

HERTFORD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on
Monday 9 January 2006
at the Mission Room, Vicarage Causeway, Hertford Heath

Present:

Mary Bourne (Chairman)
Bob Akers
Lynn Bonner
Trevor Goodingham
Alan Horswill
Martin Nash
Alison Scarll

Carolyn Morgan (Clerk)

Also present:

Five members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Andrew Crumpton, Gillian Thornton, District Councillor William Ashley, and PC Scott..

2. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were none.

3. Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 5 December 2005.

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

4. Matters arising

(i) Bonfire Night

Richard Jacobs agreed to organise the removal of the remaining ash from the bonfire.

5. Police matters

Alison Scarll reported that all residents in Priors Wood Road had been provided with Anti-Social Behaviour record books. She further reported that a snooker cue with a nail embedded in it stashed in her road. She wondered if it had been used to damage cars. She will pass the implement to Neil Major and suggested that the possibility of further such stashes be considered.

6. County and District Council matters

(i) Roundabout at Rush Green

Concern was expressed that when Stanstead Road was closed for the works to be carried out, Downfield Road would be used as a rat run. **The Clerk will check with Hertfordshire Highways.**

7. Reports

(i) Chairman

(a) Bonfire Night

The Chairman thanked the group who had organised the event which had made a surplus of about £370.

After some discussion as to the future role of the bonfire group, it was agreed that the function should remain under the mantle of the Parish Council, that the surplus should be ring fenced for future years and that the Parish Council would underwrite the event as it had done in November.

(b) Carols on the Green

The Chairman reported that the event seemed to have grown like Topsy. She thanked the Beavers and Cubs for the fire and for singing, Nick Sharp for bringing his guitar, the flautists and member of Ware Brass who had come and played. A collection had raised £166 for Khandel light.

(ii) Planning Committee

(i) Applications received

The Council had no objections to the following applications:

- * 16 Rushen Drive: Single storey rear extension
- * Elbow Lane Farm: Construction of cattle compound and loading area and re-siting of consented manager's house (in Brickendon Liberty Parish Council area)

(ii) EHDC decisions

The Council noted the following decision:

- * Connaught House: Removal of onerous condition - permission granted

(iii) Appeal decisions

The Council noted the following decision:

- * 3a Downfield Road: rear dormer window - appeal dismissed

(iv) Broxbourne Borough Council

The Council had received a copy of its draft Statement of Community Involvement. The **Clerk was asked to request that the Parish Council be given notice of major developments which may have an impact on the village.**

(iii) Playing Field

(i) Grant applications

The Clerk reported that Onyx were recommending that the Council be given £5,000 towards the large piece of children's play equipment. The decision would be made on 26 January. This was less that the Council had sought and **the Clerk will apply to Awards for All for the remainder.**

(iv) Highways and byways

(i) Disabled bay

The Council noted that Hertfordshire Highways were to mark a disabled person's parking bay at 36 Trinity Road

(ii) Local Transport Plan Conference

Martin Nash said that he may attend the Local Transport Plan Conference but he felt it was simply reporting past results. He will report back to the next meeting.

Alison Scarll said that the Simon Balle newsletter was praising those pupils who cycled to school each day and that the cycling initiative was being encouraged by the County Council. Without a cycle path, however, members felt it was not safe for children to cycle down London Road. Members felt that transport to school was a very important issue in the village and the Clerk was asked to see if someone from the County Council's Passenger Transport Unit would attend a future Parish Council meeting.

Alison further reported that she has received no offers for car sharing to Presdales and that it would not be possible to use the Pinehurst Community Bus to take girls due to incompatible timings.

(iii) Parish Paths Partnership

The Chairman reported on the meeting she had had with Nicholas Maddex of the County Council's Rights of Way section and Heidi Hutton of the Countryside Management Service. Nicholas would oversee the works being done on Bridleway 17 and would look at the way

markings which needed changing. The Clerk had written to Haileybury to suggest that they dedicate the unofficial path as a right of way, thus allowing P3 and other monies to be spent on it.

She will be walking all the paths with Nicholas to identify works to be done.

(v) Allotments

Bob Akers reported that he had had two more plots cleared and that three half plots had been taken. A tenant had queried whether or not he could erect a shed. Having checked the Allotment Rules, it was clear that he could only do so if permitted in writing and that the Parish Council would need to take a decision to allow sheds, etc. The meeting agreed not to do so.

(vii) Wildlife Meadow

The Chairman advised that deer tracks could be seen leading to the water's edge of the pond.

The Clerk reported that a resident had given the Council a 50 gallon water tank and that she would ask Roy Phypers to give an estimate for putting it safely near the stand pipe. The meeting further agreed to the purchase of two warning signs.

The Chairman suggested working with the school on developing an area for pond dipping.

The Clerk was asked to investigate the feasibility of and funding for applying bark chippings to the path around the meadow to level it out.

(viii) Website

Nothing to report.

