

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 5 September 2005
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Andrew Crumpton
Trevor Goodingham
Martin Nash
Alison Scarll

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

County Councillor Mike Tucker and two members of the public.

A. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Nick Sharp, the new vicar, and Richard Jacobs

1. Apologies for absence

Gillian Thornton, Alan Horswill and District Councillor William Ashley

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

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

Subject to the correction of a typographical error, these were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

(i) Summer Bonanza

The meeting agreed to make a donation of £50 to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund as requested by the band, the Beat Society, in lieu of their fee. **The Clerk was asked to write to the band to thank them for their performance which was greatly enjoyed by all there.**

5. Police matters

(i) Police Authority workshops

The Clerk reported that the remaining places for the workshop had been filled by the time she notified HAPTC that the Chairman and Trevor Goodingham wished to attend.

(ii) Visit to Police HQ on 10 October 2005

It was agreed that the Chairman and Trevor Goodingham represent the Council at this event

(iii) Mobile Police Station

The Clerk was asked to suggest to PC Scott that the mobile police station be sited at the Village Hall, rather than at the two current locations. In any event, PC Scott would be asked for advance dates and times so that these could be put into the newsletter. She was also asked to get feedback from the Police on how well used the mobile police station was.

Alison Scarll asked if it would be possible for the station to come in the evening. **The Clerk will check this too.**

6. County and District Council matters

(i) Double taxation

The Clerk reported that the situation that currently existed whereby residents of Hertford Heath paid for the leisure facilities in Hertford via their Council Tax as well as paying for the facilities in the village via the precept was being taken up by William Ashley with the District Council.

(ii) Highways

The Chairman reported on the meeting held with Ed Fisher on 2 September. It appeared that he only had £4,000 per month to deal with all highway maintenance in his area and that it was unlikely that much could be done about the situation in London Road. He was asking the Highways Safety Partnership to look at the issue of speeding and suggested that the village might think about developing a Village Travel Plan as there was funding available for measures required under that from outside the County. The meeting agreed to pursue such a Plan.

(iii) Bus to Presdales

Mike Tucker reported on his conversations with Hertfordshire County Council. It appeared that, because parents chose to send their children to a school other than the nearest one and because there was deemed to be a safe walking route to the nearest school, the County Council would not provide a bus to Presdales. He added that because the bus from Hertford in the evening was timed to pick up children attending Hertford schools, it could not be re-timed to enable those girls coming from Presdales to catch it.

The meeting was dismayed at this news. Members felt that the walk into Hertford was not safe. The road was unlit, cars travelled at speeds of 60mph along the unlit part and pedestrians had to cross the road at a very unsafe place in a dip in the road.

The Chairman suggested that parents look into car sharing and other ways of transporting the girls to and from Presdales and Alison Scarll agreed to act as the link. This information would be put into the next newsletter.

Members suggested that a double-decker bus be put on in the mornings and evenings as the single-decker was full, certainly in the morning. **The Clerk will write to HCC.**

The Clerk will also remind Hertfordshire Highways that the footway is overhung with trees and the kerbs and gutters are full of weeds.

7. Reports

(i) Chairman

(a) Visit to High Wood and Elbow Lane Farm

The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk had visited High Wood when a paintball game was in progress to check reports of noise, damage, etc. She felt there had been no damage to the trees and the noise was very muted. She had not thought a special Parish Council meeting to overturn its decision not to object was warranted.

Martin Nash felt that the Council had let residents down, that the Chairman and Clerk had been a pushover and that the next newsletter should contain an apology to the residents. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Council had received no letters of objection nor had any resident come to the Parish Council meeting to object. The Parish Council had taken a balanced view using the information it had at the time. She felt that residents had exaggerated the damage to the woodland.

The Vice-chairman said that residents should and could have approached the Council if they wished it to take their views into account.

The meeting agreed that the next newsletter would contain a piece on how planning applications are dealt with by the Parish Council, how after belated representations from residents, the Chairman had looked into the situation at High Wood but felt that there were no reasons for the Council to change its decision not to object, and that residents should contact the Parish Council in writing if they have any concerns about a particular application. The Parish Council will consider individual concerns but will take its decision in the interests of the village as a whole.

The Chairman also informed the meeting that she had visited Connaught House.

(b) Bonfire Night

After much discussion, the meeting agreed to support a Bonfire and Fireworks on the Green starting at 6.30pm on Saturday 5 November. Richard Jacobs volunteered to co-ordinate efforts. He was hopeful of getting financial support from the Goat and was considering hot-dog stands and other entertainment. Alison Scarll suggested that the school might put on some sort of drama re-enactment and would raise this at the next Governors' meeting.

The meeting agreed to underwrite the cost of fireworks to a maximum of £1,000.

The Chairman reported that she had already received a contribution to the "firework fuse" and had received offers of help as a result of the article in the newsletter. The next newsletter would ask volunteers to contact Richard.

