



Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th July 2013 at 7.30 pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

PRESENT: Cllrs Edwards, O'Leary, Barden, Brennan, O'Leary, Edgell, Blake, Bradbury
PC Andy Woodward, Mr M Pendock (Lafarge) 15 electors and the clerk, Tom Brindley.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The council accepted apologies from Cllrs R Morris, B Jones and District Councillor Linda Haysey

31. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

31.1. Members were reminded of the code of conduct regarding disclosable interests.

32. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

32.1. PC Andy Woodward addressed the meeting and answered questions regarding anti-social behaviour on The Cole Green Way. PC Woodward explained that as this was a public road, any vehicle using it must be taxed and insured and crash helmets must be worn. In answer to a question, PC Woodward advised that the normal number to call for anti-social behaviour was 101 but if it was felt there was a danger to the public, 999 should be used. The CMS had advised that while motor vehicles were not permitted, it was not possible to use physical barriers to prevent access. Mr H Flowers also reported motorcycles using the stopped off part of the Old Coach Road

32.2. Mike Pendock informed the council that Lafarge was holding two stakeholder events to discuss the restoration of Panshanger Park following reduction in mineral extraction activities. The first event was at 9.00 Friday 12th July at the David Lloyd leisure Centre, Hatfield Business Park, and that this was now being extended to the public.

32.3. Mr R Lester asked the council what was happening regarding obtaining Conservation Area status for Birch Green and Letty Green. The clerk advised that he had written to East Herts Council some time ago and had been informed that these settlements would be considered in the next conservation area review, but that no such review was planned.

32.4. Mr R Lester, speaking on behalf of Mr N Hunt questioned the Greens Crossings Working Party's recommendation to issue licences to allow some limited crossings to assist residents in Letty Green and Birch Green. Mr Lester advised the council that as the new 'light touch' approach had not been tested in the courts, he felt it was unwise to pursue this route and that, were the council to grant licences, Mr Hunt would challenge the council in the magistrates' court.

33. MINUTES OF MEETING 12TH JUNE

The minutes agreed and were signed by the chairman.

34. MATTERS ARISING

All actions were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

35. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013-14

Letty Green signs. Cllr Rochford advised that signs had been treated with anti-graffiti paint and were ready for commissioning. Ringway had been contacted and it was **RESOLVED** that an additional sum of up to £1000 be allocated for the purchase of posts and installation costs. The siting of the signs would be critical and a site meeting with Raj Goutam, Ringway district service manager was suggested.

35.1. Cllr O'Leary had researched the options and recommended that council purchase a pair of 12 x 6 foot goals with anti-theft anti vandal lockable in steel (includes nets) for £694.45 and D shaped net supports



at £99.99. The clerk was instructed to seek grants towards the cost and to proceed with the project within the budgeted cost.

35.2. The hedge surrounding the War Memorial had been removed. A decision on whether to replant or leave open was deferred until the autumn.

35.3. Birch Green Pond. A new project to clean Birch Green pond was agreed. This followed the request to clear the ditch as part of the Yellow Fish project undertaken by the school. Joseph Rochford's Nursery was thanked for cleaning the ditch at short notice to allow the project on sustainable drainage schemes to proceed. Cllr Rochford advised that Peter Oakenfull had volunteered to undertake a survey of work required. Mr Oakenfull advised that work could be undertaken under a conservation licence and that he is a licensed pond surveyor authorised to undertake work on ponds with protected wildlife such as Greater Crested Newts.

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

36. RISK REGISTER

The Risk Register was reviewed. It was agreed to add a risk: Greens Crossings Licences to cover the risks of a) issuing a licence and b) not issuing a licence, either of which could open the council to challenge. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the risk register and to consider scoring the risks on the basis of likelihood and impact, in time for the next annual review.

37. FINANCE

37.1. The financial report to 30th June 2013 was noted.

37.2. Three payments were approved: see attached list.

37.3. The external audit had been completed and the annual return approved by BDO. The council **RESOLVED** to accept the external auditor's report and that the report would be published on the Birch Green notice board and the parish web site.

