

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

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

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present were County Councillor Rose Cheswright, District Councillor William Ashley, PC Neal Dyton, PCSO Neil Major and 18 members of the public.

A. Public Question Time

Nigel Cox advised the meeting that the plans for Beacon Court were on display in the Church and that he had copies of the complete application on CD if anyone was interested in seeing the complete set. Among the points raised in objection were the fact that the land Beacon Court stood on was around one metre higher than Rushen Drive properties and the roofs on the houses were a higher pitch.

The Clerk agreed to draft a sheet of bullet points for objections which she would get to the Chairman by 11th December. He would then arrange for it to be printed. It would be delivered by Trevor Goodingham and others to the whole village.

Nigel also advised that the inaugural meeting of a new Residents' Association would be held in the Mission Room on 14th January 2010.

Roger Slater advised that there were problems with some of the walks published on the web.

He also asked about the appeal from the resident in Vicarage Causeway regarding an over height fence. Another resident did point out that there were visibility problems for drivers exiting from Hogs dell Lane in that there was now no visibility splay on the corner and cars have to pull out into Vicarage Causeway to see if the road is clear.

B. Police Matters

PC Neal Dyton reported that he had met with Jack Eames and Neil Major to clarify what the Parish Council wanted reported to it. He then advised that in November there had been 39 calls to problems in Hertford Heath, Brickendon and part of Bayford. Those calls had covered a number of crimes including misuse of telecommunications equipment, theft, and damage to a fence and a vehicle. The police continued to check speeding in the village. Neal advised on progress on the deterrent vehicle. Apparently, those manning it would need insurance. The police were reluctant to take this on as they have a very large excess. The Clerk will check on the Council's policy.

Neil Major advised that he was going to hold surgeries outside the old Post Office on 16th January and 10th February.

Following questions, Neal advised that road traffic police do not check speeds and that the best speed reduction measure is the parking of cars. A letter from a London Road resident was passed to Neal for further consideration.

Neal also advised that the priorities the police have for the village are speeding and the nuisance caused by quad bikes. These can be changed if the village wishes.

He further advised that if the public got the licence plates of nuisance vehicles, they should inform the police who would then issue a warning and could, eventually, confiscate the offending vehicle.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were formally accepted from Lynn Bonner and Martin Nash.

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

None

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 2nd November 2009

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

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Financial Matters

- (A) The meeting reviewed the Financial Risk Assessment and, subject to the amendment of the procedure to address the risk of new cheque book appropriation being amended to read "Cheques to be stored in a locked drawer", agreed its content.

Malcolm Bolton suggested that the Council register its land holdings. The Clerk will pursue this.

- (B) Members will consider the precept for 2010/2011 at its next meeting. The precept request must be with the District Council by 14th February.

(a) Accounts for payment

The following accounts were approved with the cheques being signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman:

(i)	Mrs C Morgan	Net salary for November	£510.79	
		Printing December's newsletter	£75.00	
		Distribution December's newsletter	£49.68	
		Printing 19 th November notice	£37.50	
		AOL subscription	£15.99	
		Postage	£20.60	£709.56
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor	Net salary for November		£111.19
(iii)	Mr P Webster	Net salary for November		£116.70
(iv)	BT	Red telephone box		£345.00
(v)	SLCC	Subscription for Clerk		£106.00
(vi)	HCC	Street lighting - energy charges	£360.29	
		Street lighting - maintenance	£264.88	£625.17

The meeting formally confirmed the following payments, the cheques for which were signed by the Vice Chairman and Trevor Goodingham:

(vii)	Royal British Legion	Donation and wreath	£120.00
(viii)	EHDC	Playground inspection	£55.20

The meeting formally approved the following accounts for payment if there was no meeting in January:

(i)	Mrs C Morgan	Net salary for December	£510.99	
		Printing January's newsletter	£75.00	
		Distribution January's newsletter	£50.68	
		AOL subscription	£15.99	
				£652.66
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor	Net salary for December		£111.19
(iii)	Mr P Webster	Net salary for December		£116.70
(iv)	HMRC	Q3 PAYE and NI		£533.02

(b) Income

The meeting noted the following income:

(i)	Co-op Bank	Interest on current account	£1.75
		Interest on deposit account	£7.67

(c) Balances

The meeting noted the following balances:

(i)	Current Account after above payments for December	£2,533.72
(ii)	Deposit Account	£18,010.85

- (d) The meeting agreed to ask Nigel Cox to put in a claim for expenditure he has incurred for the Beacon Court application (if he wishes).

6. Police Matters

This was dealt with earlier

7. County Council and East Herts District Council Matters

William Ashley was advised that ARC seemed to be working well.

The meeting noted HCC's special edition on the Future of Hertfordshire's Waste newsletter.

8. Reports

(a) Chairman

The Chairman paid tribute to Mary Bourne. She will be greatly missed. The meeting agreed:

- (i) To rename the meadow The Bourne Wildlife Meadow in her honour
- (ii) To plant a tree on the Green to remember her by
- (iii) To put a seat on the Green with an engraving on the back again to remember her by.

The Clerk will liaise with Lynn Bonner on the type of tree and the wording to go on the seat.

(b) Planning

- (i) The meeting considered the following:

- (a) Beacon Court: The Clerk's draft letter of objection was noted, as was the deadline for responding - 24th December.
- (b) Woodland Road: The meeting welcomed the amended plans.

(ii) EHDC decisions

The meeting noted the following decision:

- (a) Brides Farm: Conversion of barn into a three bedroom holiday let unit - permission granted

(c) Playing Fields Committee

- (i) Trevor Goodingham reported that he had retrieved Jess the Cat from the woods and will re-fix it as soon as he can.

(d) Highways and Byways Committee

- (i) The Clerk reported that Hertfordshire Highways are looking at installing salt bins in the southern half of the village.
- (ii) The Clerk also reported that Lynn Bonner had passed her a report on the P3 meeting she had recently attended. This included information to enable the Clerk to draft a specification for levelling the walk around the Bourne Wildlife Meadow.
- (iii) It was reported that the path opposite the School is very uneven. The Clerk will forward this to Hertfordshire Highways.

(e) Bonfire Night

The Clerk reported that she had not received any monies yet.

(f) Village Fete

Trevor Goodingham reported that the next meeting is planned for the new year.

(g) Allotments

Bob Akers reported that one full plot had been surrendered which had been let as two half plots.

(h) Wildlife Meadow and Pond

The Clerk reported that she had had no time to draft the tender documents and would do so as soon as she could.

(i) School

None.

(j) Clerk

The Clerk advised members that HAPTC would charge £250 for an evening's training session. Members asked the Clerk to see if this could be arranged for the second Monday in February.

(k) Village Greens

The Clerk was still investigating trees and benches for the village to remember Mary by.

(l) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported on a very successful Quiz Night which had raised over £500. He also reported that a number of tenders had been received for the construction of the John Benson Room and that one had been accepted.

(m) Youth Club

It was reported that there are up to 20 children at the Wednesday session and it was thus very successful if manic. The numbers for the Friday session are disappointing, however. It does not seem to be what the older children want. There will be a Christmas party for all on 18th December.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) HMWLT: Newsletter - noted.

(b) East & North Herts NHS Trust: questionnaire to be returned by 15th December - passed to Jack Eames.

10. NEWSLETTER AND PARISH NEWS ITEMS

(i) Beacon Court

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 1st February 2010 in the Mission Room at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____