(ii) Planning Committee

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

- * 95 London Road: Two storey side and rear extensions and internal changes
- * The Grange: Pergola and bridge to lake/island (post facto)
- * 38 Downfield Road: Insertion of two roof dormers

(b) The Council objected to the following application on the grounds of over development of the area:

145 Trinity Road: Single storey side extension and first floor rear extension

(c) The following decisions of East Herts District Council were noted:

- * Golf Course at Jenningsbury Farm: Approval of reserved matters – approval granted
- * 145 Trinity Road: First floor rear extension – permission refused
- * Balls Park – approval subject to not being called in – Parish Council asking for it to be called in
- * 95 London Road: Two storey side and rear extensions and internal changes – permission granted
- * High Wood: Temporary permission for change of use, etc – permission refused

(d) EHDC's Revised Standard Conditions, Reasons for Refusal and Directives relating to Planning Applications

Members of the Planning Committee had received a copy of the Reasons for Refusal which looked useful. Trevor Goodingham requested a copy.

(e) Stansted Airport Consultation Exhibitions

The meeting noted the following exhibition dates:

- (i) 21 September at Civic Hall, Hoddesdon from 10am to 8pm
- (ii) 4 October at Ware Priory from 10am to 8pm

(f) The meeting noted the following:

- (i) Advice from EHDC's Planning Enforcement Officer that he does not consider there to be a breach of planning control re perceived change of use of land at Connaught House
- (ii) Advice from EHDC that applications re change of ties at Elbow Lane Farm have been withdrawn
- (iii) CPRE's plea to take action on Government's housing plans and **requested the Clerk to respond accordingly.**

(iii) Playing Field

(a) Children's play equipment

The Clerk reported that an application for a grant would shortly be submitted to Onyx Environmental Trust. As Wicksteed Leisure had indicated that there had been a price rise since they provided their quotation, **the Clerk will write to request a revised quotation.**

The Chairman reported that Trevor Goodingham had constructed two picnic tables from outcasts from the Townshend Arms and that these had been placed in the children's play area. Andrew Crumpton reported that they had since been moved out onto the field and were being used to jump on close to neighbouring properties. The Chairman said that urgent steps were being taken to secure the tables to the ground.

She thanked Trevor and Roy Phipers for all their work in providing the tables.

(b) Hertford Heath Football Club

The Club had requested permission to concrete a patch of ground in front of their hut to save mud being traipsed into the building. The meeting agreed in principle but felt that the maximum depth should be 50% of that requested. The meeting also agreed to the Club's request for permission to lay matting in the grass from the Trinity Road entrance.

The Clerk reported that the Club had provided initial proposals for the agreement between the Council and the Club for maintenance of the football field which **she would develop into a draft agreement for the next Council meeting.**

(iv) Highways and byways

The meeting noted the following:

- (i) EHDC's advice that they cannot accommodate request for a light from London Road to Heathgate in this financial year's budget
- (ii) Countryside Training Services courses: 6 October – Introduction to Public Rights of Way legislation; 8 November – Introduction to Map Reading and surveying; 8 December – Designing and Producing Leaflets and Maps; 14 March – Access for All Users: A Practical Approach to Structures, Surfaces and Signage.
- (iii) The Hertfordshire (Priors Wood Road, Hertford Heath) (One Way Traffic) Order 2005
- (iv) Parish Paths Partnership (P3): Renewal of Agreement and that the Chairman would act as Co-ordinator

(v) Allotments

Bob Akers reported there had been some thefts including unripe sweet corn. The Chairman felt it was good to see so many young mothers tending allotments and asked that they be encouraged to continue in the next Parish News.

(vii) Wildlife Meadow

The Chairman reported that a full newt survey was no longer required and that the Council could proceed to dig the pond.

The Clerk reported that she had asked Mr Franklin to top and row the meadow and to push the rows into the side. When that work had been done, she would ask the contractor to excavate the pond.

(viii) Website

The Clerk reported that the site was receiving 7 – 10 hits a day which was amazing considering the number of hits in its first year had been about 200. It was suggested that a reminder be put into the newsletter as to what was on the site.

(ix) School

Alison Scarll reported that the next Governors' meeting was to be on 13th September. The Headteacher, Andrew Crumpton and Robin Noades of Hertfordshire Highways were to meet to see what could be done to stop parking on the bend.

(x) The Clerk

The Clerk reported that neither the website nor the newsletter were short listed in the NALC Awards

She further reported that the cost of Village Information booklet is £1.53 each and it was agreed that each member should have a copy for their Member's Pack and that the booklet would be sold at events such as fetes, etc.

(xi) Village Greens

The Chairman reported that she had asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Tree Heritage to look at the dead and dying trees.

The Clerk was asked to report the fallen sign opposite the Church and the 'pollarded' sign opposite the Goat to Hertfordshire Highways

(xii) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that the AGM was to be held on 13 September, that there was to be a Race Night on 24 September, that the Committee was applying for grants and that the Farmers' Market seemed to be improving with more stalls and more visitors.

