

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 7 February 2005
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Anthony Oliver (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Mary Bourne
Andrew Crumpton
Trevor Goodingham
Alison Scarll
Gillian Thornton

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

East Herts District Councillor William Ashley, PC Paul Scott (for item 5) and one member of the public

1. Apologies for absence

County Councillor Nigel Copping.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

Mary Bourne declared a personal interest in item 6(b)(i) – the planning application for Crossways, Vicarage Causeway.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10 January 2005.

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

4. Matters arising

(i) Light over Mission Room

Gillian Thornton reported that Mike Thornton had not been able to contact the electrician regarding his quotation. **The Clerk was asked to find an alternative contractor and to forward the details on to Mike.**

5. Police matters

The Clerk reported that she had received information from the Chairman of the Hertfordshire Police Authority regarding the changes to Stop Procedures arising out of the recommendations of the Steven Lawrence Inquiry. These were noted.

Andrew Crumpton raised the issue of irresponsible parking outside the school. He advised that he had attempted to set up a "walking bus" but that had received no response from parents.

PC Scott advised that he would send a letter to the Headteacher for forwarding to all parents. This approach had worked in another village. He will also try to get a police presence outside the school at the beginning and end of the day.

PC Scott advised that the Traffic Management Unit at EHDC would only be able to issue parking tickets in controlled areas. There are no such parking restrictions in the village and so parking on pavements would have to be dealt with by the police as obstructions. He had emailed a colleague about speeding and parking and was waiting for a response. If residents see a vehicle causing an obstruction, they should contact the police.

Andrew Crumpton asked whether the Parish Council would support an approach to Hertfordshire Highways to get additional road marking near the school. The meeting agreed to so approach Hertfordshire Highways.

PC Scott advised that the police were awaiting a second mobile police station. He will ask those in charge of the stations if they would consider adding Hertford Heath to their rounds. He explained that the more remoter villages tended to be considered suitable locations and Hertford Heath's nearness to Hertford may mean that one is not located in the village.

He further advised that the speed monitoring device that the Council had borrowed last year was being repaired. He did say that the more the public requested a mobile police camera in an area, the greater the chances of getting one. Martin Sears of Hertfordshire Highways at Highways House, 41-45 Broadwater Road, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3SP was the person to write to.

He and his colleague have sent a letter to all parishes in their area giving details of contacts, etc, and advising that ward constables are only able to attend two Parish Council meetings a year. **The Clerk will circulate that letter to all members.**

6. County and District Council matters

William Ashley thanked the Parish Council for organising the meeting on the East of England Plan. Members of the Parish Council had been circulated with copies of the Chairman's response and agreed that the Council would finalise its response at the March meeting. **The Clerk will prepare a draft for discussion at that meeting if members send her their comments the week before.**

William will be taking up with Nigel Copping the question of the provision of a bus service between the village and Presdales.

William said he wanted to encourage Hertford Heath to enter the Village of the Year competition this year as he felt the village had a great deal going for it. The meeting agreed and Gillian Thornton, Andrew Crumpton and Martin Nash agreed to meet with William to work on this. **The Clerk will find a suitable date and will circulate copies of the entry forms to all involved.**

7. Reports

(i) Chairman

In a closed session at the end of the meeting, the Chairman advised on the recommendation of HAPTC that the Clerk be paid in accordance with the national scales. The meeting agreed to increase the Clerk's hours to 11.5 per week and to increase her grade to SCP 28 with effect from 1 April 2005.

(ii) Planning Committee

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

- * Elbow Lane Farm: Construction of timber tea room ancillary to the equestrian use of the site
- * 12 Postwood Green: Raise ridge of existing roof to accommodate loft conversion
- * Crossways, Vicarage Causeway: Two storey end extension

(b) The Planning Committee considered the following applications at the end of the meeting and had no objections to any of them:

- * 61 Mount Pleasant: Conservatory to rear
- * 147 London Road: Single storey side/rear extension and conservatory

(c) The following decisions of EHDC were noted:

- * 1 Postwood Green: Construction of new bungalow – permission granted
- * 31 Postwood Green: First floor side extension – permission granted
- * Penholm, 185c London Road: Single storey rear extension – permission granted
- * Rush Green Hall: Amended application for dormer windows – permission refused
- * 147 London Road: Erection of 3 bedroom 1.5 storey house – permission granted.

(d) The following withdrawal was noted:

- * Haileybury: Alterations and 3 storey extension to sanatorium and residential accommodation.

(e) Elbow Lane Farmhouse

The meeting noted the somewhat disappointing and incomplete response to the Clerk's letter of December 2004 from Harvey Fairbrass.

(f) Proposal to build 500 homes just outside the village

Trevor Goodingham asked if the Parish Council should comment on the reports of such a large application which would have a serious impact on the village. The meeting agreed to wait until a formal application had been submitted. **The Clerk will ask the Planning Department if it could notify her when such an application has been submitted as its proximity to the village will have a detrimental effect on the parish.**

(iii) Playing Field

The Chairman reported on a meeting held with Wicksteed's. A quotation for the equipment and installation had been received. It came to approximately £20,000. **The Clerk will search for available grants and advise the next meeting.**

Mary Bourne asked if the bar at the top of the slide could be fitted as soon as possible. **The Clerk will ask Roy Phypers to carry out the work and to liaise with Mary.**

(iv) Highways and byways

(a) Application to modify the Definitive Map and Statement

This application related to a path outside the village boundary. Bob Akers knew it well and **the Clerk will ask HCC to send him an evidence form.**

(b) Street lighting

The Clerk will send William Ashley a copy of her letter requesting additional lamp posts in the village.