38. PLANNING

38.1. The planning report was noted.

38.2. Three applications were considered:

38.3.3/13/1085/FP 2 Staines Green. Members had no objections.

38.4.3/13/1120/FP. 44 Chapel Lane. Members had no objection to the development.

38.5.3/13/1095/CM. B&T Motor Salvage. Portakabin and lorry parking. Members were concerned that the changes may cause additional lorry movements and commercial vehicles parking, waiting on the road. It was noted that a post set to indicate the no parking limit, was no longer visible. Members **RESOLVED** to object on the grounds of visual impact on the openness of the Green Belt and unacceptable impact the of additional lorry movements.

39. EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN

39.1. There will be a meeting of the working group in July with a draft plan put out for consultation in September.

40. REPORTS

40.1. Crossing and Greens: Cllrs Rochford and Barden had completed a safety inspection of the greens and found nothing urgent.



40.2. Highways:

- a. County Cllr K Crofton was welcomed to the meeting. Cllr Crofton commended the telephone reporting system, operated by Ringway as the easiest way to report faults.
- b. Members raised issues with the blocked gulleys on The Old Coach Road and outside the school that caused flooding (and in the winter, ice). Members noted gulleys were never properly cleared. Cllr Crofton asked members to note the fault reporting number and to copy him if a fault remained unresolved.
- b. The clerk had written to the occupier's solicitor indicating the council's ongoing support for the diversion of footpath 8. The clerk was asked to write a stronger letter of support.

40.3. **Play Area:** Cllr Rochford agreed to look at the recommendations in the recent safety report. Cllr Edwards agreed to undertake the weekly inspection while Cllr Jones was incapacitated.

40.4. **Water Hall:** Bayford Parish Council has started a petition against the expansion plans..

40.5. **Walter Wallinger:** Charity: Nothing to report.

40.6. **Panshanger Quarry:** Cllr Blake had attended a meeting of the Friends of Panshanger Park and advised that a further meeting was planned for 23rd July.

40.7. **Car Parking at Birch Green**

- a. The markings have been repainted.
- b. A meeting had been arranged between the school and Joseph Rochford's Nursery to explore a drop off area using land behind the school.
- c. County Cllr K Crofton advised the council that the scheme for parking restrictions at Birch Green was progressing. Members were concerned that the parish council had not been consulted and that members had concerns about the times restrictions were in place. It was agreed to consider the matter in a working group consisting of Cllrs Edwards, Brennan, O'Leary and Rochford with representatives of the school and local residents. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate power to the clerk to respond to Cllr Crofton based on the findings of the working party.

41. **GREENS CROSSINGS WORKING PARTY**

- 41.1. The Greens Crossings Working Party had made a series of recommendations to council. In light of the challenge to these decisions, the recommendations to grant licences were withdrawn to allow the clerk to seek further legal advice.
- 41.2. Cllr O'Leary asked the clerk to discuss the matter with the council's insurers and to confirm that no personal liability could fall on members if they made a decision later challenged in court.
- 41.3. The recommendation to reinstate the green at 3 Letty Green was put to members and it was **RESOLVED** to grub up the redundant crossing and reinstate the green as grass.
- 41.4. Cllr Rochford advised that he was continuing to pursue the release of land by Hatfield Estates to allow an access to the rear of properties in Birch Green.

42. **CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence had been circulated by email.

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

- 43.1. Cllr Edgell asked about responsibility for trimming hedges as those at East End Green were protruding onto the highway causing a safety hazard. The clerk advised that the trimming of hedges was up to the land owner and that this was a matter for highways to enforce.



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Signed: Original signature on file

Date: 11th September 2013



Payments Approved

Payee	Description	Net	VAT	Gross
T Brindley	Expenses	179.69	23.60	203.29
Frank Cooper	Grass Cutting	1,272.00	254.40	1526.4
BDO	Audit	100.00	20.00	120.00
Totals		1,551.69	298.00	1,849.69