



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 13th November 2013 at 7.30 pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

PRESENT: Cllrs C Edwards (Chairman), E Bradbury, T Brennan, P Rochford, H Blake, R Morris
3 electors and the clerk, Tom Brindley.

73. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The council accepted apologies from Cllrs G O'Leary, B Jones and S Edgell.

74. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The chairman welcomed Mr Barry Simkins, who had expressed an interest in being co-opted to fill the casual vacancy. Mr Simkins explained his interest in local affairs.

75. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

75.1. A late application for a grant had been received and the chairman proposed to consider this item prior to item 8.

75.2. Members were reminded that declarations of interest should be made immediately prior to an item being debated.

76. MINUTES OF MEETING 9TH OCTOBER

The minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by the chairman.

77. MATTERS ARISING

77.1. (51) TREE PLANTING, BIRCH GREEN: The tree had been planted by the three oldest residents. It was agreed to erect a plaque to mark the tree planting.

77.2. (50) FOOTPATH 8: The council had received another request to write to the county regarding support for the footpath 8 diversion. It was **RESOLVED** to send a further letter of support.

77.3. (45.1) CASUAL VACANCY: One expression of interest had been received (from Barry Simkins). After a short discussion it was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Mr Simkins. Mr Simkins signed the acceptance of office and took his seat on the council.

77.4. All other actions were covered elsewhere on the agenda.

78. WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013-14

78.1. **Letty Green signs.** Ringway had insisted on pre-payment and a cheque had been issued to cover the installation costs. Ringway had now confirmed installation would take place within a few weeks. Cllr Rochford still sought a site meeting as the sign near the Cowper Arms was currently sited under trees.

78.2. **Play Area.** The new mini-soccer goal posts had been received. Cllr Rochford was arranging installation.

78.3. **Pond.** Peter Oakenfull who has agreed to undertake a survey of work required has further advised that the work should be completed in the New Year. Some trees will need to be removed to allow light in. It was agreed to arrange a meeting of local residents who might be prepared to undertake the clearance under Mr Oakenfull's supervision before December.

78.4. The progress on the 2013/14 work programme was noted.



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

79. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE

The clerk left the meeting for this item.

79.1. It was resolved to award the clerk a rise of one SCP on the NJC scale from the anniversary of employment (1st August 2013).

80. GRANT APPLICATION

80.1. Cllrs Blake and Simkins declared a non-pecuniary interest and did not participate in the debate of vote.

80.2. An application had been received from The Friends of Panshanger Park. The clerk advised that the application was valid and fell within the guidelines. It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 to The Friends of Panshanger Park.

81. BUDGET

81.1. The clerk presented a draft budget. The council's earmarked reserves are high and the free reserve is adequate. The budget assumed that East Herts Council would continue to pay the New Homes Bonus in 2014/15. The clerk advised that this assumption would be revisited following the chancellor's autumn statement. Projects suggested for the coming financial year: Birch Green pond, notice board refresh, pin kerbing pilot study.

81.2. The clerk was asked to incorporate these in the budget to be agreed in January 2013.

82. FINANCE

82.1. The financial report to 31st October 2013 was noted.

82.2. Cllr Rochford declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in two payments.

82.3. Seven payments were approved: see attached list.

83. PLANNING

83.1. The planning report was noted.

83.2. (3/13/1888) Demolition of outbuilding and erection of car port. Members raised no objections.

84. EAST HERTS LOCAL PLAN

84.1. The council had received notification of the East Herts Green Belt review. The clerk was asked to make a specific invitation to Cllr Haysey to attend the next meeting to update council on the East Herts Local Plan.

85. REPORTS

85.1. Crossing and Greens:

- a. The Greens Crossings Working Party meeting was postponed until Cllr Edwards had received advice from a lawyer specialising in greens crossings.
- b. A tree at Cole Green (T1 on the Cole Green list) had blown down in the storm of 23rd October. The tree had damaged property at 5 Cole Green. The council's insurers had been advised and the clerk had been verbally advised that the claim would be repudiated as the council had not been negligent in the maintenance of the tree. The tree had been removed at a cost to the council of £600.

85.2. **Highways:** It was noted that hedge alongside 31 Cole Green was overhanging the road causing visibility issues. The chairman agreed to visit the occupier and ask for the hedge to be trimmed.



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

85.3. **Play Area:** Cllr Rochford had noted several items that needed minor repair. The clerk was asked to contact the original installers and obtain a quote for refurbishment.

85.4. **Water Hall:** Nothing to report.

85.5. **Walter Wallinger Charity:** Next meeting is April.

85.6. **Panshanger Quarry:** Nothing to report.

85.7. **Car Parking at Birch Green:** The clerk had sent a response supporting the scheme but with a request that the lines be of the pale yellow and narrow format as used in conservation areas.

86. CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the correspondence received.

87. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

87.1. **Register of Members' Interest.** Members were reminded that it was their responsibility to ensure their entry on the Register of Members' Interest was up to date and that it was a criminal offence not to do so.

87.2. **Free School.** Cllr Bradbury advised the council of the Free School being set up in Woodhall, WGC, which would cater for pupils aged 4-16. This may draw pupils from Hertingfordbury parish.

The meeting closed at 09.30 p.m.

Signed: _____ Date: _____



HERTINGFORDBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Payments Approved

<u>Payments since last meeting</u>					
	<u>Description</u>	<u>CQ</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
Ringway	Letty Green Signs	400050	495.28	99.06	594.34
		Totals	495.28	99.06	594.34
<u>Payments due</u>					
<u>Payee</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>CQ</u>	<u>Net</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Gross</u>
Frank Cooper	Grass cutting	400051	777.00	155.40	932.40
T Brindley	Clerk's X's	400052	68.04	2.74	70.78
Rochford Gardens Ltd	Hedge cutting	400053	700.00	140.00	840.00
Rochford Gardens Ltd	Tree work	400054	600.00	120.00	720.00
Friends of Panshanger	Grant	400055	500.00	0.00	500.00
Royal British Legion	Grant for Wreath	400056	25.00	0.00	25.00
		Totals	2,145.04	418.14	2,563.18