

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 5th October 2009
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Andrew Crumpton (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Trevor Goodingham
Martin Nash
Alison Scarll

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present were PC Andy Woodward and 10 members of the public.

A. Public Question Time

The Chairman reported on the public meeting and his meeting with Mark Prisk MP regarding Beacon Court. A Working Group consisting of Martin Nash, Trevor Goodingham, Nick Sharp, Nigel Cox, and Peter Relf with possibly Jacqui Bentley, Malcolm Bolton and Jack Eames had been set up.

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

- (i) Whether the village should try to delay any planning application from Riversmead, the main objection to that being that Beacon Court could be left empty for a considerable period of time with attendant vandalism.
- (ii) What William Ashley's role is/can be given he is Chairman of EHDC's Development Control Committee. The Chairman will ask.
- (iii) Whether Riversmead will guarantee that the flats will always be available to elderly residents.
- (iv) The residents in the bungalows have received a letter to say that they will be OK but there has been no mention of the facilities which are being removed.
- (v) Nigel Cox is looking to set up a local Residents Association which has received a positive response. Riversmead's tenants are, however, fearful of joining.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were formally accepted from Malcolm Bolton, Lynn Bonner, Jack Eames and Dawn Sleet. Apologies were also received from County Councillor Rosemary Cheswright, District Councillor William Ashley, PC Neal Dyton and PCSO Neil Major.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7th September 2009

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

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Financial Matters

- (A) The meeting formally confirmed agreement to change in figures in Annual Return and confirmation that the Council did not review its Risk Assessment in the financial year 2008/2009.
- (B) The meeting noted the NJC agreement to salary scales increasing by 1% for the year 2009/2010.

(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 September | £510.70 | |
| | | Back salary | £25.40 | |
| | | Printing Beacon Court notices | £40.00 | |
| | | Printing October's newsletter | £75.00 | |
| | | Distribution October's newsletter | £49.68 | |
| | | AOL subscription | £15.99 | |
| | | Postage | £11.13 | |
| | | Funding - Bidding to Win course | £10.00 | £737.90 |
| (ii) | Mrs C Taylor | Net salary for September | £111.19 | |
| | | Back salary | £5.50 | £116.69 |
| (iii) | Mr P Webster | Net salary for September | £145.90 | |
| | | Back salary | £7.20 | £153.10 |
| (iv) | HMRC | PAYE & NI for Q2 | | £474.47 |
| (v) | Wicksteed Leisure | Jess the Cat | | £1529.50 |
| (vi) | HAPTC | Finance Training - Clerk | £25.00 | |
| | | Councillor Training - Clerk | £25.00 | £50.00 |
| (vii) | BDO Stoy Hayward | Audit fee | | £362.25 |

(b) Income

The meeting noted the following income:

| | | | | |
|------|------------|--------------------------------|--|------------|
| (i) | Co-op Bank | Interest on current account | | £0.15 |
| (ii) | EHDC | Precept - 2 nd half | | £12,987.00 |

(c) Balances

The meeting noted the following balances after the above:

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|--|------------|
| (i) | Current Account after above | | £9,805.67 |
| (ii) | Deposit Account | | £18,003.18 |

(d) Grants

The meeting considered the application for a grant from the Buggy Club. The Clerk was asked to write for further details, given that the Club had received a £500 donation last year.

The Chairman had received a request for a donation from the St John's Ambulance Service. The Clerk advised that the Council did not have the powers to donate to the project suggested. The Chairman will go back to the Service.

Subject to any queries received by her by 9th October, the Clerk was authorised to write cheques for the following amounts as recommended by the Village Fete Working Group:

| | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|---|---------|
| (i) | Ladies Circle | Donation towards speakers | £100.00 |
| (ii) | Horticultural Society | Donation | £75.00 |
| (iii) | Art Group | Donation towards tuition | £100.00 |
| (iv) | Carpet Bowls Club | Large kettle | £50.00 |
| (v) | Rangers Netball Club | New equipment | £100.00 |
| (vi) | Buggy Club | Toys, art and craft materials | £75.00 |
| (vii) | Junior Football Club | Donation towards sports equipment | £100.00 |
| (viii) | Football Club | Donation towards a bench | £300.00 |
| (ix) | Ducklings Playgroup | Donation towards prams and dolls | £100.00 |
| (x) | Fireworks | | £250.00 |
| (xi) | School | Contribution to white board | £100.00 |
| (xii) | Beavers and Cubs | Trip to obtain conservation & wildlife badges | £175.00 |
| (xiii) | Holy Trinity Church | Contribution towards a new projector screen | £100.00 |
| (xiv) | Youth Club | Donation | £150.00 |
| (xv) | Trinity Club | Donation | £100.00 |

