

**Minutes of the annual meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 14 May 2008 at 7.30pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green**

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PRESENT: Cllrs R Lester (Chairman), S Edgell, E Bradbury, N Hunt, B Jones and J Raymond

In attendance: three electors and the clerk, Mr G Irwin

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Lester be elected chairman for the coming year. Cllr Lester signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Hunt be elected vice-chairman for the coming year.

3. WALTER WALLINGER'S CHARITY

RESOLVED that Cllr Edgell be elected to represent the parish council on Walter Wallinger's Charity.

4. WOOLMERS PARK LIAISON GROUP

RESOLVED that Cllr Raymond be elected to represent the parish council on the Woolmers Park Liaison Group.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bonner, Edwards and Morris. District councillor Haysey also sent her apologies.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

7. ELECTORS' COMMENTS

7.1 The condition of the way across East End Green was again raised and the question as to what the parish council considered an acceptable state to which it was prepared to maintain the way.

7.2 It was reported that car parking in Birch Green was an ever-increasing problem with cars parking on both sides of the road and on the village green. The clerk will contact Herts Highways to see if a double yellow line could be painted on the opposite side to the school.

7.3 It was reported that the Len Rose seat in Birch Green was in need of a coat of wood preservative. The clerk will contact Cllr Rochford.

8. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2008 be confirmed and signed by the chairman as a correct record.

9. MATTERS ARISING

9.1 (Minute 141.1) Cllr Rochford will speak to the owner of the land adjoining Deadfield Lane once the present work is complete.

9.2 All other matters had either been actioned or were separate agenda items.

10. INSURANCE

10.1 The assets register was received and it was noted that the book value for the war memorial did not

- represent the cost of replacing it.
- 10.2 RESOLVED to accept the quote from Norwich Union for a minimum three-year period, offering a saving of £135.75 this year. Noted that a further sum of £500 would be transferred to specific reserves for self-insurance.
11. FINANCE
- 11.1 The financial statement was received and noted.
- 11.2 There had been no payments made since the last meeting.
- 11.3 RESOLVED that three payments be authorised: £347.25 to HAPTC for annual subscription; £562.83 to Coopers for grass cutting; £569.48 to Came & Co for insurance with Norwich Union.
12. ANNUAL RETURN
- 12.1 RESOLVED that the council confirms its belief in the effectiveness of its internal audit procedure.
- 12.2 RESOLVED that the statement of accounts and annual governance statement be approved and signed by the chairman and clerk.
13. PLANNING
- An update on planning applications was received and noted.
14. REPORTS
- 14.1 Crossings and Greens: Concern was expressed at the widths of the driveway and the removal of hedges at 25 Birch Green; Cllr Hunt will meet with the owner. Cllr Hunt will also meet with the owner of 29 Birch Green who had contacted the clerk regarding proposed works to the hedge.
- 14.2 Highways and Byways: The clerk agreed to be a point of contact for residents to report incidents on the roads of the parish and also those within Hertingfordbury village. There was a suggestion in the village that there should be a 20 mph speed limit in Birch Green; the clerk will raise this with Herts Highways.
- 14.3 Play Area: Cllr Jones reported that the play area was in good state.
- 14.4 Waterhall: Nothing further to report.
- 14.5 Walter Wallinger's Charity: Noted that there had been a greater than usual number of claims in the past year.
- 14.6 Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing to report.
- 14.7 War Memorial: Nothing to report.
- 14.8 Greens Car Park: Nothing to report. The chairman would contact Lafarge for an update.
15. REMOVAL OF PUBLIC PAYPHONES
- RESOLVED that the parish council should write objecting to the removal of the payphone in Birch Green and in Hertingfordbury.
16. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
- Draft minutes of the APM held on 9 April 2008 were received and noted.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was dealt with.

18. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

18.1 The clerk was asked to report flytipping near the junction of Hertingfordbury Lane and The Old Coach Road.

18.2 The clerk was asked to report a damaged gulley and kerb stone near the junction of Chapel Lane and Station Road, Letty Green.

18.3 The clerk was asked to contact EHDC to sweep Chapel Lane, Letty Green.

18.4 Cllr Haysey has available a grant of up to £250 which can be made to a community group.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Signed

Dated