



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL**

**HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2017 AT 19.00 IN HERTINGFORDBURY COWPER SCHOOL**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Haidy Blake, Lizzer Bradbury, Tommy Brennan, Shobha Edgell, Roger Morris, Gary O'Leary, Paul Rochford, Barry Simkins

In attendance: Amanda Glew (Clerk), Mike Pendock Estates Manager Tarmac, Rab Harley Friends of Panshanger Park and residents Martin Jack, Peter Newson and Adam West

### **28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

### **29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **30. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman explained that some Agenda items will be moved around to accommodate discussion of Panshanger Park earlier in the meeting.

### **31. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Adam West attended to explain his problem with two overgrown poplar trees at East End Green. They are located where the track turns into tarmac road by the farm. Whenever there is a gust of wind his TV reception is affected. The Chairman asked Mr West to provide a photo of the trees and confirmation of the problem from a specialist company.

Martin Jack continues to be concerned regarding the lorries driving through Staines Green. HCC Highways have recommended that a clearer sign saying "Rochfords" would be a help as well as other signage saying "No Entry for Heavy Vehicles". The low bridge sign should be relocated from the Cowpers arms to the village. Mr Jack would like the Parish Council to write to Highways in support of these although he agreed that better signage would not solve the problem completely.

The Chairman confirmed that the Greens & Crossing Committee had agreed that a meeting should be held between nominees of the Parish Council and the Rochfords operations team to discuss all possible options which could improve the navigation of deliveries. Cllr Rochford agreed to this and the Clerk will arrange.



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## 32. THE MINUTES

It was confirmed that an update on the Waterhall Quarry appeal is awaited. The Minutes were agreed and signed.

## 33. STANDING ITEMS

### (e) Panshanger Park

The Chairman felt that there were four important items to cover. Minutes from the 20<sup>th</sup> February meeting with Tarmac, extraction end dates, forest school and an update on the Country Park management plan.

#### Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February between Friends of Panshanger Park (including representation from Hertingfordbury Parish Council) and Tarmac was discussed. At this meeting it was agreed that a new Heritage Committee would be formed consisting of representatives from Tarmac, Hertingfordbury Parish Council, Herts Garden Trust, Historic England and Herts Building Preservation Trust. The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting and Mike Pendock confirmed he agreed them on behalf of Tarmac following reference to Stuart Wykes, who chaired the 20<sup>th</sup> February meeting with the Parish Chairman.

Since the 20<sup>th</sup> February meeting Hertingfordbury Parish Council has been deliberately excluded from the proposed Heritage Committee, which held its first meeting in May. The Chairman wished to understand why and who approved this change to the agreement made between the parties.

A follow-up letter on 18<sup>th</sup> April from the Parish Chairman to Nikki Cook (Tarmac consultant at the meeting)) asking about progress with the Heritage Committee and the invitation of the Parish Council to its meetings as agreed, received no response. Enquiries to Mr Pendock about the Council's Heritage Committee invitation have also not been responded to satisfactorily.

Mike Pendock said any further discussion on the agreed minutes should be taken up with Stuart Wykes (Director Land & Natural Resources). The Chairman pointed out that the point of contact following the 20<sup>th</sup> February meeting was agreed as himself and that if the Parish Council had to follow-up the matter further it would now approach Martin Riley as the agreement of 20<sup>th</sup> February seems to have been broken.

Rab Harley, Friends of Panshanger Park, confirmed that the minutes were a true reflection of the meeting. The question is why the Parish Council had not been invited to the Heritage Committee and the Chairman suggested that this is the deliberate undermining of proper and



## HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

statutory business of a local authority, particularly as the Parish Council is proceeding with the development of a Neighbourhood Plan within which the heritage status of Panshanger Park is a key component. The Chairman also noted that Tarmac, along with other stakeholders, had been invited and had attended the Parish Council workshop on Grade II\* Panshanger Park.

Mike Pendock offered to speak to Stuart Wykes on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July and respond to the Parish Council as soon as possible regarding the Heritage Committee. Rab Harley asked if a decision had been made by Tarmac to exclude the Parish Council from the Heritage Committee. Mike Pendock said a decision was taken to exclude the Parish Council subsequent to the 20<sup>th</sup> February meeting. The Chairman confirmed that no correspondence had been sent to the Council suggesting any change to the mutually agreed action.

The Chairman noted that East Herts DC had also been invited to the first meeting of the Heritage Committee even though their attendance had not been discussed at the 20<sup>th</sup> February meeting.

