

# HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on  
Monday 6 September 2004  
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Anthony Oliver (Chairman)  
Bob Akers  
Lynn Bonner  
Andrew Crumpton  
Alison Scarll  
Gillian Thornton  
Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

County Councillor Nigel Copping, District Councillor William Ashley and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Mary Bourne and Trevor Goodingham

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

2A. Co-option to the Parish Council

The Clerk reported Mr Brown did not wish to be considered for co-option this year as he had a number of other commitments.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2 August 2004.

Subject to the deletion of the word 'she' in Minute 2A, these were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

There were none.

5. District and County Council Matters

(a) Development Control

William Ashley reported that EHDC was reviewing the Development Control Committee, various issues being considered including its size, whether there should/could be public participation, and the question of site visits.

William also reported that a Scrutiny Panel was looking at the policies regarding development in the rural areas.

(b) County Council budget

Nigel Copping advised that the County Council needed to increase its budget by 7½ - 10% just to stay still. To avoid capping (which is believed to be to only 3%), the County was looking to a budget increase of 5%.

6. Reports

(i) Chairman

The Chairman reported that he had contacted EHDC regarding the tree in Heathgate on 3 September. Apparently, Mr Fairbrass had been on holiday hence no response to the Chairman's letter of 29 June but the Chairman was pleased to report that the tree was still standing.

The Chairman further reported that he had attending a presentation on the development of East Herts Hospital which will be opened as a diagnostic hospital before Christmas. Because of Green Policies, parking will be restricted.

The Chairman reported that he had heard nothing further from the Police regarding his letter of 26 July.

The Chairman reported that he had received a number of compliments regarding the cleaning of the war memorial.

The Chairman advised that he had attended two meetings of PREP in August. The Steering Group had had a session with Mark Prisk MP who was to become a patron (with Oliver Heald). Nineteen parishes had joined PREP. Funding was available for a website and there was to be a workshop aimed at parishes and design statements, parish plans, etc. Anthony agreed to write an article for the Mercury on PREP's activities.

The Chairman advised the meeting that he had put his house on the market. He intended to move away from the village and a new chairman would be needed before the next AGM.

(ii) Planning Committee

(a) The following applications, to which the Council had no objections, were noted:

- The White house, London Road: Internal alterations to listed building
- The Goat: Signage and lighting
- Lavender Cottage, Downfield Road: Replacement oak framed garage

(b) The Council agreed to meet on 8 September at 7.30pm to discuss the application for approval of reserved matters for a golf course on land adjacent to Jenningsbury Farm.

(c) The Committee met at the end of the meeting to discuss the following application, to which it had no objection:

- 95 London Road: single and double storey front, side and rear extensions

(d) The Council noted the following decision of the District Council:

- 1a Portland Place: Twp-bay garage - permission granted
- Straun, The Roundings: Double storey side, single storey rear and double and single flank - permission granted
- 35 London Road: Replacement porch and bay - permission granted.

The Chairman reported that he had read the Landscape Character Assessment for Hertford Heath. He had some comments which he would pass to Simon Odell at the County Council.

(iii) Playing Field

The Chairman reported on the result of the meeting held on 24 August. The Committee had agreed to accept the quotation of £85 to strim the area in front of the practice goal. The Clerk had been asked to find the dimensions of a practice basketball hoop to be put behind the teenagers' meeting point. This she had done. The Committee proposed to upgrade the fencing at the Trinity Road access and on the woodland side of the field to prevent access by motorbikes and quad bikes. Plans had been drawn up for the proposed parking near Harrington Court. Riversmead would be asked for their consent to access the new car park. If that permission was not given, then access from Trinity Road would be looked at. A planning application would be submitted when Riversmead's decision was known.

The children's play area would be upgraded, with a picnic area and seats in the grassy bit. Members expressed concern about vandalism. It was suggested that the Committee look at Hartham as this is thought to be very good.

**The Clerk was asked to check the EU regulations regarding soft surfaces.**

(iv) Highways and byways

(a) London Road Traffic Management Scheme

The Clerk reported that a problem had arisen with the proposed pedestrian crossing outside the Village Hall in that the company supplying petrol to the garage had said they would cease to supply petrol if the island was installed as planned. Hertfordshire Highways asked if the Parish Council would meet with the owner and discuss the problem. members felt that HH are the experts in this area and felt that it was up to HH to install the island as they had proposed. However, they were prepared to attend a joint meeting with the garage owners and HH. **The Clerk would arrange a suitable time and day.**

(b) Property to the rear of 42 Woodland Road

EHDC has notified the Council that this property is to be known as 4A Trinity Road.

(c) Pay phone in London Road

The Clerk reported that she had seen the equipment being installed but that it did not appear to be working yet.

(d) Trees in London Road

The Chairman reported that some trees by Long Meadow were overhanging the highway and obscure two street lamps. **The Clerk was asked to inform the appropriate authority.**

(e) Street lights out of order

Members reported that the street light in College Road outside the farm was out of action and that the light by the Jolly Pindar was flickering. The Clerk reminded the meeting of the ability for anyone to report such matters either by telephone or via the County's website. **She agreed to report these two instances.**

(f) PPP works to BW17

The Chairman reported that he had obtained three quotations amounting to £2550, £2690 and £2845. It was agreed that the lowest quotation from Mr Fitzjohn would be accepted. **The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Fitzjohn advising him of the Council's acceptance of works to be done after April 2005, and to write to the other two contractors.**

(v) Allotments

Bob Akers reported that, despite two verbal warnings, one plot holder had still failed to cultivate his plot. **The Clerk was asked to write to that plot holder informing him that if no work was done on the plot by 15 November, the tenancy would terminate.**

Bob also reported that he was holding fire on the derelict plot until the above situation was resolved and all unused plots could be cleared at one time. He reported that he had a waiting list of four.

