



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 19.00 IN THE BRACE ROOM, ST MARY'S, HERTINGFORDBURY

PRESENT: Cllrs Gary O'Leary, Barry Simkins, Haidy Blake, Tommy Brennan, Shobha Edgell, Paul Rochford

In attendance: Amanda Glew (Clerk), Peter Newson (resident), Peter Oakenfull (Herts Green Corridor Group), Julian Seymour (Chelgate Local)

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies.

40. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

41. LOCAL PLAN INSPECTORS HEARINGS

The Chairman gave an outline of the timetable for the East Herts District Plan and Welwyn Hatfield Borough Plan examinations. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council make a submission to both the East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield Planning Inspectorate hearings.

The Chairman believes that EHDC and WHBC have not complied with their "duty to co-operate" with respect to a "strategic cross border matter".

The Council were asked to support a submission to be put forward ahead of the next Parish Council meeting to that effect. It was unanimously agreed that HPC will make a submission as indicated.

Cllr Blake commented that if the PC makes a submission to the Inspector the PC could be called upon to attend the Hearing. It was noted that HPC may not have an opportunity to speak, however, the PC have been consistent on the issues over time.

The Chairman outlined that ecology and biodiversity and other issues have not been rigorously addressed by the two Local Planning Authorities and land promoters. Peter Oakenfull, local ecologist, confirmed he has been raising many of the issues since 2009.

An ecological evaluation report was commissioned by the Parish Council in 2017.

The Chairman confirmed that he would be prepared to represent the Parish Council at the examinations which start on 3rd October for EHDC. He emphasised that he may not be called upon to speak. The Chairman's potential attendance and speaking role was unanimously agreed.

The relevant issues for the Parish are green belt, landfill, heritage, biodiversity and infrastructure.



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Cllr Rochford was interested to know about the strength of the commissioned ecological report.

Peter Oakenfull explained that the ecology aspect has not been dealt with thoroughly enough and needed to be considered in much greater depth to satisfy the requirements of the NERC Act 2006.

Cllr Rochford suggested that the Plan may go ahead anyway. He further suggested that the Parish could be in danger of losing out when infrastructure such as health centres are built.

The Chairman said that the Inspector has to be clear that sites are deliverable and variable and that infrastructure will likely follow as is required to support development. The Parish Council is trying to improve a Plan that is essential for housing provision through to 2033.

The Chairman said that HPC is trying to influence long term development of our area and this is the only opportunity the PC will get to influence this 15 year period.

At a later stage in the Plan Inspection there will be more specific discussions about different sites, however, the question of duty to co-operate is addressed in the early stage of the plan review.

42. PAYMENTS DUE

Payments Made			Amount	Chq No
04-09-17	EHDC	Play insp	51.05	275
04-09-17	BDO	Audit	276.00	276
04-09-17	DCK Accounts	Payroll	30.00	277
04-09-17	A Glew	Salary	300.04	278
04-09-17	Frank Cooper	Grass cut	640.80	279
04-09-17	LGPS	Employee	16.42	BACS
04-09-17	LGPS	Employer	69.38	BACS

43. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairman asked Mr Seymour whether Tarmac were getting ready to produce a planning application and Mr Seymour responded that they were getting closer.

There were no questions.

Messrs Newson, Oakenfull and Seymour left the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Chairman _____ Dated _____

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th September 2017