

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 6 February 2006
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Trevor Goodingham
Alan Horswill
Martin Nash

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

County Councillor Mike Tucker, District Councillor William Ashley and three members of the public.

A. Public Session

Justyn Dyche explained that he was a new parent governor at the JMI, having taken over from Andrew Crumpton, with a special interest in the parking congestion around the school. He advised that the school was applying to have the "keep clear" signs made legally enforceable. He circulated a note which he proposed sending to neighbouring residents seeking their views. Subject to minor amendments, the Parish Council heartily endorsed the approach.

William Ashley said he would ask the District Council parking attendants to come up again.

The Chairman repeated her suggestion that part of the playground be used for dropping off and picking up and Justyn said he would take that to the next governors' meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Andrew Crumpton, Alison Scarll, Gillian Thornton and PC Scott..

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 9 January 2006

Subject to three minor typographical errors, these were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

(i) Donation to Scouts

The Scouts had written to thank the Council for its donation and to say that they were always keen to support any events in the village.

5. Police matters

(i) Police force reorganisation

The Clerk advised that she had received a summary of the responses to the consultation held in 2005 and advice from the Hertfordshire Police Authority that: "The next steps in the Home Secretary's planned restructuring are not clear ..."

(ii) Launch of Hertfordshire's Policing Plan 2006/07

It was agreed that Bob Akers and Trevor Goodingham should attend this event on 27 March at the Fielder Centre. **The Clerk will advise the HPA accordingly.**

(iii) Hertfordshire Rural Crime Forum

The Clerk passed the notes of the event held on 5 December 2005 to Trevor Goodingham.

(iv) Neighbourhood Watch

Trevor Goodingham reported that the Ringmaster system was not very efficient and that wardens were still needed for Rushen Drive, Woodland Road and Postwood Green.

(v) Mobile Police Station

Trevor Goodingham reported that he had attended a recent session. The police are looking for a central location, rather than split their time between the Green and College Road. Trevor will be looking at the numbers of cars parking at the Village Hall on Wednesdays to see if the mobile station could be located there.

6. County and District Council matters

(i) County Council

Mike Tucker reported that the County was currently considering its budget and therefore the Council Tax it levies. He explained that it was likely that any increase over 5% would be capped by the Government but that the fire at Buncefield was adding to expenditure.

He reported that the works at Rush Green had started. No one had noticed any increase in traffic as had been feared when the Stanstead Road was closed.

(ii) District Council

William Ashley reported that the District was wrestling with its budget too. He asked if there had been any repercussions following on from the extension of pub opening hours. No one had heard of any.

7. Reports

(i) Chairman

(a) Khandel light

The Chairman read out part of a letter of thanks from the Charity for the monies collected on the Green. Members were very interested to hear how the money will be spent.

(b) Assistance to the Fete Committee

The Chairman reported that a request for help towards the cost of insurance for the Village Fete had been received. The Clerk had advised that only events organised by the Parish Council were covered under the Parish Council's insurance. The Bonfire on the Green had been organised by a working group under the Parish Council and so no separate insurance for the fire was needed. Alan Howard from the Fete Committee advised that the District Council was suggesting insurance of £5 million for the event and that this was likely to cost well over £350. Whilst the new committee had received funds from the old committee, the new committee was facing extra costs including the hiring of stalls.

Alan and other committee members agreed to take back to the committee the suggestion that it be re-constituted as a working group of the Parish Council with financial matters being handled by the Parish Council and with a Parish Councillor, Trevor Goodingham, on the committee as Parish Council representative.

(ii) Planning Committee

(i) Applications received

No applications had been received.

(ii) EHDC decisions

The Council noted the following decisions:

- * 16 Rushen Drive: Single storey rear extension - permission granted.
- * 1 Barclay Close: Two bedroom house and parking - permission refused.

(iii) Land to the rear of 113 - 117 London Road

The Clerk reported that she had referred the apparent breach of planning conditions by the removal of trees on the site to the District Council. She had received an acknowledgment and advice that a reply would be sent within three weeks.

(iv) East Herts District Council - Consultation of Sustainability Appraisals Supplementary Planning Document

This was passed to Bob Akers for consideration.

(iii) Playing Field

(i) Grant applications

The Clerk reported that Onyx had agreed to make a grant of £5000 to the Parish Council and that an application for £5000 would be submitted to Awards for All by the end of the week.

(ii) Work scheduling

Members were aware that the grant from the District Council had to be claimed by 26th June. Trevor Goodingham agreed to look at the works and see if they could be split into two so that the Council did not lose out if a grant from Awards for All was delayed. **The Clerk will contact Wicksteeds to chase the updated quotation and to see if there is likely to be a timetabling problem.**

(iv) Highways and byways

(i) Transport Plan Conference

Martin Nash reported that he had not attended the conference but was seeking any minutes/notes made at it and would report back to the Council on matters of interest (if any).

