

Minutes of the meeting of Hertingfordbury Parish Council held on Wednesday 13 July 2011 at 7.30pm in Hertingfordbury Cowper JMI School, Birch Green

PRESENT: Cllrs R Lester (chairman) P Rochford, E Bradbury, R Morris, S Edgell, T Brennan, G O'Leary, B Jones and C Edwards.

In attendance: 5 electors for part of the meeting and T Brindley

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from District Councillor Linda Hasey.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

31. ELECTORS COMMENTS

- 31.1 Discussion occurred regarding the travellers who had pitched up at Cole Green on Saturday afternoon 9th July 2011. There was concern expressed as to why the police had not moved them on. The Chairman explained what had happened and advised he and others had visited the travellers on Saturday afternoon and advised them they were trespassing. Police contact had also been made on Saturday and followed up on Monday. Sgt Andrew Palfreyman had been allotted the 'case' and the Chairman had meet with him on Monday afternoon to explain about the Inclosure Acts and request that a Section 61 notice under the Public Order Act be served as land owners to remove the travellers. The chairman had been advised by the police however to seek an injunction through the County Court to facilitate their removal. After contacting the Court on Tuesday morning and being advised that application had to be made in person, the Chairman had visited at 3.00pm on Tuesday afternoon (due to business commitments) to find it closed at 2.00pm. A further meet with Sgt Palfreyman, to hand over a draft Section 61 notice and other documents occurred on Tuesday late afternoon, at which time the chairman was advised that the police would need to seek advice from their internal legal department before they could advise further. Despite two telephone calls on Wednesday (today) no advice had been forth coming and the travellers remained on Cole Green.

It was agreed that all present should telephone 101 at every two hours to request an update starting first thing tomorrow. The more telephone calls received may bring the matter to the top of the police action list. Cllr Edgell would also research with highways as the pavement was being impaired and she would endeavour to get High ways involved. The Chairman agreed to continue his dialogue with the police and chase for the issue of a Section 61 which was the act which had been used previously to remove the travellers.

- 31.2 Concerns were again expressed about the field in Birch Green adjacent the Old Coach Road and a plot of lands at the south end of Birch Green owned by Riversmead where hedging and trees had recently been cleared and local rumour suggested that the owners intended to redevelop the plot. On both of these matters local vigilance should be exercised and until such times as something actually happens the Parish Council can not really assist.

32. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 32.1 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2011 be confirmed and the Chairman authorised to sign the same.

33. MATTERS ARISING

- 33.1 (Minute 20) The Chairman advised he had received no feed back from Nina Villa regarding the progress of the Article 4 Direction in respect of the field in Birch Green. He would again contact her

for an update.

- 33.2 (Minute 22.5) The Chairman advised he had signed and posted off the Audit as advised by Nina Villa, who had also signed it as Clerk.
- 33.3 (Minute 22.8) Additional road signage where the Cole Green way crosses the road to East End Green still needs addressing. Cllr Brennan to follow up with Highways and CMS.
- 33.4 (Minute 23.4) Agreed that new bank mandates should be sought for Cllr O Leary and Brennan when the new Clerk was appointed.
- 33.5 (Minute 25.2) Cllr Brennan advised he had reported the missing 30mph sign and fallen branch to highway.
- 33.6 (Minute 25.2) Cllr Edgell was to attend the Royal British Legion seminar with Eric Vince and act as the Councils liaison officer for the poppy collection.
- 33.7 (Minute 25.3) The Chairman advised that Jane Hoare was most pleased with the support for next years Queen's jubilee celebration proposals and would be in contact with Cllr Bradbury and O Leary.
- 33.8 (Minute 28.1) Cllr Rochford agreed to draw up a tree trimming schedule, which would be off set against the under-spend on the grass cutting if possible, and include the trees near Foxdells.

All other matters had either been completed or were a separate agenda item.

34. FINANCE

- 34.1 The financial statement was received and noted.
- 34.2 It was RESOLVED that three payments to be authorised;

Playsafety Ltd for ROSPA report £100.80;
SLCC for Clerks Advert £90.00;
Coopers Grass Cutting £513.60

The chairman would ensure these payments were sent out in the absence of a clerk.

35. PLANNING

- 35.1 An update on planning applications was received and noted. The Chairman identified that no application had been received for Farthing Hall, although this appeared to be quite an old application.
- 35.2 No current applications needed discussion and a resolution.