### Extraction

The Chairman had thought extraction was now finished at the Park. Mike Pendock explained that Tarmac is still extracting from phase F and H and he offered to take the Chairman and other Councillors around the site. He also confirmed that none of the current areas of extraction create any issue for public access. The finish time for extraction was confirmed as mid November.

### Forest School

This was given temporary permission until October 2017. Mr Pendock suggested a further application would be made by Tarmac to extend the current permission to July 2019. The Chairman suggested this will be a concern as the school is currently located in the historic core of the Park and the current temporary permission has been objected to on application in 2015 by the Parish Council, Herts County Council, Herts Garden Trust, The Gardens Trust, Historic England and the report of the East Herts Landscape Officer. The Chairman pointed out that a time of two years had been specifically allowed to enable Tarmac to identify a new location and that new locations had already been suggested. The Chairman pointed out that the current location had created both damage to the heritage value of the historic core of the Grade II\* Park and it had also been used as a reason to deny public access to this part of the Park for two years.

The Chairman made the point that once extraction is finished the public will have a right of access to its long awaited Country Park as enshrined in the original Secretary of State approval for gravel extraction in return for the Country Park. The Chairman highlighted the importance of Tarmac being prepared for people exercising those legitimate rights of access and that unnecessary impediments should be removed in advance. Mike Pendock said he would like to



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

hear from HCC as to what is happening with the Park Management Plan. The Chairman said that is a matter for HCC.

Mike Pendock stated that Tarmac do not want to make any more interventions on a piecemeal basis, prior to the approval of a Country Park Management Plan. The Chairman stated that an agreed set of quick wins was approved on 20<sup>th</sup> February which could have been implemented, to the benefit of the public, by Easter 2017 and that these had nothing to do with the Country Park Management Plan and that Tarmac had reneged on these commitments.

Mike Pendock updated the meeting on the following: riding event; Get Moving event; Panshanger 5 mile run; Festival of Wildlife on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July (Chairman to be invited as a VIP). Hugh O'Reilly has retired. Jennifer Gilbert (People and Wildlife Officer) has taken on a new role and will be replaced. Visit from Royal Forestry Society last week. Proposed dog dip on the River Mimram.

The Chairman expressed deep concern about the continued lack of disabled access to the Park. Mike Pendock confirmed that this is recognised as a shortfall. He is concerned that all interested parties should reach agreement before Tarmac put anything new in place. The Chairman said that unfortunately there was no mechanism for such discussions to take place. An example was the lack of follow up to the Mimram Valley report on access. Cllrs Blake, O'Leary and Simkins suggested calling a special meeting to discuss these matters further.

## 34. **PLANNING**

### (a) **Current Applications**

Planning ref: 3/17/1434/HH 55 Cole Green Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2NL. Proposed garage conversion. Replacement of detached dwelling. No comment.

Planning ref: 3/17/1383/FUL Fosters Pet & Garden Centre Birchall Lane Cole Green Hertford Hertfordshire. Extension to front elevation of existing building to provide additional retail and new café floor space together with associated alterations. 33 existing spaces. Parish Council to comment "provide more data on expected customer flow and impact on parking". Is there evidence that there will be enough parking? Also is there any evidence of the original plans for the building.

Planning Appeal. LPA Appeal Reference: 17/00062/REFUSE 25 Chapel Lane Letty Green Hertford Hertfordshire. Construction of 1no. 5 bed house, double garage and driveway. No comment.

Planning ref: 3/17/1243/ADV The Cowper Arms 57 Cole Green Lane Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2NL. 3no aluminium tray panels (1no double sided, 2no single sided). No comment.



## HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Birchall Garden Suburb. Mike Pendock reported a very busy time at the recent exhibition. The Chairman asked when the planning application will be put in and Mike Pendock thought by the end of the year. Martin Jack said that there is still no answer to how the vast increase in traffic from such developments could be dealt with. David McCabe is the correct person to speak to regarding the outline planning application. The Chairman confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) team will arrange a meeting with Mr McCabe and his team to drill down into the details of relevant issues. The NP team will consider whom else to invite to that meeting from Councils and relevant stakeholders. Cllr Linda Haysey confirmed that this is a strategic site but that it still has a lot of detailed processes to go through before any final approvals for this site are given. These include the Local Plan Inspectors assessment and/or any planning application.

58 Chapel Lane. The Clerk has spoken to Paul Dean, the officer in charge of enforcement. He confirmed that the replacement dwelling application was refused and an officer attended the site to request building works to cease. As far as he is aware they have now stopped. The applicant has 6 months from the date of the refusal notice (7/4/17) to lodge an appeal.

