concerns about the present state of the road and potential for increased traffic flow

3/15/0277/FUL – East End Green – No objection

3/15/0208/FP – Rochfords – No objection

Councillors requested a monthly spreadsheet detailing all planning applications/decisions received.

134. EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

There was no update on the progress of the plan but it is expected to be presented to East Herts Council soon. Cllr O'Leary was in the process of drafting a response to Welwyn Hatfield Council's plan and will circulate proposed comments before it is submitted.

135. AROUND THE PARISH REPORTS

a) Crossings and Greens

The Council considered a reply from the resident of 30 Letty Green who it was alleged had caused considerable damage to the Green, essentially using it as a driveway to his property. Some case law was quoted, which the Clerk agreed to investigate, however it was noted that regardless of the legal position regarding access to property the resident had no authority to make any physical alterations to the green and therefore the Clerk was asked to respond asking the resident to reinstate the green with immediate effect.

There had been concern raised prior to the meeting about work being commissioned to tarmac existing crossings at Staines Green. The Clerk confirmed that she had been in contact with the resident who had previously asked the Council for permission to repair the crossing and he had not commissioned any work and was aware that he needed Council approval before any work could be undertaken.

b) Highways

There were various outstanding Highways issues around the Parish, all of which had been reported via the online fault reporting system. The Chairman encouraged Members to continue to report problems and it was noted that County Councillor Ken Crofton would be attending the April meeting.

It was noted that the changes to the road layout outside the school had led to some drivers attempting to U-turn and consequently churn up the ground on the corner. It was requested that the Clerk write to the school to make them aware and request that it inform parents of the issue and ask them to refrain from mounting the kerb.

c) Play Area

Nothing to report

d) Walter Hall Quarry

Nothing to report

e) Walter Wallinger

It was noted that the next meeting is due to take place in April.

f) Panshanger Quarry and Panshanger Park

The Council considered a reply from Lafarge Tarmac regarding the fence at Panshanger Park. It was felt that the reply missed some of the key points raised by the Council and that there were various other bodies who were supportive of having the fence removed. The Clerk would report back on any further correspondence at the next meeting.

g) Car Parking at Birch Green

Some improvement had been noted following the various works and staggered start times introduced by the school but the situation still required attention of the parking enforcement team at East Herts Council. The school is currently seeking quotes for the path from the gate.

136. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL BUS SERVICE CONSULTATION

The Council expressed its considerable concern about the proposal to scrap the 388 service expect for school journeys and recorded its strong objection to the proposals. It was noted that the villages had already suffered a significant loss of bus services following the rerouting of the 724. The Council was concerned that many residents were unaware of the proposed changes and that the consultation was badly designed, difficult to understand and as a result residents would be discouraged from completing and returning it. It was agreed that the Council would issue a letter to all households to make them aware of the proposals and how they can make their views known to the County Council. There was also a question as to whether the 724 could be rerouted to serve the villages and it was agreed to raise this with Cllr Crofton at the next meeting.

137. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had previously circulated a letter from Mark Prisk MP regarding rural broadband and Members were asked to feed their comments back to the Clerk so that she could respond on behalf of the Council.

138. ITEMS TO NOTE OR FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 20.50

Chairman_____

Dated_____