

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 28 November 2013, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

*Cllr Mrs L Ashley

*Cllr Mrs M Laybourn

*Cllr Mrs A Downes (Vice Chairman)

*Cllr J C Lambie

*Cllr K Kotting (Chairman)

* denotes present.

In attendance: 3 members of the public.
Plus PCSO Neil Major

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 September 2013 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Overgrown hedges

Cllr Mrs Laybourn stated that the problem of overgrown hedges could now be reported via the Herts County Council's fault reporting system.

Cllr Lambie referred to three locations along Brickendon Lane where there was a problem and he requested that Herts County Council be notified.

(ii) Paradise Wildlife Park

Cllr Mrs Downes stated that she had received an email from Mr Peter Sampson confirming that he was now making progress with the car park and he envisaged that the work would be completed within five months.

(iii) Flooding – Pembridge Lane

Members were of the opinion that the problem of the flooding was either a County Council or a civil matter and that it did not fall within the remit of the Parish Council. However, it was agreed to monitor the situation which could now become a problem again with the onset of the winter.

5. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

- Speed restriction signs and metal place name signs required cleansing.
- Overgrown hedge outside Edwards Green Farm required cutting back (owner: Alan Cobb).

Cllr Mrs Laybourn agreed to notify Hertfordshire Highways.

6. PLANNING

(i) Planning - General

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached document (see Appendix A) be noted and the decisions taken be ratified.

(ii) Neighbourhood Planning Drop-in – 13 December 2013

Cllr Lambie confirmed that he would attend the above drop-in on behalf of the Parish Council.

(iii) Woodlands – Wormley West End

Cllr Mrs Downes gave an update on the above matter.

A large number of lorries were accessing the site and depositing waste products. Both the Police and the Fire Brigade had been in attendance on a number of occasions. The offence had been notified to East Herts Environmental Officers in October. However, to date no action had been taken to bring about a cessation of the problem.

Cllr Mrs Downes continued to be concerned regarding the amount of hardcore which had been deposited on the land. Additionally, she was not happy with previous comments made that this was not a planning or an environmental issue and she was seeking to obtain a second opinion.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2013 (See Appendix B)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(ii) Minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2013 (See Appendix C)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meeting be received.

(iii) Resume of meeting held on 20 November 2013

Mrs Lambie gave a resume of the above meeting of the Committee as follows:

- A decision had been taken that as the response received to date had been poor, it had been decided not to have a Christmas lunch this year.
- On 7 December 2013 fourteen primary school children would be visiting Paradise Park and nine older children would be visiting the Archery Barn. Both events would be paid for by the Fanshaws Room Committee.
- The Friendly Club's Christmas lunch would be held in Bayford.
- All fire extinguishers had been upgraded. A request had been made that a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr John Rees for undertaking the work.
- PAT testing of the electrical equipment was still required.
- With regard to the damp and mould in the ladies toilet, the ceiling was to be removed to ascertain the cause of the problem, following which work would be undertaken to re-decorate the toilet area.
- Mrs Lambie had been informed yesterday that the WiFi had been cut-off, but had been subsequently restored. A request had been made for the BT invoices to be paid by direct debit to avoid any future actions of the discontinuation of the service by BT.
- Welcome packs would be completed for distribution to new persons moving into the village. Cllr Mrs Downes had requested that the email addresses of new people be ascertained.
- Venue for future Fanshaws Room Committee meetings (other than the AGM) to be at 9 Greenside, Brickendon.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) General

Cllr Mrs Laybourn informed members that she had attended the Herts Locality meeting held on 27 November 2013 and she gave a resume of the items discussed.

(ii) Setting Local Speed Limits

A copy of the above document had been circulated to all members, the contents of which were noted.

9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie referred members to the attached notes (see Appendix D) and he confirmed that all the funding to carry out the works was in place with no costs falling on the Parish Council.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT/NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

(i) Crime Statistics

The crime statistics from 17 September to 27 November 2013 were given, as follows:

- Arson damage – 20.10.13 – An attempt to set fire to a bail of rape straw in Mangrove Lane – too wet to ignite.
- Burglary – 21.10.13 – Theft of garden equipment and motor bikes in Wormley West End.
- Damage to vehicle – 22.10.13 – Damage had occurred to a vehicle parked in Broxbourne Woods.
- Burglary – 28.10.13 – Theft of fencing and portaloo from Bencroft Woods Car Park.
- Theft from motor vehicle – 07.11.13 – A hat and wood had been stolen from a parked car in Badgers Wood.
- Theft – 13.11.13 – Theft of lorry container from Broxbourne Woods.
- Burglary – 15.11.13 – Garden power tools had been stolen from at shed in Brickendon Green.
- Theft – 24.11.13 – Theft of motor bike stand from a garden at Fanshaws.
- Theft – 25.11.13 – Theft of man's mountain bike in Mangrove Lane.