36. REPORTS

- 36.1 Crossings and Greens: The Chairman advised he was processing a Deed of Easement for 2 Staines Green as the Bonners were moving and the purchasers the Grooms require an Easement
- 36.2 Highways and Byways: Request for a new sign at the end of Woolmers Lane advising HGV drivers that there is a low bridge in an effort to overcome lorry drivers reversing up Station Road in Letty Green. Suggestion this should be added to an existing post. Cllr Brennan to take up with Highways.
- 36.3 Play Area: Cllr Rochford advised that RSS had been contacted to provide a quotation for undertaking the works identified in the maintenance list in the ROSPA report. Cllr Jones advised that all appeared

well with the play area following his weekly inspections.

36.4 Waterhall: Nothing to report. It was again noted that next meeting was 8th September 2011

36.5 Walter Wallinger's Charity: Nothing to report

36.6 Panshanger Quarry: The Chairman advised the liaison group met on 7 July 2011, and had a tour of the estate prior to the meeting. Restoration is progressing well with area for the first time set to crops this year. Gravel extraction continues from Chisel Bank, but Lafarge advise that demand has reduced. New permissive footpaths open this summer, linking into existing footpath system. Link from Thieves lane car park through the NE part of the estate now complete. Land to the south of the A414 by Birch Green/Cole Green considered uneconomical to extract gravel so will remain as fields.

36.7 Car parking in Birch Green; Cllr O Leary reported he had attended an initial meeting with Alison Richards the Head of the school and Caroline Brown the Chair of Governors to run through the issues over parking and to review the history of the problem. General conclusion was that the school needs to complete their travel plan, which should include pick up zones and drop off points which the school will look into in an effort to reduce congestion in Birch Green. The school also want to work more closely with the PC on any plans in the future, which may also include the scout hut, as the school was unaware a new site was being sought. They may be able to assist. Consideration of double yellow lines and parking restrictions needed very careful consideration.

37. PARISH CLERK

37.1 The Chairman advised that during the period there had been interviews with 3 potential Clerks and a further applicant had informally discussed the Clerks role. All 4 Parish Councillors who had interviewed agreed that Tom Brindley should be appointed the new Clerk from 1 August 2011, subject to the full Council's approval. Tom had agreed to attend tonight to answer any further questions.

37.2 After discussion it was RESOLVED unanimously to appoint Tom as the new Clerk. The Chairman would organise for the contract to be signed and for Tom to commence his duties on 1 August 2011.

37.3 The Chairman advised that Lorna Faircloth, a past Parish Clerk for about 10 years up to around 2005, had passed away on 21 June 2011, and that her funeral was on 4 July at Little Berkhamsted Church. As no prior advice of her death had been given the Chairman had only found out about her death from the local paper at the weekend and about her funeral on the day by contacting Powell Funeral Services. By then it was too late for any representatives of the Parish Council to attend. The Parish Council offered their sympathy to Lorna family. There was discussion about a possible memorial to her which all are to think about prior to the next meeting.

38. CORRESPONDENCE

38.1 Generally all correspondence had been scanned and circulated by e mail.

38.2 The Chairman advised he had received the updated Insurance documents for the Parish from Aviva.

38.3 The Chairman read out an interesting letter from Rosemary Cooper from Watton at Stone who used to live in Cole Green. This described the wells and was a small personal history of the Greens, Cllr Brennan advised that he had a copy of Frank Cooper's personal history of Birch Green and would circulate it to all.

39. MATTERS TO NOTE OR FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

39.1 Cllr Morris suggested updated copies of advice to Councillors should be obtained and circulated, and believed there was an updated version from 2009.

- 39.2 Cllr Brennan requested an updated copy of the electoral register.
- 39.3 Cllr Edgell enquired about Broadband at East End Green. The new Clerk suggested he may be able assist when in post.
- 39.4 Cllr Edwards gave an update on Cole Green Works as it was up for sale and their current working practices.
- 39.5 Cllr O Leary questioned the process of co-opting the final member of the Council. The Chairman advised that it needed to be an agenda item and that a written request should be made to the Council by the prospective candidate. The Chairman advised that written request had already been received from Karen Barden who was an ex police officer and who would be attending the September meeting. If more than one person wishes to be co-opted a vote occurs after a small hustings.
- 39.6 Cllr O Leary questioned any knowledge of an environmental survey in the vicinity of Cole Green pond with particular emphasis on amphibian activity. The Chairman considered that this may be part of Lafarge's Environmental surveys that are periodically undertaken on and around their estate, but could not confirm.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9.55pm

Signed

Dated