(ii) Accident at the junction of Church Hill and London Road

Martin Nash reported that he had spoken to the car driver who had knocked a scooterist off his bike. The Chairman reported that Hertfordshire Highways had looked at the A-boards that the driver had complained had obstructed her view and had reached a compromise with the shop. One of the boards would now be placed on the opposite side of the road.

(iii) Parish Paths Partnership

The Clerk was asked to write again to Haileybury concerning the dedication of a path and to ask them to check that Capel Manor re-instated the very recent works to BR17 which they had churned up with their vehicles.

(iv) Damage to Green

Martin Nash reported that a lorry had run over the corner of the Green opposite the Goat. **The Clerk was asked to ask Mr Turner if he could repair it by forking the ground up and levelling.**

(v) Allotments

Bob Akers reported that most plots were being cultivated. As the costs of running the allotments were increasing, he suggested looking at putting up the rents and abolishing the free first year. **The Clerk will check the rules and put this item on the agenda of next month's meeting.**

(vii) Wildlife Meadow

The Clerk reported that she had obtained two signs at a very much lower cost than previously advised. One had been placed on the allotment gate and it was agreed that the other should be placed near the pond itself

The Clerk was asked to contact Roy Phypers for advice as to how best to level the path around the meadow. She will also write to CMS and to Mr Franklin (who cuts the meadow).

Members agreed to hold the formal opening in June to celebrate the Queen's 80th birthday (the actual date being later agreed as 11th June).

The Clerk will write to CMS for advice on seeding the area around the pond.

Members agreed to think about planting trees on the right hand side of the path - cornus was suggested. The meeting also agreed to put more seats around the meadow and to put up a couple of picnic tables.

(viii) Website

The Clerk reported that she had had problems updating the site recently. These had been partially solved and she hoped the site would be fully updated by the end of the week.

(ix) School

Nothing to report.

(x) The Clerk

(i) Dates of meetings in 2006/07

In view of the Clerk's absence from the village on the first Monday in July and the Council's decision not to meet in August, members agreed to hold the July meeting on 17th July.

(ii) Litter picking agreement

The Clerk reported that she had received a new litter picking agreement from East Herts. She had queried the fact that the hourly rate reimbursed to the Parish Council was one penny less than the National Minimum Wage and had not received a satisfactory response. However, East Herts had offered to increase the number of hours in the agreement from three to four. It was agreed that the Clerk should sign the agreement.

The Chairman mentioned the litter she had seen in the telephone box on the Village Green. BT do clean the boxes about twice a year. **The Clerk was asked to see if Mrs Taylor would be able to check the box and remove any litter found.**

(xi) Village Greens

Members noted that the branch on the War Memorial green had been removed, as had the remaining bonfire ash on the main green.

(xii) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that the committee still planned a number of fundraising events and a number of refurbishments. Cupboards in the Hall had been cleared.

(xiii) Other

(i) Village of the Year Competition

The meeting agreed to enter the competition again this year.

(ii) Internet Cafe

Martin Nash advised that he had had no contacts regarding this project. The meeting agreed that used computer equipment should be sought and that the costs of internet connections should be investigated.

8. Correspondence received

- (a) Dogs Trust: Free Canine Card Scheme - to be advertised in newsletter and Parish Magazine.
- (b) Minutes of Luton Airport's Draft Master Plan Public Meeting held in Harpenden on 12 January - noted.
- (c) CPRE: Newsletter February 2006 - noted.

- (d) Stop Stansted Expansion: Response to BAA's consultation on second runway - noted.
- (e) Volunteer Centre Broxbourne: Volunteer Week 2006 - to be included in newsletter.
- (f) HAPTC: January 2006 newsletter including advance notice of Big Lottery programmes and "Creative Hertfordshire" group for arts professionals - advice regarding Big Lottery passed to Trevor Goodingham and "Creative Hertfordshire" passed to Mary Bourne.

9. Financial matters

(a) Accounts for payment

(i)	C M Morgan:	Printing February's newsletter	£60.00	
		Distribution of February's newsletter	£37.01	
		Net salary for January 2006	£437.21	
		Wildlife meadow signs	£30.00	£564.22
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for December 2005		£79.11
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for December 2005		£104.03
(iv)	HCC:	Street lighting - maintenace	£231.47	
		Street lighting - energy charges	£147.73	£379.20
(v)	Alan Fitzjohn:	P3 project works		£2,996.25
(vi)	HCC:	Stationery		£12.03

(b) Income

(i)	Allotment rents:	£34.00
(ii)	VAT refund	£571.17

(c) Balances

(i)	Current account (at 3 February 2006)	£2405.99
(ii)	Deposit account (at 3 February 2006)	£9831.75

Given the fact that the above cheques totalled £4134.84, it was agreed that £2500 should be transferred 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) Village of the Year
- (b) Canine Care Card Scheme
- (c) Walk the London Bridges for Kidney Research
- (e) Allotment rents
- (f) Donate computer equipment?
- (g) Village Fete 16th July
- (h) Crime Prevention Corner

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 6 March 2006 at 7:30pm in the Mission Room

Martin Nash gave his apologies for this meeting.

The meeting closed at 9:40 pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____