(ii) Police Report

The 'Smiley Face' campaign was being promoted by the Police, which in order to be implemented in the Parish required a petition signed by parishioners requesting that the Parish be included in the campaign. Once approved, volunteers would be sought for PNC training.

Cllr Lambie referred to the wishes of the Parish Council to have installed speed activated signs. However, it had subsequently been learnt that at least three fatalities were required before the installation of such signs could be considered. As the Parish did not meet this criteria, the Parish Council would now wish to have installed a simple solar powered sign with number plate recognition.

PCSO Major stated that 'Operation Stomp' was actively being pursued by the Police which was a community based scheme for providing help to those less fortunate members of society and those who were in need of support for the provision of non-financial services (ie gardening, odd job work, etc). This scheme had been formerly operated by the Papworth Trust.

(iii) Update on Nutwood House

Cllr Mrs Downes expressed her concern that a planned meeting between the Chief Inspector and the Management team of Nutwood House had not taken place and she was of the opinion that Advanced Childcare would appear to be acting in isolation and disregarding not only the local residents, but also the Police.

Cllr Mrs Downes stated that both she and her husband had sent a letter expressing their concerns regarding this matter with a suggestion that the matter be referred to the Police Commissioner. A further meeting had been arranged with the Chief Inspector and Sergeant Wallace next week.

(iv) Crime escalation

Mr Downes expressed his concern regarding the escalation of crime and with the run-up to Christmas he was concerned regarding the vulnerability of local residents. He asked that Mrs Lambie be requested to email a note for inclusion in the parish magazine drawing attention to the needs of residents to be vigilant over the Christmas period.

(v) Neighbourhood Plan

It was noted that the District Plan was scheduled to be available for public consultation in February 2014.

11. LEASE – BRICKENDON GREEN

Members had been circulated with copy correspondence from Mr Chris Coupland, the Solicitor acting on behalf of the Parish Council.

It was unclear from the letter whether the rights of way currently enjoyed over the track were specific to the existing users. Reference was made to the planning application and subsequent appeal in respect of the new dwellings proposed on land in the ownership of the Golf Club and the possible use of the track by any new owners of the new properties. Clarification was sought as to whether any rights extended to other than existing users, ie those already existing for the Golf Club.

12. RISK ASSESSMENT – PLAY EQUIPMENT

To note that the relevant documentation had previously been made available to members.

13. PARISH PROFILE

Members had been circulated with information on the Parish Profile which had been compiled for the Parish Council by the CDA.

RESOLVED that this matter be deferred until the next meeting.

14. DRAFT PRECEPT 2014/2015

Members had been circulated with a copy of a draft budget for 2014/2015 and they expressed their desire that there be no increase in the precept which should be retained at the 2012/2013 level of £10,000.

The Clerk agreed to re-draft the budget statement to give effect to the above and it was agreed that the precept requirement for 2014/2015 be confirmed at the January 2014 meeting.

The Clerk further referred members to the current financial statement and he asked that members give consideration to earmarking a substantial amount of the Council's current fund balances on a specific or earmarked reserve.

15. PROPOSED NEW NOTICE BOARD – HIGHFIELD FARM/
CLEMENTSBURY

The Chairman agreed to discuss the matter of the new notice board with Mr Darren Williamson, Highfield Farm Manager, and Mr Adrian McNeece, Clementsbury Management Company.

16. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

(ii) Financial Statement

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

17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Governance Review (January 2014 meeting)
- Vehicle activated signs – defer to Neighbourhood Plan remit.
- Confirmation of Precept for 2014/2015.
- Review of Standing Orders.
- Parish Profile.

18. CALENDAR OF MEETING FOR 2014

RESOLVED that the following dates be approved for 2014:

Thursday, 23 January
Thursday, 27 March
Thursday, 22 May (Annual meetings)
Thursday, 24 July
Thursday, 25 September
Thursday, 27 November

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.