

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 6 June 2005
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Trevor Goodingham
Alan Horswill (from item 2)
Martin Nash
Gillian Thornton
Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

District Councillor William Ashley and County Councillor Mike Tucker.

1. Apologies for absence

Lynn Bonner, Andrew Crumpton and Alison Scarll

1A. Co-option to the Council

The meeting agreed to co-opt Alan Horswill of 3 Old Forge Row to the Council. Having signed the declaration of acceptance of office, he was warmly welcomed to the Council.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

Gillian Thornton declared a personal interest in Item 8(iv) as she knew the Chairman and other members of the Trust.

3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 9 May 2005.

Subject to the last sentence of Item 4(i) being amended to read: "Martin Nash and Trevor Goodingham would speak to the pubs about holding a pram race and/or a tug of war.", the minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

(i) WI event on the green

Trevor Goodingham reported that those he had spoken to regarding a tug of war showed no interest. Martin Nash had spoken to the landlords of the pubs and had got an enthusiastic response. However, as the Summer Bonanza was being organised by the WI who had not been approached regarding a tug of war, it was agreed to leave such an event to another day.

Bob Akers reported that the music had been organised but that shelter would be needed. **The Chairman will organise this. Bob will confirm the time to the band and ask how much space they will need.**

5. Police matters

No report had been received from the Police.

Members were concerned at the incidents of cats going missing in the area and it was agreed that an item should be put in the newsletter and/or the Parish News.

6. County and District Council matters

The meeting welcomed Mike Tucker.

(i) Dial a Ride at Beacon Court

William Ashley reported that Beacon Court had experienced problems with the Dial a Ride service. The provider had problems in recruiting drivers. However, he had been assured that the problem will be sorted out and the service restored to its previous levels.

(ii) Bus to Presdales

Mike Tucker had agreed to take this up. He will be visiting Presdales and may be able to obtain information as to how many girls from the village attend/will attend Presdales.

(iii) Grass cutting

Members had no issues regarding this but remained concerned that the overhanging shrubs, etc in Vicarage Causeway had not yet been cleared. **William will chase Robin Noades about this.**

(iv) Corner in Downfield Road

The meeting learned that sticks and reflectors had been erected on the dangerous bend and that the householder was happy with the efforts. The Chairman reported that Roy Phipers had cleared the ditch and, hopefully, improved the drainage. Whether this solves the problem of water running across the road remains to be seen.

(v) Roads

Mike Tucker advised that works to the A10 viaduct would start shortly and take eight weeks. He also said that a major concern to residents was the state of Hertfordshire's roads. The County Council was looking to increasing the budget for repairs. Mike asked that he be informed of local concerns and he was told of the problems with the footway in Mount Pleasant and Downfield Road.

7. Reports

(i) Chairman

None.

(ii) Planning Committee

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

- * Haileybury: Alterations and three storey extension to sanatorium and residential accommodation
- * 5 Postwood Green: First floor side extension, single storey rear extension, conservatory at rear of property and replacement windows
- * 61 Mount Pleasant: Conservatory at rear
- * BT Radio Station, Elbow Lane: H3G Base Station comprising 3 antennas, 6 300mm diameter dish antennas, 2 600mm diameter dish antennas, radio equipment housing and development ancillary thereto
- * 115 London Road: Single storey rear extension

(b) The meeting considered the application to remove the onerous condition at Connaught House and agreed (by 4 votes to 2) to object as the farmhouse would not have got planning permission without the condition and to remove it would set a dangerous precedent in the Green Belt and in a Landscape Conservation Area.

(c) The meeting noted the advice from East Herts that the Hearing on the appeals re the dormer windows at Rush Green Hall had been cancelled as planning permission has been granted.

(d) The following decisions of EHDC were noted:

- * Rush Green Hall: Dormer amendments to original approval – permission granted
- * 25 Heathgate: Conservatory single storey rear extension – permission granted
- * Leafy Oak Farm & Nursery – appeal dismissed.

(e) The meeting was concerned at the appearance of the garage being constructed at Redlands and **the Clerk was asked to check the planning permission.**

(iii) Playing Field

(a) Children's play equipment

Trevor Goodingham reported that the new swings had been installed.

“Hoodies turn to Goodies” is how the Chairman described the teenagers who had turned up to paint the meeting point. In total, sixteen people took part in the painting party on Bank Holiday Sunday.

(b) RoSPA report

The Chairman reported that RoSPA had identified no major risks and that their recommended works were in hand.

(iv) Highways and byways

(a) Light over the Mission Room

The meeting agreed to Trevor Goodingham finding an alternative electrician if the one who had volunteered to do the work did not get the required certificate in the near future.

(b) 30mph repeater signs

The meeting agreed to support the AA's campaign for the ending of the link between the 30mph speed limit and street lighting, and for the law to change to allow 30mph repeater signs. **The Clerk was asked to write to Mark Prisk MP.**

(c) Speed monitoring device

The Clerk passed Trevor Goodingham details of volunteers to man the device in July.

(v) Village of the Year 2005 competition

The Clerk had circulated an outline of the three tours proposed for the judges visiting on 9 June. Subject to slight amendment, these were agreed.

It was agreed that Martin Nash, Bob and Joyce Akers, Trevor Goodingham, and Gillian and Mike Thornton should represent the village at the awards ceremony on 29 June.