6. Police Matters

PC Andy Woodward reported that there had been 14 crimes in the village since the beginning of August. Three had been thefts from or damage to motor vehicles. Other crimes included theft from a shed, criminal damage, harassment, threats to kill, misuse of telecommunications equipment and a drugs warrant had been executed.

There had been five banning orders to stop youths from using SZI. Members expressed concern that alcohol was still being purchased there and Alison Scarll asked when bar coding was going to be introduced. Andy did not think that Neal Dyton had looked into this.

Four speeding tickets had been issued and nine motorists stopped and given verbal warnings. There had been no progress on whether residents could use a speed gun and report drivers to the police for a warning.

Andy will pass the problem of broken glass on the Playing Field onto Neil Major.

7. County Council and East Herts District Council Matters

It was agreed that Martin Nash would attend the Emergency Planning Workshop to be held on Monday 2nd November.

The meeting noted the Planning Guidance document received at the Planning Information Session and circulated to all members.

8. Reports

(a) Chairman

Nothing further to report.

(b) Planning

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

(a) Brides Farm: Conversion of a barn into a 3-bed holiday let unit

The meeting had concerns regarding the loss of the recycling facilities, the difficulties in parking along the road and the removal of a number of trees at the site of the following application and the Clerk was asked to write to the Planning Department:

(b) Woodland Road: Proposed development of four semi-detached and one detached homes (for Riversmead)

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

(a) 31 Hogsdell Lane: Construction of new dwelling with basement - permission refused

(b) 38 London Road: Single storey rear conservatory/garden room - permission granted

(c) Playing Fields Committee

(i) Trevor Goodingham reported that the new piece of equipment had been installed.

(ii) Trevor further reported that he had been passed the Safety Inspection Report. There were no major issues raised. Minor repairs were needed to the Meeting Point and Trevor had spoken to Chris Massey who would look at how these could be carried out. The Freeride needed more bark under it. Trevor would liaise with the Football Club.

(d) Highways and Byways Committee

The Clerk will contact Hertfordshire Highways concerning the replacement of bollards on the corners of Priors Wood Road and Postwood Green.

(e) Bonfire Night

This will be held on 31st October.

(f) Village Fete

Trevor Goodingham reported that next year's fete would be on 11th or 18th July 2010.

(g) Allotments

Bob Akers will suggest rent rises with effect from 1 April 2010 to be considered at the November meeting .

(h) Wildlife Meadow and Pond

The Clerk reported that she had sought the advice of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust on a number of matters relating to the re-lining of the pond. When she had received that advice, she would prepare tender documents.

(i) School

Alison Scarll reported that Wheatcroft School was to become a two-form entry school and it was anticipated that children unable to get into Hertford Heath School would go there.

(j) Clerk

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had been contacted by someone in France and told about how Vera Barclay (daughter of William and Florence) had been instrumental in starting the Wolf Cub movement. She will include this information in the next update of the website.

(k) Village Greens

The meeting commented very favourably on the new contractor's cutting of the Greens. The Clerk will write to him.

(l) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that the Hall's AGM had been poorly attended (but it had clashed with an international football match). He added that tenders for the extension would be sought very soon.

(m) Youth Club

The combined groups will hold a joint Halloween Disco.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (a) CPRE: Yearbook 2009 and Fieldwork newsletter - noted.
- (b) HCC: Towards Better Transport in Hertfordshire - Annual Progress Report 2008/09 - noted.
- (c) Riversmead Housing Association: Annual Review and Autumn Newsletter - noted that it says that there has been consultation on their plans for Beacon Court.
- (d) NHS East of England: Proposal for Merger of the Primary Care Trusts - passed to Jack Eames.

10. NEWSLETTER AND PARISH NEWS ITEMS

- (i) Beacon Court Working Party
- (ii) If bottles are smashed - ring the police
- (iii) Speed cameras

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd November 2009 in the Mission Room at 7.30pm

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____