

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 7th September 2009
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Andrew Crumpton (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Malcolm Bolton
Lynn Bonner
Jack Eames
Trevor Goodingham
Martin Nash
Alison Scarll
Dawn Sleet

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present were County Councillor Rosemary Cheswright, PC Neal Dyton and 20 members of the public.

A. Public Question Time

Stuart Tyler asked if the Council could make representations regarding the condition of Rushen Drive. The meeting was reminded that anyone can report highway faults and that the information is given in every Parish Council newsletter.

Roger Slater asked if members of the public could use speed guns and report to the police. Neal Dyton said he would ask.

Roger also asked if planning applications could not go directly to the Chairman of the Planning Committee to speed the process up. The Clerk will ask.

Rosemary Cheswright asked when the website would be updated. The Clerk said she hoped to do this in the next few days.

There then followed a long discussion on the closure of Beacon Court, the main points raised being:

- (i) The complete lack of consultation with the residents, the Parish Council and the village. The Chairman thought this reprehensible.
- (ii) The moral issue in giving the elderly residents no choice - they will have to move even though Riversmead does not have planning permission to demolish Beacon Court or do anything with the site.
- (iii) The removal of the laundry and meeting room facilities which are used by all elderly residents, not just those in Beacon Court.
- (iv) The inability of the village to cope with more families. The school is full.
- (v) Whether the village needs more affordable housing.
- (vi) The problems that will be caused when developing the site. Vicarage Causeway, Mount Pleasant and Rushen Drive are narrow roads.
- (vii) Why was a flat redecorated and then left empty.

Rosemary Cheswright advised the meeting that the Parish Council would be able to speak at the Development Control Committee when (and if) Riversmead submitted an application. She also suggested that the Council copy its comments and objections to every member of that Committee.

The Chairman reminded everyone of the public meeting to be held on Thursday 17th September at which a number of representatives from Riversmead would be present to, hopefully, answer all these questions.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor William Ashley.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 13th July 2009

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

4. Matters arising

Dawn Sleet asked why 30mph repeaters could not be placed in London Road and other roads. The Clerk explained that apparently it was not legal to do so.

5. Financial Matters

(i)	Mrs C Morgan	Net salary for August	£505.87	
		Printing September's newsletter	£75.00	
		Distribution September's newsletter	£49.68	
		AOL subscription	£15.99	
		Postage	£6.33	
		Postage	£4.80	£657.67
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor	Net salary for August		£198.09
(iii)	Mr P Webster	Net salary for August		£115.46
(iv)	DJH Garden Services	Application of weedkiller		£16.10
(v)	HCC	Street lighting - energy	£360.30	
		Street lighting - maintenance	£264.88	£625.18
(vi)	Open Spaces Soc	Subscription		£40.00
(vii)	Grassroots	Cutting Village Green	£340.00	
		Cutting Churchyard	£240.00	
		Cutting Playing Field and Children's Play Area	£140.00	
		Cutting Meadow and Allotment Paths	£140.00	
		VAT	£129.00	£989.00
(viii)	Little Amwell PCC	Mission Room hire		£165.00

Formally confirm payment to:

(vii)	EHDC	Hire of stalls		£500.00
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(b) Income

(i)	Co-op Bank	Interest on current account		£0.53
(ii)	EHDC	Grant to hire of stalls		£250.00
(iii)	Eon	Wayleave		£4.60

(c) Balances

(i)	Current Account after above			-£633.80
(ii)	Deposit Account			£19,003.18

The meeting agreed to the transfer of £1,000 from the Deposit Account to the Current Account to cover the deficit.

(d) Grants

Members agreed to the following grant:

(i)	Hertford Heath Cubs and Beavers			£150.00
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6. Police Matters

Neal Dyton reported that he and Neil Major had attended an insecure house on London Road, the front door was wide open . It seemed from enquiries, that it may have been like this for eight to ten days! He said that, despite what we read in the papers, things may not be as bad they would have us believe.

He advised that nuisance motorcycle reports have been received for both Elbow Lane and Hailey Lane. He and Neil are working towards dealing with these.

A fly tipping incident at Haileybury was captured on CCTV, the full report including the footage has been passed onto the Council for action against the offender.

The car port in Woodland Road appears to be less of a problem following increased patrols in this area.

The increases in crime he had previously reported one have fallen away to the low levels we have come to expect.

A Misuse of Drugs Act search warrant was executed in Woodland Road and one person was arrested.

