

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 6 October 2003
At the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Bob Akers (Vice-Chair)
Lynn Bonner
Mary Bourne
Andrew Crumpton
Trevor Goodingham
Alison Scarll

Nicky Huckle (Acting Clerk)

Also present:

East Herts District Councillor William Ashley
Three members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Anthony Oliver (Chairman), Gillian Thornton, Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)
In the absence of Anthony Oliver, Bob Akers chaired the meeting

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1 September 2003

Signed without amendment

3. Matters arising

(a) Appointment of Council Representative to Village Hall Management Committee

Trevor Goodingham volunteered and was accepted

(b) Litter pickers' duties and terms of employment

Clerk to circulate

4. East Herts District Council Matters (William Ashley)

Priorswood Road one-way system settling in, though councillors reported that one or two people were ignoring it still.

Garages in Woodlands Road closed by Riversmead Housing Association due to serious safety concerns: garages off foundations with large cracks appearing. Tenants given notice to quit on Saturday, to be out by noon Monday. William Ashley assured the council that the garages would be repaired, and this was not a back door way to redevelopment of the site for housing.

London Road traffic calming public meeting on 24 October – William Ashley encouraged everyone to go. Extent of leaflet distribution discussed. Agreed that Trevor Goodingham would have 600 copies made and distribute these to the councillors to circulate. Leaflets should also be left in the shops and pub.

Trevor Goodingham asked if the gutters and gullies had been swept recently. William Ashley agreed to chase this up.

Alison Scarll reported continuing activities of youths on motorbikes in Elbow Lane and in the woods adjacent to the field which they are using legitimately. Police need to catch them in the act, so councillors should report any encounters.

5. Reports:

(a) Chairman

None

(b) Planning

Bob Akers reported that nothing controversial had arisen, so there hadn't been a meeting. New application for wildlife pond at the Grange appeared uncontroversial.

(c) Playing Fields

(i) Chat Room

EHDC report and Andrew Crumpton's e-mail had been circulated. Andrew Crumpton (supported by Mr Forbes) wanted to challenge independence of the report, although none of the councillors or the Clerk had been involved in the survey. Andrew also reported that the police had now classified the area as an "anti-social behaviour hotspot", because of the presence of the Chat Room. After some discussion Alison Scarll proposed that a second survey perceived as truly independent by all parties should be done. Lynn Bonner seconded the motion and the vote was unanimously in favour.

Andrew had produced a map, which had been sent to the Chairman and the Clerk, showing two other possible locations for the Chat Room which he and Mr Forbes would find more acceptable.

Mr Barwick was supportive of the shelter, having had no trouble from the footballers since it was erected, after forty years of problems.

(ii) Goal Mouth Area

Thanks to Mr Burke for offering to level the area. Mary Bourne wanted to ensure that the work was not done under wet conditions and more details were requested for the next meeting

(iii) Football Clubs

The football clubs were reported as leaving goal posts and lighting posts on the field which could be used for subsequent vandalism. Clerk to write to Hertford Heath Football Club on her return.

(d) Highways and Byways

(i) Discretionary Funded Scheme for B1197 London Road

Trevor Goodingham commented that only required a 30-mph speed limit that was properly policed. Apart from that needed to prevent speeding round the village centre.

Yellow lines outside the shops were suggested to prevent dangerous parking, but this was felt to be likely to affect their trade.

Mr Barwick reported the danger caused by parking outside the Village Hall, especially on a Saturday.

Everyone was encouraged to attend the meeting and make further comments there.

(ii) Other issues

Hardcore was ready for Elbow Lane

Several water leaks in roads – were they springs or pipe bursts? William Ashley commented that the excessively dry weather had caused many pipes to crack.

(e) Allotments

Bob Akers reported extensive vandalism, with beanpoles uprooted, water tanks over-turned and vegetables damaged. Vandals had used knives, so even if they had been caught it would not have been wise to confront them. Would need to get water supply restored – Bob would get appropriate estimates.