(ix) School

Alison Scarll reported that an Ofsted inspection was expected soon and that, unlike in the past, no real notice was given.

A new parent governor had been appointed who wished to come to a Parish Council meeting to hear its views on the problems with parking at the school. It was agreed to invite him to the next meeting.

Alison reported that she had been unable to attend the secondary school review meeting but had heard that the County Council was looking to close Sele School. She pointed out that there was a lot of new development in Hertford and wondered if this had been taken into account.

(x) The Clerk

Nothing to report.

(xi) Village Greens

Members noted that a branch had fallen from a tree at the Townshend Arms onto the War Memorial Green. If not cleared soon, the Clerk will approach the landlord.

(xii) Village Hall

Trevor Goodingham reported that the committee planned a Casino Night, an Elvis Night and a Quiz Night. They are also planning to carry out improvements to the kitchen and to provide disabled toilets soon.

The Hall has a new caretaker and bookings secretary - Paul and Wendy Cousins.

(xiii) Other

Martin Nash reported that he had received no negative feedback on the suggestion of an internet cafe in the Post Office. Trevor Goodingham expressed some concern as there could be security issues. It was agreed that something would go in the next newsletter to see if there was any interest in taking this forward.

8. Correspondence received

- (a) Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust: Winter 2005 magazine and Winter newsletter - noted.
- (b) HAPTC: December 2005 Parish Information, including free seminar on Quality Parish Status on 28 February at the Weatherley Centre Biggleswade - noted.
- (c) CMS: Newsletter January 2006 - noted.
- (d) HCC: Advice on "Second Adult Rebate" benefit to reduce council tax bills - noted.
- (e) HALS: Advising Family History and Internet Sessions, guidebook to tracing family history in Hertfordshire and Calendar of Events 2006 - noted.
- (f) CDA for Herts: Growing Older in Rural Hertfordshire Conference 9 February 2006 from 9.30am to 3.30pm with lunch at Woolmer Green Village Hall, and annual review - noted.
- (g) EHDC: Meetings in January 2006, including Development Control on 11 January at Wallfields and Hertford Community Voice on 19 January at Wallfields - noted.
- (h) EHDC: Reminder of Inter Parish Quiz on 4 February at Wodson Park - noted.
- (i) Kimpton Parish Council: Meeting re Luton Airport 10 January at Kimpton Memorial Hall - noted.
- (i) Harpenden Town Council: Meeting re Luton Airport on 12 January at Fowden Hall Harpenden - noted.
- (k) Stansted Airport: "Plane Talk" newsletter and CD - noted.
- (l) Hertfordshire Community Foundation: Seeking applications for a number of funds
- (m) Local Council Review - noted.
- (n) East Herts VOCAL: Free courses - noted.
- (o) ODPM: "Standard of Conduct in English Local Government: The Future" discussion paper - noted.

9. Financial matters

(a) Precept 2006/07

The request to the District Council for the agreed precept of £21,630 was signed by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Trevor Goodingham and the Clerk.

(b) Financial Regulations

The meeting agreed to the following amendments to the Financial Regulations:

- (i) The deletion of the first sentence of Regulation 6.5 and its amendment to read:
"Any payments made by the Clerk or RFO shall be refunded on a regular basis."
- (ii) The insertion of a new Regulation as follows:
"14A Chairman's Allowance
"The Council may from time to time determine an allowance to be paid to the Chairman to defray any out of pocket expenses that the Chairman necessarily incurs in the execution of his or her duties. Such an allowance shall be paid annually."

(c) Chairman's allowance for 2005/06

It was agreed that the Chairman should receive an allowance of £50 for the year 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

(d) Accounts for payment

(i)	C M Morgan:	Printing January's newsletter	£60.00	
		Distribution of January's newsletter	£37.01	
		Net salary for December 2005	£437.43	
		SLCC subscription	£93.00	
		less overpayment last month	-£103.30	£524.14
(ii)	Mrs C Taylor:	Net salary for December 2005		£79.33
(iii)	P Webster:	Net salary for December 2005		£104.03
(iv)	PCC Little Amwell:	Mission Room Hire 2005		£144.00
(v)	Inland Revenue:	PAYE and NI for Q3 (less £250)		£334.05
(vi)	Hertford Heath Scouts:	Donation		£50.00
(vii)	Mary Bourne:	Chairman's allowance for 2005/06		£50.00
(viii)	Roy Phypers:	Allotment clearance		£170.00

(e)	<u>Income</u>	
	(i)	From Bonfire Night
	(ii)	Litter picking payment - second half
		£1157.41
		£393.12

10. Newsletter and Parish News Items

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

- (a) Wildlife Pond
- (b) Internet cafe
- (c) Carols
- (d)

11. Date of next meeting

Monday 6 February 2006 at 7:30pm in the Mission Room

The meeting closed at 9:35 pm.

Chairman: _____ Date: _____