(c) Leaking hydrant

Martin Nash reported that the hydrant in Vicarage Causeway was leaking. **The Clerk will advise the Fire and Rescue service.**

(d) Matters referred to Hertfordshire Highways

The Clerk reported that Ed Fisher would be speaking to the engineer who designed the London Road Traffic Management Scheme on his return from leave. Ed was unable to come to an evening meeting but could arrange for an engineer to attend a daytime meeting if required.

The Clerk further advised that the encroachment of branches and undergrowth by the Townshend Arms would be dealt with in the next financial year.

(v) Allotments

Nothing to report.

(vi) Wildlife Meadow

The meeting congratulated Mary Bourne on her ode "Newts Galore" included in the February Newsletter.

(vii) Website

Nothing to report.

(viii) School

Nothing further to report.

(ix) The Clerk

Nothing to report

(x) Village Greens

The Chairman reported that a delivery van had churned up the Green around the access to 33 Mount Pleasant. **The Clerk will pursue its reinstatement.**

Mary Bourne reported that a skip lorry had damaged the Green near 7 Mount Pleasant. She had spoken to the occupant and is hopeful that the damage will be repaired.

Mary advised that the Council's decision to leave the fallen tree on the green had been much appreciated. Mr Turner had advised her that if the Council wished the tree to be moved, it would need a truck as it is very heavy.

Mary asked if the Council could organise a Summer Picnic on the Green. The meeting agreed to approach the WI who are holding an event in July to see if, with a contribution from the Parish Council, their event could be turned into a village one.

(xi) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham advised the meeting that tickets for the Casino Night on 26 February were selling fast.

8. Correspondence received

- (a) CPRE: Hertfordshire's Village of the Year 2005 – could it be yours? – agreed to enter.
- (b) Environment Agency: Flood Awareness Campaign 2004/05 – 'Act Now Be Prepared' – noted.
- (c) CDA Rural Enterprise Project: Community Consultation Guide – noted.
- (d) EHDC: What's on in East Herts Jan to Apr 2005 – noted.
- (e) HAPTC: Parish Information January 2005 including ODPM consultation of "Planning for gypsy and traveller sites", flyer for MJ Granger Grounds Maintenance Ltd, 2005/06 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks – noted.
- (f) RoSPA: Playground Inspections dates – May for Hertfordshire – noted.
- (g) EHDC: Statement of Licensing Policy – noted.
- (h) BT Ross & Co: Transfer Application for The Townshend Arms – noted.
- (i) EHDC: Summer Playschemes 2005 – request for financial support - the meeting agreed to suggest that a play scheme be held in the Village Hall with the Parish Council bearing the hiring fee.
- (j) CDA for Hertfordshire: Free advertising in Village Events Diary 2005 – agreed to advise of the Casino Night and Farmers' Markets, Nature Reserve working parties and the WI event on the Green.
- (k) CDA for Hertfordshire: Annual Review 2003 – 2004 – noted.
- (l) Business Link Hertfordshire: "Doing business with the public sector" free event Wednesday 2 February 2005 – noted.
- (m) EHDC: Meetings in February 2005 including Regional Spatial Strategy Scrutiny Panel 2.00pm Wednesday 9 February and Policy Development Scrutiny 7.30pm Thursday 10 February (both in Council Chamber) – noted.
- (n) HCC: Draft Statement of Community Involvement – Hertfordshire Minerals & Waste Development Framework and Planning Application Process – request for suggestions as to methods of consultation and whether there is interest in participating in workshops and/or focus groups - noted.

9. Financial matters

(a) Accounts for payment

(i)	C M Morgan:	Distribution January's newsletter		£47.59
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for December		£76.86
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for December		£101.09
(iv)	HCC:	Street lighting maintenance 1 Oct – 31 Dec	£215.30	
		St lighting energy charges 1 Oct – 31 Dec	£147.45	£362.75
(v)	T Aylward:	Tree work		£611.00
(vi)	Jeff Skidmore:	Hedge cutting and trimming grass bank		£164.50
(vii)	RL Turner:	Cutting up and disposing of fallen tree		£100.00
(vii)	MJK Ronald:	Audit accounts 2003/2004	£140.00	
		Accountancy to provide VAT analysis and monthly reporting	£40.00	£180.00
(viii)	Copyzone:	Printing February's newsletter		£114.50

(b) Receipts

(i) EHDC: Reimbursement churchyard cutting £1380.00

(c) Balances

Current account -£155.56
Deposit account £8924.88

The meeting agreed to transfer £1000 from the deposit account to the current account if the VAT reclaim did not come through in time.

(d) Grass cutting of Village Greens and Church yard

The Clerk advised that the price per cut 2005 quoted by Mr Turner was the same as for 2004. The meeting agreed to accept the quotation.

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) East of England Plan – brief reminder
- (b) PC Scott's advice to write to Hertfordshire Highways
- (c) School parking issues and walking bus
- (d) Village of the Year competition
- (e) Playground plan.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 7 February 2005 in the Mission Room at 7:30 pm . Mary Bourne gave her apologies.

The meeting closed at 9:55 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____