Bob had received an estimate for the clearing of the plot allow the move of a tenant away from the wildlife area. It would cost £150 to clear and £200 if the plot was to be cultivated as well.

(f) Wildlife Meadow and Pond

Cutler Memorial Seat – the Clerk to continue arrangements on her return. The Acting Clerk reported letter of appreciation from Mr and Mrs Cutler.

(g) Village Appraisal

Help applied for from “Active Parishes” – meeting to be arranged

(h) School

Andrew Crumpton reported the problems with parents parking on the yellow hatched lines during drop-off and pick up-periods. A child was nearly struck by someone reversing and a letter had been sent to the parents by the school. The governors were now also involved and their current action was to survey alternative parking places and investigate the provision of a “walking bus” to get the children to the school from these alternate locations, perhaps from Mount Pleasant or outside the Goat. A note had been taken of registration numbers of offenders, and this was to be repeated following the letter from the school. The police were prepared to write to stubborn offenders. The police are also planning a “blitz”, with warnings and on-the-spot fines, but the date was not discussed for obvious reasons.

No problems seemed to have arisen from the new classroom, which was a welcome addition.

(i) Clerk

None

(j) Other

None

6. Correspondence received

- (a) HCC: Consultation on Hertfordshire’s Local Transport Plan 2006/7 – 20010/1: This was taken by Lynn for examination and was to be passed on to Mary
- (b) HCC: Travelwise bulletin August 2003: noted
- (c) Herts Young Homeless Group – East Project: The Clerk to arrange a presentation at a future meeting
- (d) www.isitfair.co.uk: petition letter re unfair distribution of Regional Support Grant: circulated for individuals to sign if they wished, not parish council.
- (e) The Countryside Agency: Countryside and ROW Act 2000 – Draft map information for parish councils. Agreed that this should go to the London Road meeting, but also that the Chairman should take responsibility for the response because of his extensive knowledge in this area.
- (f) EHDC: Frontline Services Review: The Acting Clerk had attended on behalf of Wareside Parish Council, so could report development of EHDC communications strategy.
- (g) HALC: Councillor training and development course: councillors agreed to contact the Clerk to register interest in attending the nearest session in March 2004.
- (h) HALC: Open evening 14 October Roe Hill Hall, Hatfield, starting 6.30pm: noted.

- (i) EHDC: Car parking charges – decision taken by Executive Committee on 15 July: noted.

7. Financial matters

(a) Change of bank account

Forms collected from those present

(b) Audit of accounts

No progress to report

(c) Accounts for payment

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| (i) Thames Water – water services charge for 1 October 2003 to 31 March 2004 | £25.20 |
| (ii) HCC - stationery | £40.66 |

(d) Receipts

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| (i) HCC – half P3 grant for Elbow Lane | £1440.00 |
| (ii) Customs and Excise – refund VAT for period Apr 1999 to Mar 2002 | £2056.28 |

(e) Balances at 30 September 2003

After transferring £3,500 from current account to deposit account:

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| (i) Current Account | £3044.78 |
| (ii) Deposit Account | £11162.91 |

8. Parish News Items and Contributors

Copy has to be with the Editor by 17 October

Andrew Crumpton agreed to report on the parking outside the school and motorcyclists in Elbow Lane. He would e-mail straight to Julian Murcott.

It should also be reported that the Jubilee Plaque was now in place with thanks to Haileybury College. Mary Bourne reported that a new shrub would be supplied in mid-November.

9. Date of Next Meeting

3 November 2003 at 7.30pm: noted

10. Any Other Business

The Acting Clerk reported the Clerk's discussion with Mrs Iqbal at the Londis shop about a litterbin. The Clerk's response that the Parish Council would be supportive of any necessary application, but would not fund a new bin, was endorsed by the councillors.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman: _____ Date: _____