(xiii) Other

The Clerk was asked to advise the Estates Bursar at Haileybury that the Waste of the Manor signs at Heath Lane and Mount Pleasant were damaged and should be replaced.

8. Correspondence received

- (i) Hertford Heath WI: Letter of thanks – noted.
- (ii) BAA Stansted: Launch of public consultation on proposals to make better use of existing runway – noted.
- (iii) HAPTC: June Parish Information, including Pointers to Good Practice booklet a copy of which had been circulated to all members – noted.
- (iv) EHDC: Best Value Performance Plan 2005 – noted.
- (v) Stop Stansted Expansion: Information on consultation on night flights – response needed by 15 September – noted.
- (vi) HAPTC: July Parish Information, including advice re consultation on proposed new rural social and community programme – noted.
- (vii) Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust: Beautiful Butterflies – appeal for donations, Advice that AGM will be on 10 September in Hertford Heath Village Hall starting at 2.00pm and including tour of nature reserves, Wildlife Matters newsletter, Nature Products and Natural World (includes tips on wildlife ponds!) – noted.
- (viii) CDA for Hertfordshire: Invitation to AGM and Presentations – 30 September 12 noon – 1.00pm, and magazine – noted.
- (ix) EHDC: Copy of "Reduce, Re-use and Recycle" book – noted. It was agreed that the Clerk should include advice on an individual item in newsletters when possible..
- (x) AGRE: Advice re training courses – noted.
- (xi) HAPTC: August Parish Information, including information on Roles and Responsibilities course to be held on 8 November in Great Dunmow, costing £36 per delegate – **to be carried forward to next meeting.**
- (xii) CMS: Broxbourne Woods Open Day – 2 October 11.00am – 4.00pm – noted.
- (xiii) Psoriatic Arthropathy Alliance: Free annual conference at Woburn Safari Park – 17 September – noted.
- (xiv) Local Works: Campaign to end Ghost Town Britain and promote sustainable communities – request support for campaign and Bill – noted.
- (xv) CPRE: Fieldwork magazine – noted.
- (xvi) EHDC: Summer 2005 Arts magazine - noted
- (xvii) EHDC: What's On in East Herts – circulated to all present and noted.
- (xviii) EHDC: Council meetings in September - noted.

9. Financial matters

(a) Audit of accounts for year ending 31 March 2005

The Clerk reported that the accounts had been submitted to the external auditors on 30 August. She further reported that the internal auditor was now prepared to continue for a further year.

(b) Accounts for payment (agreed by Chairman and Vice chairman in August):

(i)	C M Morgan:	Printing August's newsletter	£60.00	
		Distribution of August's newsletter	£37.01	
		Net salary for July	£437.21	£534.22
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for July		£79.11
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for June		£103.81
(iv)	HCC:	Energy charges 1 Apr – 30 Jun	£147.45	
		Street lighting 1 Apr – 30 Jun	£215.30	£362.75
(v)	Mr Turner:	Grass cutting greens	£810.00	
		Grass cutting allotments	£120.00	
		Grass cutting playing field	£60.00	
		Grass cutting churchyard	£690.00	£1700.00
(vi)	R Phypers	Fixing noticeboard	£110.00	
		Fitting slide safety bar	£32.00	
		Fixing bus shelter bin	£32.00	£174.00
(vii)	Open Spaces Soc:	Subs		£30.00

(c) Accounts for payment

(i)	C M Morgan:	Printing September's newsletter	£60.00	
		Distribution of September's newsletter	£30.00	
		Net salary for August	£437.21	£534.22
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for August		£79.33
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for August		£104.03
(iv)	HCC:	Stationery		£23.48
(v)	CDA:	2005 Subs		£25.00
(vi)	HHFC:	Reimbursement of grass cutting charges		£870.00
(vii)	Trevor Goodingham:	Reimbursement of cost of paint, etc		£105.66
(viii)	London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund			£50.00

(d) Income

(i)	EHDC:	Litter picking payment		£393.12
(ii)	EDF Energy Network:	Wayleave payment		£4.60
(iii)	Mary Bourne:	Proceeds from Summer Bonanza stall		£50.00

(e) Balances (after above payments)

(i)	Current Account	- £2228.39
(ii)	Deposit Account	£9644.88

Given the above balances, the meeting agreed to transferring £3000 from the deposit account to the current account.

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) Bonfire Night
- (b) Village Travel Plan
- (c) Car sharing to Presdales?
- (d) Planning applications
- (e) Allotment use
- (f) HALS Open Day

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 2 October in the Mission Room at 7.30pm

12. Items for next agenda

Martin Nash suggested including the provision of an Internet cafe in the Post Office or Beacon Court and the provision of suggestion boxes around the village. It was agreed that these should be included.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____