There had been only a few calls to Police from the village recently and all of these have been low level matters.

There were a number of Police patrols in Hertford Heath in May and June to remedy the increase in crime he had previously reported. These were unmarked Police car patrols.

His police car project continues to be a source of frustration. What he thought would be straightforward is anything but.

The damage on the allotments had been reported to him.

7. County Council and East Herts District Council Matters

It was agreed that Bob Akers, Alison Scarll and the Clerk would attend the Planning Information Session to be held on Monday 28th September.

8. Reports

(a) Chairman

Nothing further to report.

(b) Planning

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

- (a) 38 London Road: Single storey rear conservatory/garden room
- (b) 31 Hogsdel Lane: Construction of new dwelling with basement
- (c) 24 Rushen Drive: Single storey rear extension
- (d) Gamels House: Two storey extension to rear, new pitched roof to front

The meeting had concerns about the loss of trees and the possible damage to the wildlife environment with the following application:

- (e) 2 The Roundings: Two 5-bedroom dwellings

(ii) The meeting noted the following decisions of East Herts:

- (a) 171 London Road: Demolition of existing garage and construction of new - permission granted
- (b) 40 Downfield Road: Single storey rear extension - permission granted
- (c) 39 London Road: Change of use from commercial to residential (A1 to C3) - permission granted
- (d) 12 Postwood Green: Single storey front extension - permission granted

(c) Playing Fields Committee

- (i) Bob Akers reported he had received three calls regarding the amount of broken glass on the field. The Clerk advised that PCSO Neil Major was going to patrol the area. She would check whether he had done this and what the results were.

- (ii) Trevor Goodingham reported that he had received no communication from Wicksteed about the replacement rocker the Council had ordered. The Clerk will chase.
 - (iii) Bob Akers advised that the second team was parking cars on the field. The Clerk will remind them that this facility is only available to the first team.
- (d) Highways and Byways Committee
- The meeting agreed to the purchase of 10 dog fouling notices to be put up by the Church, near the Post Office, on the Playing Field, on the Allotment and Meadow entrances as well as on sites volunteered by members of the public.
- (e) Bonfire Night
- This will be held on 31st October. The Clerk will apply for an order to close the roads.
- (f) Village Fete
- Trevor Goodingham reported that the Working Group was awaiting the applications for donations.
- (g) Allotments
- Bob Akers advised the meeting of the vandalism of a number of sheds and the damage to crops that had taken place recently. The meeting agreed to his suggestion that removal of tenancies for non-use should be enforced.
- (h) Wildlife Meadow and Pond
- Bob Akers reported that he had asked Grassroots for a quotation for re-lining the Pond. This was passed to the Clerk. As the quotation exceeded £1,000, at least two more quotations were needed. The Clerk will draft a specification for the work and seek quotations.
- (i) School
- Alison Scarll reported that the Nursery and Reception classes were full.
- (j) Clerk
- As no members volunteered to attend the member training session to be held on 7th October at Standon Community Centre from 7.00pm to 9.30pm at a cost of £25 each attendee, it was agreed that the Clerk could attend.
- (k) Village Greens
- The "hawthorn" tree outside 33 Mount Pleasant that had been pulled down and was thought to need replacing had sprouted. The meeting agreed to look to replacing it and the dead/dying tree near the Christmas Tree.
- (l) Village Hall
- Trevor Goodingham reported that the Halls' AGM was to be held on 9th September and that all are welcome to attend.
- (m) Youth Club
- Nick Sharp reported that 12 sessions had been held, that the numbers attending had been small but it was nice to start gently. The youngsters currently use the Mission Room but if numbers pick up, they may use the Scout Hut. He reported that there were 12 volunteers with others coming on stream.
- It was confirmed that the Youth Club could request a grant from the Parish Council.
- Malcolm Bolton advised that insurance had been arranged.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (i) SSAFA FORCES Help: Information on their services
- (ii) HMWLT: Natural World magazine and Annual Report
- (iii) HAPTC: Governance Toolkit for Parish and Town Councils

10. NEWSLETTER AND PARISH NEWS ITEMS

- (i) Beacon Court
- (ii) SSAFA
- (iii) Youth Club
- (iv) Fireworks

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday October 2009 in the Mission Room at 7.30pm

Malcolm Bolton and Lynn Bonner gave their apologies.

12. MATTERS OF URGENCY & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Allotment rents

The meeting closed at 10.05pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____