

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 26 March 2009, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

*Cllr T J Barnard
Cllr Mrs A N Downes
*Cllr G R Irwin (Chairman)

*Cllr L J Kotting
*Cllr J C Lambie

* denotes present.

In attendance: 6 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Downes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Brickendon Brook – Northern End

It was reported that the stream at the bottom end of Brickendon Lane had a build-up of gravel as a result of the recent severe weather.

As there was a danger of flooding as a result of this build-up, it was agreed to request the Environment Agency to remove the gravel.

(ii) Heavy Lorries through the village

Concerns were expressed regarding the presence of large articulated lorries which travelled through the village with no apparent intention of gaining access for delivery. The Police should be requested to carry out spot checks. A suggestion was made that a volunteer watch could be organised to feed the relevant information to the Police.

(iii) Trees

It was reported that there were a number of branches overhanging the highway in the vicinity of Bayford Station.

Cllr Kotting agreed to raise this matter with Hertfordshire Highways.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2009

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 January 2009 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Parking at the Station

A letter had been received from Mr R Goutam, Assistant District Manager, Hertfordshire Highways, the contents of which confirmed that the location at the mouth of the access road had been placed on the list for future road markings. Any such road markings would require a Traffic Regulation Order to be in place.

No response had been received from the Police.

6. PLANNING

(i) Current planning matters

To note the attached list of planning matters (see Appendix A).

(ii) Notification of East Herts call for sites

The Clerk tabled for members' information details of correspondence received from East Herts Council regarding the above matter.

RESOLVED that this be the subject of an Agenda item for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(ii) Complaints Correspondence

Members had been circulated by e-mail details of a complaint concerning the conduct of certain East Herts Planning Officers.

RESOLVED that a letter be forwarded to Cllr Ashley and Cllr Gilbert to ascertain whether the accusations have been investigated.

(ii) HIGHWAYS MATTERS

To note the attached report completed by Cllr Kotting on highways issues raised at the last meeting. (See Appendix B)

Other matters raised

(ii) Finger Posts – Brickendon to Wormley West End

Cllr Barnard referred to a number of posts whose indicators had been altered and were now pointing in the wrong direction.

(ii) Resurfacing of Brickendon Lane

Cllr Barnard referred to the work being undertaken on Brickendon Lane with a comment being made that it would appear that the road was being widened by stealth.

8. MINUTES OF THE FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

To note the attached Minutes dated 18 February 2009. (See Appendix C)

12. PARISH PLAN UPDATE

Cllr Lambie tabled the attached reported (see Appendix D) for members' information and he sought the Parish Council's approval to the placing of the order as referred to in paragraph 3 of the report.

Members confirmed their approval and the Clerk was requested to instigate payment on receipt of the relevant invoice.

12. COVERED NOTICE BOARD OUTSIDE FANSHAWS ROOM

The Chairman informed members that a request had been received from the Fanshaws Room Committee for the Parish Council to provide a notice board for affixing to the outside of the hall.

Members indicated their approval and the Clerk was requested to obtain brochures in order to progress this matter.

A suggestion was made that perhaps this was now an opportunity to consider providing new notice boards at other locations in the Parish. Clementsbury had been a suggested site previously with an indication that the Management Committee would consider providing a notice board at no cost to the Council. Cllr Barnard agreed to discuss this matter further with the Management Committee.

Mangrove Lane at the approach to Monks Green Lane was a further suggestion which Cllr Lambie agreed to investigate.

11. GRANT TO WATT WATCHERS CLUB

RESOLVED that a grant of £500 be made available.

12. REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The Clerk referred to the requirements of the External Auditor for the Parish Council to review the effectiveness of the internal audit in order to comply with Regulation 6(3) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006. The review should cover such topics as the competence, independence, relationship with the Clerk and audit reporting. The Clerk outlined the work of the Internal Auditor and he referred members to the very detailed reports issued on the final accounts. He stated that the auditor was professionally qualified and acted totally independently. Members confirmed that they were completely satisfied with the services rendered by the Internal Auditor and that the key risks of the Council were being addressed.

13. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out on the attached schedule be duly authorised for payment. (See Appendix E)

(ii) Financial Statement

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached statement be received. (See Appendix F)

(iii) Budget/Actual

To note the attached statement. (See Appendix G)

14. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Parish Plan.
- Notification of East Herts Call for Sites

15. CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was confirmed that the next meetings would take place on Thursday, 28 May 2009. The first meeting would be the Annual Parish Meeting and would be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.