

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on
Monday 9 May 2005
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman from item 1A(b))
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Andrew Crumpton
Trevor Goodingham
Martin Nash
Alison Scarll

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

District Councillor William Ashley and one member of the public.

Bob Akers took the chair until a new Chairman of the Council had been elected

1. Apologies for absence

Gillian Thornton and PC Paul Scott.

1A. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

(a) Chairman

Mary Bourne was proposed by Trevor Goodingham, seconded by Lynn Bonner. There being no other nominations, Mary Bourne was duly elected Chairman and took the chair from this item on.

(b) Vice Chairman

Bob Akers was proposed by Lynn Bonner, seconded by Trevor Goodingham. There being no other nominations, Bob Akers was duly elected Vice-Chairman.

1B. Appointments to Committees and outside bodies

(a) Planning Committee

It was agreed that the Committee membership should remain, namely Bob Akers (Chairman), Mary Bourne, Lynn Bonner and Gillian Thornton.

(b) Playing Fields Committee

It was agreed that the Committee membership should be Mary Bourne (Chairman), Bob Akers, and Trevor Goodingham with Duncan Brown remaining as a co-opted member if he is willing.

(c) Highways and Byways Committee

It was agreed that this should comprise Lynn Bonner, Martin Nash and Alison Scarll.

(d) The Allotment Manager would remain Bob Akers

(e) Trevor Goodingham would continue to be the Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee

(f) The meeting noted that Alison Scarll had been appointed as a School Governor for four years from 1 April 2003 and that Sheila Pettman had been appointed the Council's representative on the Nobles Charity for four years from 1 May 2003.

1C. Amendments to Register of Members' Interests

There were none.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 4 April 2005.

The minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

(i) WI event on the green

The Chairman reported that she had been in touch with the WI as agreed at the last meeting. The Council's role was to be a supportive one and the Parish Council would be organising the music. She reported that the event will run from 12 noon to 3.00pm with a plant stall, treasure hunt, teas, etc. She planned to have a stall selling children's toys and clothes in aid of the playground refurbishment. The meeting agreed that the Parish Council would have a stall explaining the work of the Council and selling Village Maps. Martin Nash and Trevor Goodingham would speak to the pubs about holding a pram race.

5. Police matters

(I) Report from PC Scott

The meeting noted the report. Alison Scarll asked if the mobile police station could come to the village in the evening. **The Clerk will raise this with PC Scott. She would also let him know that Bob Akers is interested in going 'on patrol' with him.**

The meeting noted the possibility of Neighbourhood Watch being restarted. It was agreed that Jill Dockley, the area organiser should be invited to a Parish Council meeting and that something should be put in the newsletter.

(ii) Parking at school

William Ashley will try to get East Herts' traffic wardens up as the problem is getting bad again. It was noted that the Goat had agreed to parents parking their cars in the car park whilst walking children to and from school but another problem had arisen in that some parents were parking alongside the Church. This causes problems for those trying to drive along this part of Mount Pleasant.

(iii) Correspondence from HAPTC

The Clerk was asked to let HAPTC know that, whilst the Council was happy with the increasing pro-activity from the police, it felt that the level of policing could still be better.

6. County and District Council matters

(i) New County Councillor

The meeting noted that Mike Tucker had been elected to the County Council for Ware South. He will, of course, be sent minutes and agendas with a standing invitation to attend Parish Council meetings. **The Clerk was asked to send a vote of thanks to Nigel Copping for all the work he did on behalf of the village.**

(ii) Verge along London Road from the garage to the allotments

William Ashley reported that he had spoken to the District Council's maintenance officers and had a meeting fixed with Robin Noades of Hertfordshire Highways to sort out who was responsible for what.

(iv) Bus to Presdales

William reported that he was still trying to get a bus to Presdales. The JMI was producing a flyer to determine how many girls were going to Presdales next year. **The Clerk will include a request for numbers in the newsletter and Parish News report.**

7. Reports

(i) Chairman

None.

(ii) Planning Committee

- (a) The following application, to which the Council had no objections, was noted:
- * 25 Heathgate: Conservatory single storey rear extension.
- (b) The meeting noted that the Planning Committee had commented on the application at Balls Park and had made a number of objections including the lack of provision of affordable housing, the proposed development at Jenningsbury Bungalow and the proposed removal of a large number of trees.
- (c) The meeting considered the revised application for the golf course and remained concerned at the scale of the building and its style. **The Clerk will check whether the Council's original objections had been answered and object/comment as necessary.**
- (d) The following decisions of EHDC were noted:
- * 27 Postwood Green: Single storey side extension – permission granted
 - * 3a Downfield Road: Loft conversion with rear dormer – permission refused
 - * Brides Farm, The Roundings: Change of use from livery stables to B1 business use – permission granted

(iii) Playing Field

(a) Children's play equipment

The Clerk reported that an application for a Community Capital Grant had been submitted to East Herts District Council. She also reported that the spare parts for the swings had been ordered from Wicksteeds and delivery was expected on 2 June. The Chairman suggested a painting party before that date. The Playing Field committee would select a date and it was hoped that it could be advertised as widely as possible.

The Chairman passed details of other possible funding sources. **The Clerk will apply for a grant from the Onyx Environmental Trust when she had details of nearby landfill sites.**

(iv) Highways and byways

(a) London Road Traffic Management Scheme

Members asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Hertfordshire Highways to discuss the problems caused by the scheme.

(v) Village of the Year 2005 competition

Martin Nash reported that the entry had been submitted and that the group was thinking of what to do when the judges came to the village.