(b) **Decisions on Outstanding Applications**

Planning ref: 3/17/1021/HH Birchwood 26A Birch Green Hertford Hertfordshire SG14 2LU.  
Granted subject to Conditions 5/7/17.

(c) **East Herts Local Plan**

Nothing further to report at this stage. Local Plan inspection hearing dates are still to be confirmed, likely to be Autumn 2017.

(d) **Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee**

The next meeting will be arranged for late September when the Chairman thinks there should be a substantive discussion. Cllr Linda Haysey recommended looking at Gilston (new garden town) as useful background.

35. **STANDING ITEMS**

(a) **Works Programme**

The Staines Green well repair has now been completed. The Clerk will inform the Parish News.

It was agreed to release a figure from reserves for projects. A clearer decision can then be taken on which project(s) to fund. The Chairman suggested and it was agreed that a figure of £5,000 for this financial year be released. It will be called the Village Green Heritage Fund.



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## (b) Greens

The Clerk to inform Messrs Oakenfull and Sage that no decision has been made yet on whether to go ahead with work to the Cole Green track. Cllr Rochford requested a copy of both quotes.

The safety report is still awaited on the playground. It was agreed that new bins are needed and it was decided to remove the existing bins prior to replacing them. Cllr Rochford will remove them after the end of the school term.

## (c) Highways

Deadfield Lane. Cllr Morris confirmed that this is not registered as Village Green and queried who resurfaced it last time (10-15 years ago).

## (d) Panshanger Park

Dealt with above.

## (e) Quarries

Dealt with above.

## (f) B&T Motors

The Clerk will write to B&T to arrange a liaison meeting with the Parish Council.

## 36. AOB

Cllr Linda Haysey discussed the Consultation on East Herts Draft Physical Activity Strategy 2017. Cllr Linda Haysey left the meeting.

## 37. FINANCE

### (a) Financial Statement

The financial statement and summary were received.

### (b) Payments Due

Cheques Issued			Amount	Chq No
12-07-17	Frank Cooper	Grass cut	1749.60	269
12-07-17	B Simkins	Well repair	1030.00	270
12-07-17	A Glew	June salary	305.50	271
12-07-17	A Glew	July salary	300.20	272
12-07-17	DCK Accounts	Payroll	60.00	273
12-07-17	A Glew	Expenses	76.53	274



# HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

## Other

### Payments

LGPS	Pension	May	83.63	BACS
LGPS	Pension	June	89.14	BACS
LGPS	Pension	July	87.49	BACS

### Receipts

HAPTC	Transparency Grant	232.60	CHQ
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### (c) Deposits

It was agreed to leave the reserves in the Co-op Business Select 14 Day Account.

### (e) Insurance

The Clerk will check the insurance schedule to confirm whether someone carrying out ad hoc work to the Greens is covered. Also to find out whether Councillors involved are covered. Examples are resident Steve Davies' work mowing the Village Green adjacent to Birch Green pond and Cllr Haidy Blake's litter picking at the playground.

### 38. AOB

Joan Wheatley is concerned about the oak tree replacements. Cllr Rochford reported that this needs to wait until the autumn. He will write to explain.

Cllr Simkins reported that the verge by Howard Flowers' house is not being mown by Coopers. Cllr Rochford will speak to them.

There is a dying oak tree on Cole Green. Cllr Rochford will find someone qualified to take a look.

Cllr Edgell reported a tree branch at Cole Green/Letty Green crossroads which needs cutting.

The Clerk confirmed that the risk assessments should be undertaken annually and that blank forms had already been circulated to Councillors.

Rosemary Cooper has asked the Parish Council whether they would be interested in taking possession of a photograph of Hertingfordbury Football Club dating from before WW1. The Chairman has responded to say that the Friends of Panshanger Park and the Parish Council would be interested.

An anonymous email was received through the Parish Council website complaining about the burning of garden waste in Staines Green on a hot evening.



## HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

HAPTC had responded to the Clerk's question about annual performance reviews to say that it is "essential for good practice as your employer". A comprehensive guide is on their website.

Linda Callard had enquired through the Parish Council website about the strip of land running between 8 Staines Green and the highway. The Clerk has informed her that the Parish Council has no power to grant a formal legal easement.

Consultation documents issued by the Police and Crime Commissioner on Herts Fire and Rescue – Potential Change of Governance have been circulated to Councillors.

"Guide to safe and successful events – new way to notify" document from East Herts Council has been circulated to Councillors.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

The Clerk and Cllr Brennan conducted the quarterly bank reconciliation.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017