

## **BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the meeting of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council held on Thursday, 24 November 2011, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

\*Cllr Mrs L Ashley  
\*Cllr T Barnard  
\*Cllr Mrs A Downes

\*Cllr L J Kotting (Chairman)  
\*Cllr J C Lambie

\* denotes present.

In attendance: 5 members of the public.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 22 September 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING

#### (i) Bayford Station – Vandalism

Members had been circulated with correspondence with regard to the above matter. NCP stated it worked closely with British Transport Police to ensure crime in its car parks was minimised and increased operational hours had improved the number of patrols at the station.

First Capital Connect had written to state that since taking over the franchise significant investment had been made in improving safety at stations. The incidents which had occurred had been reported to the Station Management and appropriate action would be taken to reduce the instances of crime at the station.

Mr Downes informed members that he had attended a recent meeting of Bayford Parish Council at which members, until receipt of the Clerk's letter, had been unaware of the incidents which had been occurring at the station. He stated that no-one appeared to accept ownership of the station.

It was unfortunate that there was no police present on the evening of the meeting and it was hoped that they could be requested to report any incidents which had occurred, although recognising that the Railway Police had jurisdiction over the station. Mr Downes agreed to include an article in the Parish newsletter.

The overall impression of Cllr Mrs Downes was that Bayford Parish Council, although requesting to be kept informed of developments, were not interested in pursuing the matter directly with the station authorities.

Cllr Barnard suggested that a gate could be erected at the entrance to the station which could only be activated by a parking ticket.

In order to establish ownership of the station, the Clerk was requested to write to Network Rail, Euston.

(ii) E-consultation

A letter had been received from Mr Paul Burt, East Herts Council, which confirmed that the provision of hard copy plans would be re-introduced and would continue until the end of the current financial year. However, from 1 April 2012 the District Council would revert to e-mail notification with hard copy plans being no longer available.

(iii) Herts Air Ambulance

A letter of gratitude had been received from the Grants and Trust Co-ordinator for the generous donation of £100.

5. PLANNING

(i) General

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

(ii) Draft Drought Management Plan 2011

A letter had been received from Veolia Water advising that the draft Management Plan, which was updated every three years was now available for consultation. Responses were requested to be submitted on or before 16 January 2012.

Members noted the information.

(iii) Proposed Fieldes Loch Power Station

A letter had been received from IPC Infrastructure Planning Commission which was tabled for members' information. The Clerk informed members that having spoken to a representative of IPC it had been learned that the North London Waste Authority was looking at areas to dispose of waste material and had proposed that a new power station be sited somewhere in the Hoddesdon area. At this stage it was merely a prospective developer seeking information from the IPC as to information to be provided in an environmental statement relating to the proposal.

Members noted the information.

## 6. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

The Chairman informed members that he had attended with Cllr ..... the Highways Joint Member Panel meeting held on 21 November 2011 at which it had been learned that each County Councillor would be allocated a sum of £90,000 per annum to be spent on local highway projects, excluding normal maintenance and repair. The local County Councillor would make recommendations on its use following consultation with local communities. It would be up to each County Councillor to determine how the consultation would be done in each division.

Reference was also made to the matter of salting at the meeting with no agreement being reached on Pembridge Lane being included on the gritting route.

No more salt bins were to be provided for the county. 62 bins were listed as being sited in East Herts of which Brickendon Lane had one, although the bin situated at Highfield appeared not to have been included.

Under a new scheme the Parish would be provided with one ton of salting material for the personal use of the residents and a suitable position in Brickendon would need to be identified. Adjacent to the village hall was not favoured. A suggestion was made that the local pub or the village hall car park would be suitable locations.

Cllr Mrs Downes confirmed that she had e-mailed residents of Wormley West End regarding the scheme to ascertain a suitable location in the village and she had requested that a separate supply (ie smaller units) be provided for Wormley West End.

