

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HERTINGORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 14TH JANUARY 2015 AT 19.30 IN HERTINGFORDBURY COWPER SCHOOL

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

Councillors: Mrs H. Blake, G. O'Leary, P. Rochford, B. Jones, Mrs S. Edgell, T. Brennan, Mrs E. Bradbury, B. Simkins, R. Morris

In attendance: Cllr Mrs L. Haysey, East Herts Council (for part of the meeting)

Ms. Nina L. Villa, Parish Clerk

Mrs Kate Harwood (for part of the meeting)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Kate Harwood of Herts. Garden Trust addressed the Council to raise her grave concern about a fence which has recently been erected along Dragonfly Path in Panshanger Park. The fencing almost completely obstructs the stunning view of the lake and was, in her view, unnecessary as alternative, less intrusive barrier methods could have been utilised. She also raised concern about the condition of the historic building and the lack of engagement from the land owners around heritage issues generally.

The Council shared Mrs Harwood's concerns and proposed to lend its support to the campaign to have the fencing removed.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council instruct the Clerk to write to LaFarge, English Heritage, East Herts. District Council, Herts. County Council, Oliver Heald MP, Mark Prisk MP and Herts Mercury to raise its concerns.

Mrs Harwood left the meeting

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that the recent litter pick had been extremely successful and thanked everyone involved for their assistance.

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2014 be approved as a correct record and the Chairman be authorised to sign the same.

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

None

6. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15 – PROGRESS REPORT

It was noted that the notice board in Birch Green was now in place but there had been no recent progress on the War Memorial repairs. A date was still awaited for work on the pond and this should be agreed shortly.

7. FINANCE

It was noted that the financial reports were not complete as the Clerk does not yet have access to the online banking system and cannot reconcile the accounts. A new signatory mandate will need to be completed to give her access and this was being progressed.

The Council reviewed the draft budget for 2015/16 and agreed to set a budget of £12,000 representing a Band D Charge of £38.75.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- a) The Council approve the partial financial report
- b) The Council approve the payments due
- c) The Council approve the draft budget for 2015/16 and the precept demand of £12,000 and authorise the signing of the precept demand.

8. PLANNING

The Council noted that the District Council had been informed of some work which was due to take place at Rochford's Nursery under Permitted Development rights.

There were no other planning applications to consider.

Cllr Mrs Haysey arrived during the discussion of this item

9. EAST HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN

It was noted that there was a meeting to discuss the draft plan on Thursday 15th January at Wallfields at 10am for any Councillor who wished to attend but there was no other update at this time and the draft was still expected to be presented to the District Council in March 2015.

10. AROUND THE PARISH REPORTS

- a) Crossings and Greens

It was noted with dismay and concern that a resident in Letty Green had caused considerable damage to the Green, essentially using it as a driveway to his property. The Council was extremely concerned at this and instructed the Clerk to write to the resident concerned demanding immediate reinstatement of the green. The Council was in agreement that it would proceed with legal action were the situation not rectified satisfactorily.

It was noted that the phone box in Letty Green has been vandalised but since been repaired. There was some discussion around whether a red phone box could be acquired to replace the existing one.

It was noted that a lorry had recently caused damage to Letty Green and that the kerb stones/edging was obscured by overgrowth and needs cutting back.

The lamppost in Cole Green had still not been replaced.

- b) It was reported that the gully in Piper's Road was blocked and needs clearing.

Several members reported concern about the potholes/blocked drains and resultant flooding on Old Coach Road near the school which was causing children to have to walk in the road to get to and from the school. This had been reported but was not considered urgent but Members felt it was a serious safety concern. Members also queried the progress of the proposed 'drop off area' outside the school.

It was reported that the overgrowth from the hedge of 17 Chapel Lane was overhanging the footpath and causing an obstruction.

Members reported that the width restriction sign on Lower Hatfield Road had been knocked over and needed to be repaired and that an arrow sign near 30 Letty Green was also down and needed repair.

It was noted that the footpath from Birch Green to Cole Green was extremely slippery and required attention. Lafarge had not yet cut the hedging along the path although it was noted that this could take place as late as February.

The previously reported issues with Staines Green to Hertingfordbury path has not yet been addressed.

- c) No matters arising
d) No matters arising
e) No matters arising – next meeting due to take place in April
f) No matters arising
g) It was noted that the parking enforcement officer mentioned at the last meeting was in the process of being recruited and the Council was advised to contact East Herts Council to make it aware of the concerns about parking at the school.

The Clerk was instructed to progress all of the above matters with the relevant authorities.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to note

12. ITEMS TO NOTE OR FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

Cllr Haysey suggested that they litter pick might be extended to mirror a scheme in Welwyn where local volunteers offer to assist older/housebound residents with clearance of rubbish from their homes. This would be passed on to those involved for consideration.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 21.10.

Chairman_____

Dated_____