

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 5 March 2007
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Trevor Goodingham
Alan Horswill
Alison Scarll
Gillian Thornton

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

Four members of the public.

A. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr and Mrs Slater drew the Council's attention to a Community Speed Watch scheme which was operating in Cambridgeshire and other counties. Community speed watch schemes aim to share the responsibility for addressing speed related offending between the community, police and other agencies. They consist of active members of the local community who have been trained in the use of speed monitoring equipment, supported by local beat managers, special constables and others. High profile monitoring of vehicle speed is backed up by issuing warning letters to errant drivers and, where applicable, enforcement action by police officers. Schemes can only operate in areas subject to a speed limit no greater than 40 mph and where a risk assessment has indicated that the location is safe and suitable. Members felt that this was a scheme worth pursuing and Trevor Goodingham will raise the matter at forthcoming meetings with the police. An item will be included in the agenda for the April meeting.

Mr and Mrs Slater also raised the problem that would occur in Downfield Road if cars parked on the road (rather than on pavements) and blocked emergency vehicles. The meeting realised that this could cause difficulties and hoped drivers would be sensible.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were formally accepted from Martin Nash. Apologies were also noted from County Councillor Mike Tucker and District Councillor William Ashley.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5 February 2007

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

4. Matters arising

None

5. Financial matters

(a) Accounts for payment

| | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| (i) | Mrs C Morgan | Net salary for February | £468.27 | |
| | | Printing March's newsletter | £60.00 | |
| | | Distribution of March's newsletter | £42.30 | |
| | | AOL subscription for February | £15.99 | £606.56 |
| (iii) | Mrs C Taylor | Net salary for February | | £104.55 |
| (iv) | Mr P Webster | Net salary for December | | £107.08 |
| (vi) | Information Commiss'ner | Data Protection registration | | £35.00 |
| (v) | Basic Travel | Minibus hire for February | | £125.00 |

Members approved the payment on 15 February for the lottery licence renewal £17.50

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|-----|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| (b) | Income | | |
| | (i) | EHDC | Reimbursement for Churchyard cutting |
| | (ii) | HMRC | VAT refund |
| | | | £1287.00 |
| | | | £2630.17 |
| (c) | Balances | | |
| | (i) | Current Account after above | £4547.36 |
| | (ii) | Deposit Account | £8471.98 |
| (d) | In view of the above, it was agreed that £2,500 should be transferred from the current account to the deposit account. | | |

6. Police Matters

- (i) Trevor Goodingham agreed to attend the launch of Hertfordshire's Policing Plan 2007/08 on Monday 26 March.
- (ii) Members asked why fixed speed camera signs cannot be erected in Hertford Heath. There are such signs in Stevenage, Wymondly, etc where no fixed speed cameras are present. The Clerk will query this.

7. District and County Council Matters

- (i) The meeting noted that nominations were being sought for Hertfordshire Childcare Awards 2007 but did not feel in was in a position to nominate anyone. For village information, the Clerk will see if she can obtain a list of registered childminders in the village.
- (ii) The meeting noted East Herts urging everyone to speak up again and the Clerk confirmed that she will respond to the consultation on the East of England Plan on behalf of the Council.
- (iii) The Clerk reported a resident's suggestion that a plastic bottle bank be added to Woodland Road site. Members welcomed the suggestion and the Clerk will liaise with East Herts as to publicity, etc. She will also ask if a skip for cardboard could be provided on the site.
- (iv) Alan Horswill reported on the campaign to collect old Yellow Pages. Haileybury is taking part in a schools competition to see who can collect the greatest number. He is trying to see if a point of collection can be arranged more centrally.

8. Reports

(a) Chairman

- (i) The Chairman reported that Basic Travel was running a minibus service twice weekly at a cost of £25 a round trip. She hoped it would be well supported. There appeared to be no definite timetable for the investigation and Trevor Goodingham had heard that it would take 10 - 12 weeks from the date of Mrs Cousin's re-instatement to get all the records out of archives! The Clerk will write to the Post Office expressing the Council's concerns at the length of time the investigation is taking, the apparent lack of urgency about it, the manner in which it is being conducted and the complete lack of alternative provision when the village Post Office was closed.
- (ii) HAPTC had advised that they could nominate someone to go to the Queen's Garden Party in July. The meeting wholeheartedly supported the nomination of Bob Akers.
- (iii) The Chairman reported that she had received a copy of the consultation on the conduct of Parish Councillors. She did not feel that any comments need to be made.

(b) Planning Committee

(i) Planning applications

The Clerk reported that she had made the following objections to the proposed demolition of 121a London Road and the erection of three 3-storey town houses:

- * Bulk of proposed development which was out of keeping with the surrounding properties

- * Danger of two additional vehicular accesses onto London Road
- * Lack of privacy to neighbouring properties from first floor rear balconies.

The meeting considered the following application to which it had no objections:

- * 39 Downfield Road: Agricultural pole barn.

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

- * Nevis Cottage: Provision of pitched roof over garage - permission granted
- * Brides Farm: Conversion of existing stable block into two B & B units - permission refused

(c) Playing Field

(i) The Chairman reported that she had paid a visit to the Meeting Point. The teenagers were very well behaved and were delighted with the new panels providing a wind break.

(d) Highways and byways

The Clerk reported that she had spoken to County Councillor Mike Tucker who had advised taking the 20 mph responses to a Joint Members Working Party. He will advise when and how and he will also try to get someone from Hertfordshire Highways to the Council's April meeting.

(e) Bonfire Night

The Chairman reported that there was to be a meeting the next night.

(f) Village Fete

Trevor Goodingham reported that there was to be a meeting on Thursday 15 March and that helpers on the day were needed.

(g) Allotments

Bob Akers reported that there was one person on the waiting list and that allotment rents were now due.

(h) Wildlife Meadow

The Chairman reported that the pond was now three quarters full. Bob Lowe had advised that it needed to be kept full to allow it to silt up. He felt that if this happened, there would not be a need to re-line it.

The meeting formally thanked Gillian and Mike Thornton for putting up the nest boxes.

(i) Website

Nothing to report.

(j) School

The meeting noted Hertfordshire County Council's advice that they were proposing the status quo for Hertford and Ware secondary schools.

(k) The Clerk

The Clerk reported that a first draft of the Village of the Year entry form had been considered by Martin Nash, William Ashley and Nick Sharp. Some information is still needed but she hoped to circulate a revised draft to all members for the April meeting.

(l) Village Greens

The Clerk reported concerns that vehicles in Mount Pleasant had gone outside the driveways and the Greens had been churned up. She will write to householders reminding them that any damage must be repaired.

(m) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that the Book Sale raised nearly £400. Future events included a Barn Dance. New kitchen units had been installed..

(l) Other

(i) Internet Access Point

Alan Horswill reported that there were still problems with the access point in the Silver Fox which he is sorting out.

(ii) Article in CPRE newsletter

The meeting agreed that this was an excellent article and felt that it should be circulated throughout the village.

9. Correspondence received

- (i) Broxbourne Voluntary Sector Development Agency: Newsletter including details of courses - the meeting noted that the Clerk was to attend the course on "Getting Noticed".
- (ii) Open Spaces Society: Spring 2007 newsletter - noted.

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

The following items are to be included in the newsletter/Parish News:

- (a) Situation re the Post Office
- (b) Neighbourhood Watch
- (c) Allotment rents
- (d) Elections
- (e) Helpers at fete
- (f) CPRE article

13. Date of next meeting

Monday 2 April 2007 at 7:30pm in the Mission Room.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____