## 7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

Cllr Barnard gave a brief resume of the matters which had been raised at the meeting held on 16 November 2011, viz:

- Goal posts to be renovated.
- Parking on the village green car park to be delineated to ensure formality in parking arrangements. (John to suggest paint marks on the surrounding fence)
- Traffic cones needed for future events.
- Christmas party – 4 December 2011.
- Bank balance: £9,959 current account - £14,000 in savings account.
- Tennis courts had remained open due to the fine weather. New corner post required - £330 quoted for labour and materials – work to be put in hand.
- Power cleaning of the courts was to be considered.
- Christmas lunch – 15 December 2011 – 3 tickets still remained unsold.
- Swings on the village green – awaiting a service check. Looking to provide additional equipment for the younger children.
- Summer fete to be held on 4 June 2012.

## 8. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Lambie informed the meeting that approximately 50 people had attended the inaugural meeting held on 27 October 2011 which had been chaired by Cllr Kotting. Following a presentation by Cllr Lambie, residents raised questions about the Localism Bill and the changes to the law that it would bring about. Fourteen residents present volunteered to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group whose first meeting had been scheduled for Monday, 7 November. The meeting had been attended by twelve members and Tony Roberts had been elected Chairman of the Group.

Tony Roberts submitted the attached report (Appendix B).

A concern was raised by Mr Roberts regarding the drop in numbers of the Steering Group from 13 to 11 and an assurance was given that every effort would be made to increase the numbers in order to meet the criteria for wider representation. East Herts Council had suggested a figure of 21 being the minimum.

Neighbourhood Plan guidelines had been issued by East Herts Council, which set out the framework for producing the Plan and, whilst not perfect, they did lay down step by step guidance. East Herts advice was for parishes to await the outcome of the LDF 2013 before embarking on the production of a Plan. However, the Steering Group was ignoring the advice. The Steering Group did need to understand the requirements of the parish which, in some instances, might replicate the information contained in the current village plan.

In conjunction with the Neighbourhood Plan there would need to be produced a strategic environmental assessment which, it had been estimated, could cost in the region of £15,000. No funding for this would be available from East Herts. Mr Les Barnes was aware of someone who specialised in producing such documents and he would be making subsequent enquiries. Sources of funding were being researched.

It was hoped to produce a definitive questionnaire for circulation throughout the Parish before Christmas and to hold a public meeting on 27 January 2012 to update residents on the progress to date.

The Steering Group was under no illusion that the matter of producing the Plan would be a massive task.

## 9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie stated that new arrangements were now in place with Groundwork Hertfordshire, who had taken over from the Countryside Management Services. A meeting had been arranged for Wednesday, 30 November 2011, to discuss the annual work programme with Nicholas Maddex (Rights of Way Officer).

10. THE FUTURE OF STANDARDS

A letter had been received from Mr Simon Drinkwater, Director of Neighbourhood Services, drawing attention to new arrangements and probable responsibilities being promoted under the proposals in the Localism Bill. The new arrangements would mean that Town and Parish Councils would need to adopt a new code of conduct. The District Council was currently working on a common code which could be adopted by Town and Parish Councils.

Members noted the above.

11. BROADBAND ACCESS FOR VILLAGE HALLS

Members had been forwarded an e-mail from the Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) to ascertain whether the Parish Council was able to move forward with the opportunity of having broadband installed at the village hall.

Whilst it was noted that there would be no costs incurred in the first year, there would, nevertheless, be future annual ongoing costs. Notwithstanding this, it was felt that there might be a greater use of the village hall once the implications of the Localism Bill for the Parish were known.

The Clerk was requested to register the Parish Council's interest in moving forward.

12. TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILLORS BRIEFING SESSION (LDF)

A letter had been received from East Herts Council inviting two representatives of the Parish Council to attend a briefing session to be held on Wednesday, 30 November, (session 1) and Monday, 5 December (session 2) at the Council Chamber, Wallfields, Hertford. The session would focus on the Local Development Framework looking at the process and evidence base. It would be an opportunity for Councillors to raise any questions they might have on the LDF.

