

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 7 April 2008

at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Jack Eames
Trevor Goodingham
Martin Nash
Alison Scarll
Gillian Thornton

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

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

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were formally received from Andrew Crumpton. Apologies were also noted from PCSO Karen Broad.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 3 March 2008

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

4. Matters arising

None

5. Financial matters

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

(i) Carolyn Morgan	Net salary for March	£479.83	
	Printing April's newsletter	£60.00	
	Distribution of April's newsletter	£42.30	
	AOL subscription	£15.99	
	Display stand	£105.75	
	Expenses to 31 March 2008	£187.97	£891.84
(ii) Carol Taylor	Net salary for March		£107.14
(iii) Peter Webster	Net salary for March		£109.57
(iv) Basic Travel	Running PO bus in March		£200.00
(v) HCC	Street lighting – maintenance	£249.06	
	Street lighting – energy charges	£210.68	£459.74
(vi) Wicksteeds	Replacement bolts		£11.05
(vii) R Trundle	Country Store notice board		£30.00
(viii) Thames Water	Allotments water charge – half year		£42.75
(ix) HMRC	Q4 PAYE & NI		£568.08
(x) EHDC	Mount Pleasant play area licence fee	£5.00	

(b) The Clerk reported that the balances after the above income and expenditure were taken into account would be:

(i) Current Account (after above)	-£2398.70
(ii) Deposit Account	£13,270.23

In light of the above balances, the meeting agreed to the transferring of £3,000 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account

- (c) External Auditors report for year ending 31st March 2007 was noted. In order to increase the fidelity cover suggested by the External Auditors, the meeting agreed to change insurers to the Norwich Union. Not only were the premiums cheaper but the cover was greatly increased.
- (d) The meeting agreed to the Clerk using internet banking to check balances and to transfer money between accounts as agreed by the Council.

6. Police Matters

(i) Neighbourhood Watch

Trevor Goodingham reported that there was to be a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on 26th April. Alison Scarll said she had volunteered to be a warden but had heard nothing. Trevor will check on this.

7. District and County Council Matters

- (i) Mike Tucker reported on the Primary and Secondary allocations this year, on pot holes and their repairs, that more recycling would be needed in future, that energy contracts were ending soon and, as large increases were expected, a scheme of switching street lights off at night was to be piloted in the area.

He also advised that the County Council's council tax would be increased by 4½%.

- (ii) William Ashley advised that the District Council was thinking of allowing cardboard to be placed in brown bins next year. He also said that if more than three people wished to go to the Rural Parishes Conference then that would probably be OK. The meeting agreed that the Chairman, Lynn Bonner and the Clerk should attend and if anyone else wished to go, they should advise the Clerk by the end of the week.

8. Reports

(a) Chairman

None.

(b) Planning

(i) Applications received

The meeting considered the following applications to which it had no objections:

- (i) 6a Church Hill: Two storey side extension, single storey rear and front extensions
- (ii) 36 Mount Pleasant: Two storey rear extension and canopy over side door

- (iii) The meeting also considered the application for the internal conversion of two WCs and two offices to accommodation for grooms at East Herts Equestrian Centre. Whilst members recognised that there were no changes planned to the external appearance of the building, they felt that no case had been made for such a change of use in the Green Belt.

(ii) EHDC decisions

Members were dismayed to hear that permission had been granted for a five bedroom house on land to the rear of 59 Mount Pleasant.

- (iii) The parking of a caravan and portaloo would be reported to EHDC.

(c) Playing Field

- (i) The Clerk reported that she had three quotations for putting up the Freeride. The meeting agreed to accept that from Ladkarn Construction. Trevor Goodingham and Bob Akers will check that the planned location is still feasible.

(ii) It was reported that cars are parking on the Playing Field when the Reserves are playing. All clubs will be reminded that only cars coming for games of the Senior team are allowed to be parked on the Field.

(iii) The meeting noted that Greendays would start clearing the scrub and overhanging trees on 12th May.

(d) Highways and byways

(i) Bob Akers raised the question as to whether or not planning permission was needed for cars crossing the footways. The Clerk will check and put something in the newsletter and Parish magazine.

(ii) Lynn also reported that Hertfordshire Highways were going to produce an action plan for Mount Pleasant and the Rushen Drive verges.

(iii) The Chairman advised that she was to meet with Fiona Annal and Nicholas Maddex about this year's P3 project.

(e) Bonfire Night

Nothing to report.

(f) Village Fete

Trevor Goodingham reported that the Working Party would not be getting the stalls from EHDC. He advised that sponsors were coming forward and that the Group would be liaising with the Bonfire Group on the safe custody of any equipment, etc.

(g) Allotments

Bob Akers reported that he has three people on the waiting list and that he has allocated three in the last two weeks. The Clerk will include a reminder to allotment holders to "use it or lose it" in the next newsletter. She will also include a request for the plastic playhouses, etc to be removed from plots.

(h) Wildlife Meadow

Bob's Pond has been cleared of pondweed and appears to be holding water.

The Clerk has a number of field maples and guelder roses for the meadow. The Chairman will liaise with Ray Tisbury regarding their planting.

(i) Website

Nothing to report.

(j) School

Nothing to report.

(k) The Clerk

Nothing to report.

(l) Village Greens

The meeting noted that the Village of the Year signed had been moved.

The meeting agreed not to replace the "no parking" sign as there is still one on that part of the Green.

Ray Tisbury will look at the trees on the Green and remove any fallen branches.

The meeting agreed to look at moving the black bin to somewhere more suitable.

(m) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that the Race Night had been postponed. There was to be a Barn Dance on 14th June.

The toilets have been refurbished and the windows will be replaced when the work will not conflict with hirings.

(l) Other

(i) Internet Access Point

Broadband access has still to be arranged.

(ii) Calor Village of the Year 2007 competition

The meeting noted the arrangements for the judges who will be visiting the village on 14th April. Mark Prisk MP will be recording a welcoming video on 11th April on the Village Green

9. Correspondence received

- (i) BAA Stansted: Briefing material on planning application for second runway – noted.
- (ii) NATS (National Air Traffic Services): Proposed changes to airspace – the meeting noted that the proposals seem to benefit Hertford Heath!
- (iii) East & North Herts NHS Trust: consultation on their NHS foundation trust application – noted.
- (iv) CPRE: Newsletter – noted.
- (v) Open Spaces Society: Newsletter – noted.

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) Allotments – use them or lose them and plastic houses
- (b) Annual Parish Meeting
- (c) Report on Reserves
- (d) Revived Farmers' Market

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 12th May 2008 immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting in the Mission Room.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____