The Clerk suggested extracting some of the information on the website and producing a Village Information Pack. All agreed and felt that the whole exercise had been very beneficial.

(vi) Allotments

Bob Akers reported he was getting enquiries from people outside the village seeking allotments. The meeting agreed that, so long as there were no villagers on the waiting list, half a plot could be given to such applicants.

Roy Phipers will burn the rubbish pile when the weather is right.

(vii) Wildlife Meadow

The Chairman felt that it was looking lovely at the moment and **the Clerk was asked to remind villagers in the newsletter and Parish News report that it is a good place to walk round.**

The Clerk was asked to arrange for the newt survey to be carried out as soon as possible.

(viii) Website

Nothing to report.

(ix) School

Nothing further to report.

(x) The Clerk

Nothing to report.

(x) Village Greens

The meeting was reminded that residents had been asked to keep an eye on newly planted trees and put a bucket of water on them when necessary.

The new "red hawthorn" was patently not and a new tree would be sought.

The Chairman reported that the damage caused to the Green near to the Goat will be repaired when all the work to the bungalow had been completed.

(xi) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported on the Management Committee's response to the problems arising out of a teenage party that had to be closed early as there was a large amount of alcohol on the premises and only one adult supervisor for well over 100 youngsters. As a result of a number of complaints, the police had attended a meeting of a number of members of the Committee and had made a number of useful suggestions. The Committee had decided to look at three options, the first of which was to ban all parties (that should solve the problem, but the huge majority of hirers act responsibly and it seems unfair to penalise them for others' behaviour. The police recommended that the Hall require all those booking a party to hire professional, registered door supervisors. The Committee was not sure if they are that easily available, nor of the cost and, although it suspected that the effect might be to price the hall beyond the reach of most and the Committee is still studying that option. The third plan, currently preferred, is to ask for a very large deposit, explain again that the hall conditions ban alcohol to under eighteens, and to monitor compliance by doing several spot checks during the evening. That will require extra work from the checker and must put the cost up somewhat but, hopefully, it will be a middle way. A decision would be taken at the June Committee meeting.

8. Correspondence received

- (i) Open Spaces Society: Threatened urban pathways – noted.
- (ii) Stop Stansted Expansion: Copy summary and full response to the implementation of the Environmental Noise Directive - noted.
- (iii) CMS: Spring newsletter – noted.
- (iv) EHDC: Advice that new property adjacent to 147 London Road will be known as "Owl Cottage", 147A London Road – noted.
- (v) CDA for Herts: March 2005 newsletter – noted.
- (vi) HAPTC: Parish Information March 2005 – noted.
- (vii) HAPTC: Master Class of 2005 to be held on 8 June from 9.30am to 3.30pm at Foakes Hall, Great Dunmow at a cost off £35 per delegate - noted.
- (viii) EHDC: Summer playschemes 2005 – noted.
- (ix) EHDC: Arts magazine Spring 2005 – noted.
- (x) Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust: Newsletter, magazine and advice that new trustee required – noted.
- (xi) HCC: Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies open day 14 May from 10am to 4pm – noted.
- (xii) HAPTC: Parish Information April 2005, including notice of AGM on 28 June at 7:30pm in Woolmer Green Village Hall and a call for nominations to Executive Committee – noted.
- (xiii) HealthyLife: Email re dog bins . The meeting still considered the cost of £480 to provide an extra bin too high for it to provide the extra bins requested. A reminder of the cost would be included in the newsletter.
- (xiv) Theatre in the Villages: Parish Survey and Project Support Form – to be passed to the Village Hall for completion.
- (xv) Trafalgar Weekend: NALC encouraging participation including a "Service of Commemoration" – noted.
- (xvi) EHDC: Advice that new property adjacent to 10 Priors Close will be known as 10a Priors Close – noted.
- (xvii) HCC: Investigation Report into application for modification order – noted.
- (xviii) Just Lamps (UK) Ltd: Quotation for maintenance of street lighting (slightly higher than HCC charge) – noted.
- (xix) CDA for Herts: Advice that BBC1's DIY SOS is looking for community projects with an SOS noted.

- (xx) East & North Herts NHS Trust: "Getting Health Right for the Future – a workshop for Patients and the Public" 25 May at the Stevenage Leisure Centre – noted.

9. Financial matters

(a) Accounts for payment

(i)	C M Morgan:	Distributing May's newsletter	£47.59	
		Net salary for April	£437.43	£485.02
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for April		£79.33
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for April		£104.03
(iv)	HAPTC:	Annual subscription		£625.01
(v)	R L Turner:	Repairing damage to green (to be reclaimed from insurers)		£400.00
(vi)	Web Tapestry:	Hosting of herfordheath.gov.uk		£58.75
(vii)	Allianz Cornhill:	Insurance		£410.13
(viii)	Copyzone:	Printing May's newsletter		£114.50
(ix)	Inland Revenue:	Under payment 2004/2005		£100.27

(b) Receipts

(i)	C Cox:	Reimbursement of tree costs		£165.00
(ii)	P Kemmett:	Allotment fees for 2005/2006		£10.00
(iii)	EHDC:	Half year's precept		£10,500

(c) Balances

	Current account			£5313.42
	Deposit account			£8924.88

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

The following items are to be included in the newsletter and/or Parish Magazine:

- (a) Reminder that allotment rents are due
- (b) Summer Bonanza on 10 July
- (c) Reintroduction of Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- (d) Painting days
- (e) Disturbance at Village Hall
- (f) Wildlife Meadow looking good
- (g) Dog mess bins
- (h) Bus to Presdales
- (i) Plea to parents not to park by Church when dropping children off.

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 6 June 2005 in the Mission Room at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____