

# HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Anthony Oliver (Chairman)  
Bob Akers  
Andrew Crumpton  
Trevor Goodingham  
Martin Nash  
Gillian Thornton

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

County Councillor Nigel Copping and four members of the public (three for item 6(iii) only)

1. Apologies for absence

Mary Bourne, Alison Scarll and District Councillor William Ashley.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 7 February 2005.

Subject to two typographical errors, the minutes were approved and signed as a true record by the Chairman. It was later pointed out that the minutes had not shown Martin Nash as present.

4. Matters arising

(i) Light over Mission Room

Trevor Goodingham had found an electrician who would carry out the work required at no cost and would do so as soon as his certification was through.

(ii) Susie Defoe

The Clerk reported that Susie Defoe, who had been expected to attend the February meeting, had recently contacted her to say that she had been off sick for three weeks. Susie had asked that the Council be informed but no message had reached the Clerk.

5. Police matters

(i) Hertfordshire's Policing Plan 2005/06 and Strategic Plan 2005/08:

The Chairman will attend the launch on 21 March 2005 at the Fielder Centre.

(ii) Correspondence from Mark Prisk MP

The letters from Mark Prisk had been circulated to all members. The Clerk reported that she had not received any response from the Chief Constable and **was asked to contact Mark Prisk's office to take up his offer of leading a delegation to see the Chief Constable.**

(iii) Reports from PC Scott

Members had received copies of PC Scott's letter and email. They were pleased to note that PC Scott had done all he had promised to do at the last meeting. They appreciated that he was very stretched and felt that any faults lay with the system and not with him.

6. County and District Council matters

(i) East of England Regional Plan

Nigel Copping reported that the County Council was meeting on 8 March and the District Council on 9 March to consider their responses to the Plan. **The Parish Council asked the Clerk to respond, basing the responses on the CPRE guidelines and the Chairman's responses.**

Martin Nash drew the Council's attention to a report in the Sunday Telegraph which said that officers were being withdrawn from working at Regional Assemblies as they could become personally liable.

(ii) Lights at Rush Green Roundabout

Nigel Copping reported that he had supported the original plan. However, the County Council officers were asked to look at it again and come up with something cheaper. The revised plan was the same but more expensive! That plan was lost in committee by five votes to four. The officers are of the view that something has to be done and there is money in the safety budget to do the work. The plan will now go to the Development Control Committee.

7. Reports

(i) Chairman

The Chairman announced that the meetings on 4 April would be his last as a member of the Council and outlined the procedure for electing a new Chairman.

(ii) Planning Committee

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

- \* Amwell Place Farm: Agricultural livestock building
- \* 27 Postwood Green: Single storey side extension

(b) The Council noted that the owners of Rush Green Hall were appealing against the decision of East Herts to refuse retrospective permission for dormer windows.

(c) The following decisions of EHDC were noted:

- \* Elbow Lane Farm: Construction of timber tea room – permission granted
- \* 12 Postwood Green: Raise ridge of existing roof to accommodate loft conversion – permission refused
- \* Rear of 113/117 London Road: Erection of 5 terraced dwellings – permission granted.

(iii) Playing Field

Three members of Hertford Heath Football Club explained how they wished to take the Club forward. To enable the first team to go into the Herts Senior County League (Division 1) this year, temporary car parking was provided and the field is roped off for each match. This only just meets the minimum requirements for that Division. The team is currently in a promotion position to the Premier Division. However, the facilities on the field are not sufficient for them to do so. The Club has spent £5,000 - £6,000 over the past three seasons on the hut but there are no grants available for the hut as it currently stands. What is needed is the demolition of the existing hut and a new one built on a larger footprint. The Club would also need a post and rail fence around the pitch and hard standing round two sides. At Knebworth, which runs 12 sides, new facilities have been built at a cost of £350,000. Currently, there are eight sides in the village.

The Chairman said that the Council was keen to be as helpful as it could be. It remained concerned at the possible overuse of the pitch and will remind Heath United (who remain in arrears in pitch fees) that HHFC controls who plays on the pitch.

The Club is looking to raise the necessary funds over the next two to three years. The Parish Council is happy to support local fundraising and hoped there would be regular liaison between the Council and the Club.

**The Clerk was asked to provide copies of the Council's plans for the playground to the Club.**

The Clerk reported that she was trying to arrange a meeting with Claire Pullen, East Herts District Council's Funding Officer who could advise on the Community Capital Grant (which had a closing date of 6 May 2005) and on other sources of funding.

The meeting noted SMP Playgrounds' March sale items but felt it preferable that the seats be repaired rather than purchasing bright green metal ones.

(iv) Highways and byways

(a) Downfield Road

The Council learned with concern that two more cars had crashed into the garden of number 71. The Chairman had spoken to Robin Noades of Hertfordshire Highways who had inspected the site and would be recommending additional signage as well as re-engineering the ditch to cure the water that runs across the road. This work is high on his list for the next financial year.

The T-junction at the bottom of Downfield Road will be repaired properly, rather than simply patched, sometime in the next financial year as well.

(b) Damage to Green

The Clerk reported that she had received a quotation from Mr Turner to repair the damage caused by the delivery lorry and this had been passed to the insurers by Mr Humphreys.

