

## **BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the meeting of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council held on Thursday, 22 September 2011, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

\*Cllr L Ashley

\*Cllr L J Kotting (Chairman)

\*Cllr T Barnard

\*Cllr J C Lambie

\*Cllr Mrs A Downes

\* denotes present.

In attendance: 6 members of the public.

Plus Cllr Mrs Cheswright (HCC)

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

#### (i) Agenda format

A request was made for consideration to be given to 'Parishioners' Comments' being placed further down the agenda which would enable the public to express their opinions on matters which had already been raised.

Members agreed that they would discuss this matter and, if felt necessary, would amend future agendas accordingly.

#### (ii) Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Dennis Downes, in the absence of PC Dyton and PCSO Major, read out the contents of a report which had been handed to him. The crime statistics were given from 1 July to 21 September, which were namely:

- Theft of scrap metal from field in Brickendon.
- Detection of cannabis dealing in Broxbourne Wood.
- Chain stolen from Wormley West End.
- Handling of stolen goods in Brickendon.

Mr Downes further referred to an e-mail which he had received from an irate parishioner relating to Bayford Station. The parishioner had written to NCP Car Parking with regard to the amount of vandalism occurring at the station with a recent occurrence where 5 cars had been broken into. The Police had been contacted, but had indicated that it was not their responsibility as NCP was the responsible body for car parking, maintenance and related matter. Despite the complaints raised with NCP, Cllr Ashley and First Capital Connect the matter had not been addressed. It was felt that motorists parking at the station had no protection whatsoever.

Members were of the opinion that the inability to address this situation was unacceptable and that the Parish Council should liaise with Bayford Parish Council on what was a joint problem and for pressure to be put on the Police to take more positive action.

Mr Downes referred to a meeting which had taken place the previous evening attended by Jill Dockley and PCSO Major which was basically called to get a clearer view of how the OWL system worked and how the co-ordinators could co-operate in a more professional manner. It was generally felt that a public meeting could be called to outline the work of the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and, to this end, a small amount of funding would be required to cover advertising.

Cllr Mrs Cheswright stated that each County Councillor had a sum of £10,000 locality budget from which it was suggested this type of expenditure could be met. Mr Downes was advised to make a formal application for money from this fund.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 28 JULY 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 July 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Pothole outside Farmer's Boy Public House

To note that remedial work had been undertaken.

(ii) Paradise Park

A letter had been received from East Herts Council enclosing copy correspondence with Mr Sampson with regard to various aspects concerning the zoo.

Members had been made aware of the correspondence.

(iii) E-consultations

Members continued to voice their concerns regarding the new method of notifying the Parish Council of planning applications which they felt to be wholly unacceptable. Not only were plans not easy to access, but added costs were being placed on members in having to download the information from the East Herts Council's website.

The Clerk stated that he had written to Mr Tony Jackson, Leader of East Herts Council, deprecating the dual standards operated by East Herts whereby all five Town Councils within East Herts continued to receive hard copies of all planning applications. A response was awaited.

(iv) Playground Inspection Report

Members had been e-mailed a copy of the latest Annual Inspection Report compiled by the Play Inspection Company Ltd which they agreed would need to be considered shortly.

The Clerk stated that the equipment inspected had been assessed at low risk and no defects had been detected to render the equipment a danger to the public.

(v) East Herts Strategic Land Availability Assessment

Cllr Mrs Cheswright referred members to the discussion which had taken place at the Clerk's Conference held on 15 September 2011 at which she had voiced her concerns that elected members were debarred from attending the partnership meetings currently taken place. In fact there had been a specific directive that only Clerks could attend which she felt was totally unacceptable.

Cllr Mrs Cheswright further went on to state that a number of District Councillors were unaware that elected members could not attend and they felt that the matter had been wrongly handled. The matter had been taken up with the Executive Member (Cllr Carver). Members expressed their gratitude to Mrs Beryl Scott-Smith for attending the SLAA meeting on behalf of the Parish Council.

With regard to e-consultations, Cllr Mrs Cheswright agreed to speak to Cllr Ashley (Chairman of East Herts Planning) with a view to requesting that all applicants forward a hard copy of plans to the Parish Council as the present system was such that plans on-line were difficult to read, printed copies were not to scale and in some cases illegible.

6. PLANNING

(i) Planning – General

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

(ii) LAIS 1327 National Planning Policy Framework

Members had been circulated with a circular outlining the current planning policy framework. Cllr Lambie stated that this information had been noted and had been taken into account in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan documentation which would be referred to later in the agenda.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The Chairman informed members that he had been in touch with Hertfordshire Highways with regard to the provision of a new salt bin for Wormley West End and the requirement for additional bins for Pembridge Lane and at the Bayford Station.

Cllr Mrs Cheswright stated that it was now County policy that no new salt bins would be allocated and there was no facility for County Councillors to fund the provision of new salt bins from their locality budget. However, she had raised the question as to whether the locality budget could be legitimately spent on replacement bins.

8. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

(i) Minutes of meeting held on 17 August 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes be noted. (See Appendix B)

(ii) Minutes of meeting held on 21 September 2011

Cllr Mrs Downes, who had chaired the meeting in the absence of Cllr Barnard, gave a brief resume of topics to which she referred as follows:

(a) Debriefing of the Fete

Although the day had been very wet which had curtailed many of the activities, nevertheless, a sum of £2,625 had been raised.

(b) Children's Party – 3 December 2011

Mrs Brenda Lambie would talk to the organisers of this year's fete to discuss ideas for the future. Celtic Camp might have lost its appeal.