(vi) Allotments

Bob Akers reported he had collected £128 in rent but a number of tenants had not paid yet.

He had let half a plot to someone outside the village, as agreed at the last meeting. He reported that there was no waiting list.

One rubbish pile had been lit and was still burning. Another one needed to be lit when the weather conditions were right.

He was concerned at the dumping of old barrows, etc and felt that the Council needed to do something about this.

(vii) Wildlife Meadow

The Clerk reported that she had been unable to contact Paul Hewitt and, on Anthony Oliver's advice, had contacted the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust who had said they would quote for the work. She had sent them all the relevant information and asked that they contact the Chairman for anything further.

(viii) Website

Nothing to report.

(ix) School

Nothing further to report. Gillian Thornton commented that when she and William had done a 'dry run' for the judges' tour, the Headteacher had said that the things she would talk to the judges about were just the sorts of things she tells Ofsted about.

(x) The Clerk

The Clerk reported that she was away from 10 June to 1 July and that the Chairman had agreed to the Clerk's answer phone message referring callers on Parish Council matter on to her.

(x) Village Greens

The Clerk reported that Thames Water would consider the Council's claim for the costs of repairing the War Memorial Green when the work had been done. The meeting found this a strange way of proceeding but agreed to ask Mr Turner to carry out the required work.

(xi) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that there would be a Quiz on 2 July to raise funds for the Hall.

He also reported that the Committee had decided that there should be no more teenage parties.

8. Correspondence received

- (i) EHDC: Meetings in June including Hertford Community Voice on developments at Balls Park, etc on 16 June at 7.30pm at Richard Hale School and Development Control on 22 June at 7.30pm in the Waytemore Room, Bishop's Stortford – noted.
- (ii) EHDC: 'Effective Fundraising from Grant Making Bodies' training day 29 June 9.30am to 3.30pm at Bishop's Stortford YMCA and 'Running a Fundraising Event' Wednesday 6 July 9.30am to 3.30pm at Ware Priory – details passed to Trevor Goodingham who hoped to attend both for the Parish Council and the Village Hall Management Committee.
- (iii) BAA Stansted: Stansted Development Timetable – noted.
- (iv) Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust: Newsletter and suggestion that the Council subscribes to the Trust at a cost of £30 per annum – the Council decided not to subscribe.
- (v) HCC: Draft Statement of Community Involvement for the Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework – public consultation ending 15 July – noted.
- (vi) HCC: Hertfordshire's Bus and Rail Strategy – Stakeholder Consultation. Comments by 3 June – noted.
- (vii) EHDC: What's on in East Herts – noted.
- (viii) CPRE: Newsletter and flyer for Promise Auction to be held 20 September during supper at AGM at Brickendon.
- (ix) HCC: Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – closing date 20 June.
- (x) East of England Public Examination: Advice that an Examination in Public will be held in September to test the soundness of the draft Plan – noted.
- (xi) Stop Harlow North campaign: Advice of rally on Sunday 3 July walking from villages to "meet in the Middle" at Eastwick at around 1.00pm – noted.
- (xii) Vitalise (the new name of Winged Fellowship Trust): Appeal for revenue funding – the Council decided not to donate.
- (xiii) HAPTC: Agenda for AGM on 28 June at Woolmer Green Village Hall at 7.30pm, and Parish Information May 2005 – noted.
- (xiv) BT: Proposal to change London Road box to a cashless one – noted.
- (xv) CPRE: Fieldwork newsletter, leaflet on Green Belt and notice of their Community and Regional Planning Services – noted.
- (xvi) EHDC: Its response to the Standards Board review of Members' Code of Conduct. Deadline for representations is 17 June - noted.
- (xvii) EHDC: East Herts Summer Football Tournament posters – **the Clerk will put the posters on the notice boards and pass a copy to the Junior Football Club.**

9. Financial matters

(a) Audit of accounts for year ending 31 March 2004

The Clerk reported that these had been completed and the external auditors had no comments to make. She explained that, because of the expenditure on the meeting point, the Council's expenditure had put it into a higher bracket for the auditor's fee (which now amounted to more than under the old, harder regime. She suggested raising this issue with HAPTC.

(b) Accounts for payment

(i)	C M Morgan:	Distributing June's newsletter	£37.01	
		Printing June's newsletter	£60.00	
		Net salary for May	£437.21	£534.22
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for May		£79.11
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for May		£104.03
(iv)	HCC:	Stationery		£51.02
(v)	Wicksteeds:	Swing spares		£962.05
(vi)	Lubbock Fine:	Audit fees		£352.50
(vii)	Playground Management:	Inspection fees		£72.85
(viii)	Zone Marketing:	Distribution of July's newsletter		£37.01

(c) Income
(i) HM Customs and Excise: VAT refund £515.58

(c) Balances
Current account £7911.73
Deposit account £4644.88

In view of the large balance in the current account, the Clerk suggested transferring £5000 to the deposit account. This was agreed.

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) Reminder that allotment rents are due
- (b) Summer Bonanza on 10 July poster
- (c) Painting days
- (d) East of England Plan update
- (e) Missing cats
- (f) Plea to parents not to park by Church when dropping children off (into newsletter only as in Parish News last month).

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 4 July 2005 in the Mission Room at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____