(c) Vicarage Causeway

Gillian Thornton reported that a post on a corner of the Village Green had been damaged and the light at the top was off. **The Clerk will report this.**

(v) Village of the Year 2005 competition

Gillian Thornton reported on the meeting held on 28 February. The group had been identifying local businesses and had made a start on completing the form. Following the next scheduled meeting on 14 March, the draft submission would be circulated to all members.

(vi) Allotments

Bob Akers reported that a bonfire of rubbish would be lit when the debris was dry and there was no wind. He still had one vacancy as those on the waiting list wanted to wait until the weather was warmer. He reported that a further half plot may be given up but he had decided to wait until he had someone ready to take it on before clearing it. It was suggested that an item in the newsletter could advertise plots. Bob reported that he had begun to collect this year's rents.

(vii) Wildlife Meadow

The meeting considered the letter from Jones and Sons concerning the newt survey but the Chairman advised that the warden of Balls Wood would be very happy to carry out the survey and **the Clerk was asked to write to Jones and Sons accordingly.**

(viii) Website

The Clerk reported that she had circulated all organisations, shops, pubs, etc with details of what the website contained about them. She had received a number of responses and proposed to circulate all known businesses in the village to see if they would like to have their details included on the site.

(ix) School

Bob Akers asked why, when all the pupils had arrived, was the school closed on the day it snowed. Parents had to come to collect their children and the weather then warmed up. Andrew Crumpton said that this was to be discussed at a governors' meeting.

(x) The Clerk

The Clerk reported that NALC had advised that, as both parties had acted in good faith regarding her appointment, the Council took no further action. Members agreed.

The meeting agreed that the village website and Parish Council newsletter should be entered for the Local Council Review competition.

(x) Village Greens

Gillian Thornton advised that the car that had damaged the sign had also damaged the Green. **The Clerk will get a quotation for repairing the damage and send it to the driver concerned.**

The Clerk reported that she had heard nothing further from East Herts regarding the replacement trees for the Green. Orders will be placed for the rowan, hawthorns and field maple as agreed.

Bob Akers reported that Thames Water contractors had damaged the War Memorial Green. **The Clerk will get a quotation for repairing the damage and send it to Thames Water.**

(xi) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham advised that the Casino Night had been very successful, raising around £1,000. He also reported that enquiries had been received from someone who put on monthly jazz nights.

8. Correspondence received

- (a) Jameson & Hill: The Country Store – Application for a Transfer of Justices Licence - noted
- (b) HCC: Hertfordshire Waste Development Plan Documents – invitation to workshop on 10 March – noted that the Clerk was attending
- (c) defra: Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill – outline of measures - noted
- (d) AGRE: Rural Business Newsletter January 2005 - noted
- (e) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Discussion documents (a) Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why neighbourhoods matter and (b) Vibrant Local Leadership - noted
- (f) EHDC: Advice that Elbow Lane Farmhouse will be called “Connaught House” - noted
- (g) CMS: Wood Warden News Winter/Spring 2005 and Wild Wood newsletter Winter 2004 – Spring 2005 - noted
- (h) CDA for Herts: Newsletter Winter 2005. Highlights: funding questions answered, recycling information and ideas for using your hall more effectively. - noted
- (i) The Standards Board for England: “A Code for the Future” consultation - noted
- (j) EHDC: Meetings in March 2005, including Regional Spatial Strategy Scrutiny Panel on 3 March at 5:00pm in the Council Chamber, Hertford - noted
- (k) Stop Stansted Expansion: Public Meeting 1 March at 8:00pm in Mountfitchet High School - noted
- (l) CPRE: Newsletter – East of England Plan Special February 2005 - noted
- (m) HAPTC: Parish Information February 2005 and information on creating a youth council - noted
- (n) Stop Harlow North poster – **the Clerk will post copies on the noticeboards**
- (o) Open Spaces Society: Newsletter - noted
- (p) The Standards Board for England: Newsletter March 2005 - noted
- (q) EHDC: Advice that agenda and minutes of Highways Partnership Joint Member Panel meetings appear on EHDC’s website - noted

9. Financial matters

(a) Accounts for payment

(i)	C M Morgan:	Printing March’s newsletter	£60.00	
		Distributing March’s newsletter	£37.01	£97.01
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for February		£76.86
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for February		£100.87
(iv)	Information Commissioner:	DPA notification for 2005/06		£35.00
(v)	Thames Water:	Bill for Apr – Sep 2005		£35.40
(vi)	HCC:	Stationery		£30.22

(b) Receipts

(i)	Customs and Excise:	VAT refund		£454.99
(ii)	Allotment Rent			£10.00
(iii)	Contribution from Cresthaven Homes to children’s play area			£200.00

(c) Balances

Current account	£134.07
Deposit account	£8924.88

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) Police action taken re parking at school
- (b) Damage to greens being rectified
- (c) Village of the Year 2005 competition
- (d) Football Club plans
- (e) Annual Parish Meeting
- (f) The Chairman's resignation
- (g) Reserve news from Anthony Oliver

11. Arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 4 April 2005 in the Mission Room at 7:00pm

The Clerk explained that this is not a Parish Council meeting but a meeting for all residents called by the Parish Council Chairman. The Chairman reported on the activities of the Council and a draft financial statement would be given. The Clerk advised that other councils invited those groups to whom donations had been given in the year to attend and/or provide reports as to how the donation had been spent in the village. The meeting agreed to invite the Village Hall, the PCC, the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust and the CPRE to provide reports and also to there being a demonstration of the website.

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 4 April in the Mission Room immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting .

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_