(c) Christmas Party – 11 December 2011

Prices fixed at £7.50 for adults and £5 for children. Approximately 30 children were expected to attend.

(d) Hall Bookings

Brenda had recently received a very good booking from a group of taxi drivers who wanted to hire the hall for training. This would bring in £600.

(e) Cleaning of Hall

Consideration had been given to increasing the cleaning schedule in view of the increased usage of the hall.

(f) Blinds for the Hall

Brenda to sort out the blinds.

(g) Village of the Year Competition

Agreement had been reached to assist with the compilation of factual information to enable the Parish Council to enter the competition.

(h) Charitable donations

Agreement reached on recipients.

Cllr Kotting referred to an issue raised at the Rural Conference held on 15 September 2011 at which a presentation had been given by Ms Claire Hartnell on village hall networking. In essence this was a private initiative aimed at setting up a central booking system for village halls. Members could see the merits of such a facility. However, they were of the opinion that the present booking system worked perfectly well and served the community and they would not wish to see any change. They were indeed very grateful for the work which Brenda carried out.

Cllr Kotting referred to a further matter raised at the conference that of improving rural broadband access and, in particular, for village halls to be given the opportunity of going 'on-line'. Members felt that this was something which on the face of it should not be missed and they agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND LOCALISM BILL

Cllr Lambie tabled the attached report (Appendix C) for members' information and it was RESOLVED to approve the following:

- (i) A public meeting to be held on Thursday, 27 October 2011, at 20.00 hours to inform the electorate of the Councils' reasons for forming a 'Neighbourhood Plan' Steering Group (NPSG).
- (ii) The NPSG would advise the Parish Council of the elements of the forthcoming legislation in 'The Localism Bill' and other items that the majority of residents of the Parish would wish to see acted upon by the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council, as described in the three objectives given in the Neighbourhood Plan for Brickendon Liberty as set out in the attached Appendix C.

- (iii) A sum of money should be set aside for the running costs associated with the NPSG's initial brief.
- (iv) The sum should be up to £2,000 to be paid out against receipts.

It was further RESOLVED that a letter be forwarded to all those members of the public who had expressed an interest in sitting on the Steering Committee inviting them to attend the public meeting on 27 October 2011.

The Clerk was requested to action this matter as soon as practically possible. Cllr Lambie agreed to ascertain whether an officer of the District Council's Planning Department would attend this meeting. Cllr Mrs Cheswright suggested he approach Mr Brian Tomsett.

#### 10. HERTFORDSHIRE'S LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2011-2031

The Clerk had obtained the various documents and reports which had been placed on circulation for members' information.

#### 11. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie stated that he was in discussion with Mr Nicholas Maddex (Rights of Way Officer, HCC) with a view to seeking approval for the provision of a footpath to the station. Until a formal appraisal had been carried out and costs obtained it was not possible to apply for the PPP grant.

#### 12. VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2012

Members had been circulated with details of the 2011 competition and they were in favour of entering next year's competition. Cllr Mrs Downes reminded members of the offer of assistance by the Fanshaws Room Committee. It was agreed to register the Council's interest and for the categories to be agreed at a future meeting.

#### 13. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Cllr Kotting felt that on celebrating occasions in the past, it had been practice to increase the number of trees on the village green. However, on this occasion, he felt that it would be nice to plant a tree in Wormley West End. Cllr Mrs Downes felt that different things were needed for different areas and, as there were a lot of walkers who visited Wormley West End, it might be more appropriate to provide a seat. It was felt that an article should be included in the Parish newsletter seeking suggestions and that Ms Kate Hillaby be approached to produce an on-line survey response form which would complement the article to be inserted in the newsletter.

14. QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE

The Clerk stated that he had not yet been able to establish whether village greens and Common Land qualified for protection under the scheme. An on-line search had revealed that to date neither East Herts Council nor the Hertfordshire County Council had registered any sites. This matter would be pursued.

15. ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A letter had been received from the above organisation promoting the RHS Britain in Bloom initiative which encouraged volunteers to become involved in caring for the community.

Members agreed that the information should be forwarded to the Gardening Club. Cllr Mrs Downes agreed to action this matter.

16. HERTS AIR AMBULANCE

A letter had been received from the Grants and Trusts Co-ordinator requesting the Parish Council to consider making a contribution to the Air Ambulance.

RESOLVED that a donation of £100 be approved such expenditure being met under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

17. HERTFORDSHIRE BUILDING FUTURES AWARDS 2011

A letter had been received from Herts County Council outlining the Council's initiative in seeking to provide an award recognising exemplary design and construction schemes in Hertfordshire. All development schemes, including new build and conversions in the residential, commercial, retail, education, health and leisure sections would be considered. To be eligible for consideration such development must be completed between 16 September 2009 and 16 September 2011. If there were any projects worthy of consideration nominations would need to be submitted before 14 October 2011.

Cllr Barnard stated that there was a riverside development in Hertford comprising a timber clad block of flats which was worthy of consideration and he suggested that this be put forward to the County Council for consideration.

Members were in agreement.

18. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out on the attached statement be duly authorised for payment. See Appendix D

(ii) Financial Statement

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached statement be received. See Appendix E

19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Precept 2012/2013.
- Neighbourhood Plan.
- Update on Jubilee proposals.
- Broadband access for village halls.
- Calendar of meetings for 2012.

20. CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 24 November 2011, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.