

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Jack Eames
Trevor Goodingham

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

One member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were formally accepted from Andrew Crumpton, Alison Scarll and Gillian Thornton.
Apologies were also noted from County Councillor Mike Tucker and District Councillor William Ashley.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None.

Members provided the Clerk with dates and times on which they could attend training on the new Code of Conduct. She will inform EHDC of those requests.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 1 October 2007

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

4. Matters arising

Jack Eames reported that the tarmac left on the College Green was still there. Hertfordshire Highways were claiming it was nothing to do with them. The Clerk will write to Hertfordshire Highways reminding them that it was their responsibility to remove it and will copy the correspondence to Mike Tucker.

5. Financial matters

(a) The following accounts for payment were agreed with cheques signed by Mary Bourne and Bob Akers:

(i)	Carolyn Morgan	Net salary for October	£468.27	
		Distribution of November's newsletter	£42.30	
		AOL subscription	£15.99	
		Firework insurance	£525.00	
		Sack of daffodil bulbs	£20.00	£1131.56
(ii)	Carol Taylor	Net salary for October		£104.55
(iii)	Peter Webster	Net salary for October		£107.08
(iv)	Basic Travel	Running PO bus in October		£225.00
(v)	DJH Garden Services	Cutting Playing Field in August & September		£220.31
(vi)	Riversmead Housing	VAT on licence		£26.25
(vii)	HCC	Street lighting – maintenance charges	£240.86	
		Street lighting – energy charges	£210.68	£451.54
(viii)	CPRE	Subscription		£27.00
(ix)	M Koumallou	Balloon Race – Children's 1 st prize		£50.00
(x)	P Walker	Balloon Race – Children's 2 nd prize		£30.00
(xi)	J Burford	Balloon Race – Children's 3 rd prize		£20.00

(b) Balances

(i)	Current Account (after payment of above)	£414.21
(ii)	Deposit Account	£20,007.91

(c) Nationally agreed pay award

The meeting agreed to pay the Clerk and the Litterpickers the nationally agreed increase of 2.475% back dated to 1 April 2007.

(d) Donations from Fete

The meeting agreed to the donations suggested by the Working Party, namely:

(i)	Art Group	£50.00
(ii)	Beavers and Cubs	£50.00
(iii)	Buggy Club	£50.00
(iv)	Carpet Bowls	£60.00
(v)	Ducklings Playgroup	£50.00
(vi)	Football Club	£250.00
(vii)	Holy Trinity	£50.00
(viii)	PTA	£50.00
(ix)	Junior Football Club	£50.00
(x)	Ladies Circle	£50.00
(xi)	Rangers Netball Club	£50.00
(xii)	Village Hall	£150.00

It was agreed that the cheques could be signed before the next meeting and when prepared by the Clerk.

(e) Budget and precept for 2008/2009

The Clerk presented the draft budget for 2008/2009 with suggested precept, the actual amount to be notified to EHDC by 10 January 2008.

One way of getting Post Office facilities back into the village could be to make a loan or pay the interest incurred. The Clerk will check the Parish Council's powers to do this.

6. Police Matters

Trevor Goodingham reported that the parcel scam had arisen again. A warning will go into the newsletter.

7. District and County Council Matters

None.

8. Reports

(a) Chairman

- (i) The Chairman thanked the Clerk for all her hard work in getting the Purple Book updated. She also praised the Good Councillor Guide which had been circulated to all members and asked everyone to read it.
- (ii) The Chairman suggested that the Council not meet in February 2008. After some discussion it was agreed that the Council would not meet in January 2008. The meeting delegated the signing of cheques in January to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

(b) Planning

(i) Applications received

The meeting considered the following applications:

- (i) White House, London Road: Conversion of existing carport/outbuilding to granny annexe/staff accommodation. The Council had concerns that any development in the Green Belt without justification could set a dangerous precedent.
- (ii) 2 College Road: First floor rear extension and two storey side extension. The Council had no objections.

(ii) EHDC decisions

The meeting noted the following decisions:

- (i) 59 Mount Pleasant: Erection of five bedroom house – permission refused on the grounds of over development
- (ii) 31 Postwood Green: Single storey rear extension – permission granted.

(iii) Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for East of England

The meeting authorised the Clerk to respond to the consultation on further Proposed Changes as appropriate.

(c) Playing Field

- (i) Trevor Goodingham reported that one new bin had been installed to the side of the table with the second to go into the Children's Play area.
- (ii) He further reported that he had found a welder who could repair the gates to the Children's Play area.
- (iii) The Clerk will check when SMP expect to deliver the Freeride.
- (iv) Bob Akers reported that he had given permission for a digger to be taken across the Field to a house in Mount Pleasant.

(d) Highways and byways

- (i) Lynn Bonner reported on the meeting held with Terry Wilkinson of Hertfordshire Highways. The meeting had considered the various options available to reduce speeding in the village. Hertfordshire Highways will look at the island by College Road, the footway down Church Hill, the overhanging hedge in Vicarage Causeway, the dangerous bend by Hailey Lane, the disabled parking bay in Woodland Road and the quality of the road surface generally.
- (ii) The meeting also heard that a list of telephone numbers of people willing to work with PCSO Karen Broad when she is out with a speed gun is being drawn up.
- (iii) The Clerk will check with Mike Tucker on the County Council's current policy on salt bins.
- (iv) Jack Eames expressed concern at the vehicles parked in College Road and on the Green. The Clerk will write to Haileybury and will pass some "polite notices" to Jack to put on windscreens.

(e) Bonfire Night

The Chairman reported that the bonfire had been well located and the fireworks brilliant.

Trevor Goodingham wondered if something could be done to prevent the mass exodus when the fireworks had finished.

(f) Village Fete

Trevor Goodingham reported that the Working Party had been informed that the cost of hiring the stalls had doubled to £700. Carol Skidmore was looking into this.

(g) Allotments

The Council considered whether or not plastic wendy houses should be allowed on the allotments. As it had been agreed that the only structures allowed would be wooden sheds, such plastic items should be removed. The Clerk will write to all plot holders reminding them that plastic climbing frames, wendy houses, toys, etc were not allowed on the allotments.

(h) Wildlife Meadow

The Clerk will ask Mr Franklin if he intends to remove the bales.

(i) Website

Nothing to report.

(j) School

Alison Scarll had asked for an item on cyberbullying to go into the next newsletter. She would supply the Clerk with details.

(k) The Clerk

The meeting thought the sending of Christmas cards to all the unsung heroes who had helped in the village was an excellent idea. She was advised that Herts Display would print cards for a very reasonable price.

(l) Village Greens

(i) The Clerk will write to the occupier of 31 Mount Pleasant regarding his parking on the Green and the damage done by his cutting the corner.

(ii) Trevor Goodingham will speak to Ray Tisbury about planting the daffodils.

(m) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that the Quiz raised £500. The bar had been replaced and little further work needed to be done in that area

(l) Other

(i) Internet Access Point

The Clerk will apply for a grant to allow a second Internet Access Point to be set up in the Townshend Arms.

(ii) Village of the Year 2007 competition

A draft entry had been circulated to all members with a request for comments, amendments, etc to be with the Clerk by the end of the week.

(iii) Post box outside school

The Chairman reported that she had been into the Sorting Office to try to sort this out.

9. Correspondence received

(i) Open Spaces Society: Autumn newsletter

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) Dog fouling
- (b) Request for speed gun helpers
- (c) Carols on the Green on 21st December
- (d) Parcel scam
- (e) Reminder about questionnaire

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 3rd December 2007 at 7.30pm in the Mission Room.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____