

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 2nd November 2009
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Andrew Crumpton (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Malcolm Bolton
Lynn Bonner
Jack Eames
Martin Nash
Dawn Sleet

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present were District Councillor William Ashley and 14 members of the public.

A. Public Question Time

Martin Nash reported on the meeting the Consultative Working Party had held with Riversmead. Riversmead had put a set of plans on the table and informed the group that they had already submitted their planning application. The rest of that meeting was spent trying to salvage something from this shock announcement.

The Chairman read out his email correspondence with Chris Wright of Riversmead in which he had sought information as to how Riversmead had come to their conclusion that Beacon Court should be closed.

He hoped that the public might get answers at the drop-in session on the 19th November.

There then followed a general discussion on the closure of Beacon Court, the main points raised being:

- (i) How much time is allowed for public submissions at the Development Control Committee meeting at which the planning application will be discussed.
- (ii) Residents in the bungalows had received a letter giving them some advice but no word on the future of the communal facilities or on the accommodation which visiting families can stay in.
- (iii) Beacon Court residents are being moved out already.
- (iv) Nigel Cox gave William Ashley a petition seeking some consultation on the change of use of the site.
- (v) William Ashley will check with Housing as to the occupancy of Beacon Court. The Clerk will write too.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were formally accepted from Trevor Goodingham and Alison Scarll. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Rosemary Cheswright.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

Lynn Bonner declared a personal interest in the discussions around Beacon Court.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5th October 2009

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

4. Matters arising

Martin Nash reported on the Emergency Planning Workshop he had attended that morning. It had been useful but had been hi-jacked by Parish Councillors.

5. Financial Matters

- (A) The meeting formally accepted the Annual Return and considered the Auditor's report.
- (B) The meeting agreed to review the Financial Risk Assessment at the next meeting.

(a) Accounts for payment

The meeting noted the following with the cheques being signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman:

(i)	Mrs C Morgan	Net salary for October	£510.79	
		Printing November's newsletter	£75.00	
		Distribution November's newsletter	£49.68	
		AOL subscription	£15.99	£651.46
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor	Net salary for October		£111.19
(iii)	Mr P Webster	Net salary for October		£116.70
(iv)	Thames Water	Allotment water - 2 nd instalment	£45.15	
(v)	Jeffrey Franklin	Cutting, rolling, baling meadow	£402.50	
(vi)	Grassroots	Cutting Village Greens	£460.00	
		Cutting Churchyard	£460.00	
		Cutting Playing Field	£241.50	
		Cutting Meadow and Allotment	£161.00	£1,322.50
(vii)	EHDC	Dog fouling signs		£80.00
(viii)	Wicksteeds	Replacement chains		£347.88

The meeting formally confirmed the following cheque:

(ix)	PCC Little Amwell	Firework Insurance	£157.50
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(b) Income

The meeting noted that there had been no income during the period since the last meeting.

(c) Balances

The meeting noted the following balances after the above:

(i)	Current Account after above	£4,720.79
(ii)	Deposit Account	£18,003.18

(d) Grants

The Clerk reported that she had received no response to her letter to the Buggy Club. The meeting therefore decided to leave the matter.

6. Police Matters

- (i) The Clerk having circulated an email from PC Neal Dyton, Jack Eames expressed his disappointment at the lack of a formal report and/or a report in person. He volunteered to liaise with Neal Dyton before each Parish Council meeting so that the Council was better informed.

The Clerk was asked to write to the HMCI and ask when Community meetings were likely to take place in our locality.

- (ii) The Clerk had circulated a Help influence Community Safety form and will forward the completed one she was given.

7. County Council and East Herts District Council Matters

William Ashley advised the meeting that officers were available at East Herts to answer any questions regarding ARC. All present felt that the information leaflet was very good.

William also sought suggestions for the relocation of the recycling bins in Woodland Road when Riversmead's proposed development commenced.

8. Reports

(a) Chairman

The Chairman paid tribute to Mary Bourne. She will be greatly missed. The meeting agreed:

- (i) To rename the meadow The Bourne Wildlife Meadow in her honour
(ii) To plant a tree on the Green to remember her by

(iii) To put a seat on the Green with an engraving on the back again to remember her by.

The Clerk will liaise with Lynn Bonner on the type of tree and the wording to go on the seat.

(b) Planning

(i) The meeting considered the following applications to which it had no objections:

- (a) 20 Rushen Drive: First floor rear extension
- (b) 4 London Road: Part change of use of existing garage to A1 retail unit
- (c) 4 London Road: Non-illuminated fascia sign

(ii) The meeting noted the following decisions of East Herts:

- (a) 24 Rushen Drive: Single storey rear extension - permission granted
- (b) 2 The Roundings: Two 5-bed dwellings - permission granted

(c) Playing Fields Committee

(i) On Trevor Goodingham's behalf, Bob Akers reported that Trevor had got the replacement chains for the children's swings and would fit them on Chris Massey's return.

(d) Highways and Byways Committee

The Clerk will contact Hertfordshire Highways concerning the provision of salt bins in the southern half of the village.

(e) Bonfire Night

This had been a great success with around £900 being collected. Members were very pleased to note that the grass had been replaced so quickly.

(f) Village Fete

None.

(g) Allotments

The meeting agreed to increase the rent of a full plot to £25 per annum and the rent for a half-plot to £15 per annum. Lynn Bonner will give the Clerk a list of plot holders so that she can notify them all of the increase.

The meeting also agreed to give a month's notice to three tenants who had not worked their plots this year.

(h) Wildlife Meadow and Pond

The Clerk reported that she had received advice from the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and would be preparing the tender documents as soon as she could.

(i) School

None.

(j) Clerk

The Clerk advised members that HAPTC were willing to come to the village to give its excellent Councillor training. It was agreed that this would work well and the Clerk will get a cost.

(k) Village Greens

In addition to the tree to remember Mary, the meeting also agreed to replace the tree near the mini orchard which had finally been killed off.

(l) Village Hall

The meeting was reminded of the Quiz Night on 21st November.

- (m) Youth Club

The combined groups held a very successful Halloween Disco. The numbers attending are slowly building up.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (a) East Herts Community Safety Partnership: Safer East Herts - Edition 1

10. NEWSLETTER AND PARISH NEWS ITEMS

- (i) Beacon Court Working Party
- (ii) Carols on the Green
- (iii) ARC Helpline
- (iv) Dog fouling notices

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7th December 2009 in the Mission Room at 7.30pm

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- (a) A review of the Financial Risk Assessment

The meeting closed at 9.31pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____