(vi) Wildlife Meadow

The Chairman reported that the Wildlife Trust had prepared a management plan setting out who will do what. The plan will be considered by the Chairman, Mary Bourne and Lynn Bonner and amended as necessary. Planning permission will then be applied for.

Bob Akers reported that the wildlife meadow was being used by people to exercise dogs off lead. The meeting felt that this was not a problem at the moment but if it proved to be one later, then it would consider providing dog bins.

(vii) Village Appraisal

Carolyn Morgan had circulated a copy of the final report from the Rural Enterprise Project. At an earlier meeting, the Council had agreed to consider the report at a special meeting.

Carolyn suggested that this be done on 8 September after consideration of the golf course planning application. This was agreed.

(viii) School

Alison Scarll reported that the new Headteacher was Mrs Janice Smith. The next governors' meeting was to be at the end of September.

(ix) The Clerk

(a) Risk Analysis - allotments

The Clerk had circulated a report using the software package that had recently been purchased. The only matter for action was to look at the insurance cover. **The Clerk will do this.**

(x) Village Greens

Gillian Thornton advised the meeting that a hawthorn at the far end did not look well and that another cherry was dying. The meeting agreed to replace the cherry (and hawthorn if necessary) with hawthorns from Tree Heritage. The Chairman reported that the stumps from the trees felled earlier this year still needed to be ground out. He proposed to ask the contractor who removes the dead trees to do that in a month or so.

The Chairman also reported that the Pindar Green has been badly churned up by Haileybury vehicles used when renovating Willow Cottage. **The Clerk was asked to write to the Estates Bursar to ask that the green is left in a clean state when the works are finished and to remind them that their is no regular vehicular access across the green.**

The continued poor state of the gardens at The Goat caused all concern. The Clerk reported that she had written to Greene King but had heard nothing. It was hoped that the Mercury might take up the story and galvanise the landlord into action.

(xi) Village Hall

The meeting was advised that it is time for 200 Club renewals.

(xii) Village Website

The Clerk advised that the village website had been completely revised and expanded. She asked those who had access to the internet to visit the site and let her have any corrections, suggestions for inclusion, etc. The meeting agreed to the website being a standing agenda item.

7. Correspondence received

- (i) EHDC: Meetings in September 2004 - noted
- (ii) EHDC: Notice of meeting of Policy Development Scrutiny Panel - noted
- (iii) CDA for Hertfordshire: Notice of AGM on 13 October - noted
- (iv) EHDC: Notice of Rural Intelligence Pagers Focus Group on 8 September - noted
- (v) David Webster Ltd: Public Lighting to District and Parish Councils - Proposal for Service Provision - **the Clerk was asked to write accept the offer of a free quotation**
- (vi) EHDC: Consultation on draft Licensing Policy - noted
- (vii) Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust: Various matters including Apple Picking Days at Tewin - noted
- (viii) AGRE: New Short Course Directory 2004 - noted
- (ix) HAPTC: Parish Information July 2004 - noted
- (x) CPRE: Notice of AGM on 29 September and other meetings - noted
- (xi) CDA for Hertfordshire: Hedgehog newsletter and notice of speaker at AGM - noted
- (xii) EHDC: What's on in East Herts Sep - Dec 2004 - noted
- (xiii) HAPTC: Parish Information August 2004 - noted
- (xiv) Community Renewal Network East: Networking East Issue 6 - noted.

8. Financial matters

(i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved:

(a)	HCC: Stationery	£47.65
(b)	R Phypers: Fixing meadow seat	£135.00
(c)	Open Spaces Society: Annual subscription	£30.00
(d)	CM Morgan: Reimbursement for newsletter distribution costs	£37.01
(e)	HHFC: Reimbursement for cutting Playing Field	£499.37
(f)	HHFC: Reimbursement for cutting Playing Field	£150.00
(g)	P Webster: Net salary for August 2004	£111.89
(h)	Mrs C Taylor: Net salary for August 2004	£85.22
(i)	Thames Water: Charge 1 Oct 2004 - 31 Mar 2005	£26.10
(j)	Copyzone: printing newsletter	£64.00
(k)	J Day and Son Ltd: Cleaning war memorial	£1081.00

(ii) Income

(a)	John Cutler: Reimbursement of costs of meadow seat	£380.96
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(iii) Balances

(a)	Current account (after payment of above)	-£2016.66
(b)	Deposit account	£9841.09

In view of the above, the meeting agreed to the transfer of £3000 from the deposit account to the current account .

9. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) War memorial
- (b) Wildlife meadow
- (c) Golf course application
- (d) Report from William Ashley
- (e) Highway works and parking on the pavement
- (f) General plan for Playing Field improvements

10. Date of next meeting

Monday 4 October 2004 at 7:30pm in the Mission Room.

Gillian Thornton and Lynn Bonner gave their apologies.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_