The following members agreed to attend:

30 November	Cllr Barnard plus one other
5 December	Cllr Mrs Downes and Cllr Lambie

13. THE 2013 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

The Boundary Commission for England published on 13 September 2011 its initial proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies in England. A statutory consultation exercise was now under way and would conclude on 5 December 2011.

Details of the proposals were available on the Commission's website.

14. QUEEN'S JUBILEE

Members referred to the party being arranged by the Fanshaws Room Committee on the village green. In earlier discussions, members had favoured the planting of a commemorative tree and the provision of a bench. A further suggestion was that the provision of additional children's play equipment, discussed earlier, could be dedicated in commemorating the occasion.

Cllr Mrs Ashley enquired whether the Parish Council could have a beacon on the green and she agreed to research the matter

15. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

It was reported that a series of repairs was being undertaken by Paradise Park to the existing equipment with some being temporarily placed out of action. Once the work had been completed Broadmead Leisure would be requested to undertake an inspection and to issue a formal report.

16. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Neighbourhood Watch

Mr Dennis Downes reported the following:

- (a) Crime statistics from 21 September to 21 November:  
Theft of diesel from a car on 5 October in Pembridge Lane.  
Theft of a gas canister – Wormley West End.  
Damage to a window in Wormley West End on 15 November.
- (b) On 18 November 2011 both Neil Dyton and Neil Major had spent time on traffic duties in Brickendon during which period 13 vehicles had been stopped and given warnings. A further exercise would be undertaken in December and on this occasion any motorist found speeding would be ticketed.

Cllr Lambie stated that there were three entrances to the village of Brickendon and he suggested that appropriate signs could be considered indicating speeding hotspots or a speed check area.

Dennis Downes stated that at the last Neighbourhood Watch meeting the team had discussed providing Neighbourhood Watch signs and he and Cllr Barnard would be working with Jill Dockley on ascertaining strategic places in the parish where such signs could be positioned.

(c) Dennis Downes stated that he would be placing an article in the newsletter concerning the problems at Bayford station.

(d) In the new year as part of an awareness exercise safety material would be made available, ie marker pens, stickers, etc.

(e) A resident reported a theft of 1,200 litres of diesel from Birch Farm.

(ii) Sign on White Stubbs Lane

Concerns were expressed that the 'stonechip' sign was still positioned on White Stubbs Lane and a request was made for it to be removed as it constituted a traffic hazard.

(iii) Queen's Jubilee

Cllr Mrs Ashley questioned whether there was any mileage in enquiring whether any parishioner had a birthday or an anniversary, etc on or near the date of the jubilee. It was suggested that an article be placed in newsletter nearer the time.

(iv) Uneconomic use of postal service by East Herts Council

Concerns were raised by a resident regarding the number of letters he had received on the same day in different envelopes all from East Herts Council. The Clerk reported that he also often received several letters on the same day in different envelopes, an example was four sets of plans (all for the same property) from the Planning Office each set in a different envelope, but posted on the same day. This was felt to be an unnecessary waste of money, especially in the present economic climate.

(v) Hertford Museum

A letter had been received from the Hertford Museum regarding the possibility of working with the Parish Council in documenting or displaying local artefacts of the Parish. In other areas the museum had been successful in staging village exhibitions to focus on local issues and this could well work similarly for Brickendon.

The Chairman agreed to make contact with Graham Irwin to ascertain whether he could provide any assistance in this matter.

(vi) Charity Quiz Night

Members were informed that the Mayor of Hertford, Cllr Mrs Sally Newton, was holding a charity quiz night at Sele School on Friday 6 January 2012 and anyone interested was requested to contact Cllr Mrs Newton at the offices of Hertford Town Council.

It was agreed to publicise this event in the parish newsletter.

(vii) New notice board

Cllr Barnard informed the members that a new notice board had been erected in the bus shelter.

17. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

(ii) Financial Statement

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

19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept 2012/2013.

20. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2012

To be notified.

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There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.30 pm.

draft, to be confirmed